

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT No. 119 OF 1990)

DRAFT REGISTERED “NO ROUTINE ANTIBIOTICS” SYSTEM AS A MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR SALE AND EXPORT

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM IN RESPECT OF THE SALE AND EXPORT OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

It is hereby made known that the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards has registered the “No Routine Antibiotics” System as a Management Control System in terms of the Regulations Relating to the Management Control System in Respect of the Sale of Certain Agricultural Products No.R.6634 of 19 September 2025.

Further made known is that the Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards, in terms of the Regulations Relating to the Management Control System in Respect of the Sale of Certain Agricultural Products No.R.6634 of 19 September 2025 hereby inserts after Regulation 10, the following Annexure in respect of the “Applicable Minimum Standard for the Registered ‘No Routine Antibiotics’ System as a Management Control System for Animal Products intended for Sale and Export”.

ANNEXURE J

THE APPLICABLE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR THE REGISTERED “NO ROUTINE ANTIBIOTICS” SYSTEM AS A MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR SALE AND EXPORT

1. Type of Agricultural Product

- 1.1 “No Routine Antibiotics” is a type of agricultural product regulated in terms of sections 3A, 4 and 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 119 of 1990, and that is intended for sale and export.
- 1.2 The animals and products covered are the following:
 - (a) Cattle - beef.
 - (b) Sheep - mutton.
 - (c) Goats – chevon/mutton.
 - (d) Pigs – pork.
 - (e) Poultry – eggs and meat.
- 1.3 “No routine antibiotics” means that antibiotics (antibiotics include ionophores) are not administered systematically or as a general routine in everyday application or as a prophylaxis to prevent disease, whether for performance or other purposes. Antibiotics are used for therapeutic purposes at the recommendation of a veterinarian. Documented evidence of clinical disease must be presented, and treatment is only conducted when prescribed and recommended by a registered veterinarian.

2. Farm requirements

- 2.1 A farm map shall --
 - (a) be available and regularly updated to reflect the current “no routine antibiotics” operation; and
 - (b) indicate quarantine areas, all stores containing chemicals, veterinary treatments, feed and supplements, etc.
- 2.2 Dual and split systems:
 - (a) Dual and split systems (i.e., “no routine antibiotics” and routine antibiotics) shall not be allowed on the same farm for the “no routine antibiotics” animals and products concerned.

3. Housing and infrastructure

- 3.1 For each animal type, there should be a dedicated quarantine area to separate sick animals from

the main herd or flock. These areas must be clearly marked.

4. Animal management

4.1 Prohibited practices

- (a) Antibiotics shall not be used for growth promotion.
- (b) Antibiotics shall not be administered preventatively to entire flocks.
- (c) Antibiotics shall not be used routinely in feed or water.
- (d) Antibiotics may only be used to treat diagnosed illnesses.

4.2 Health and treatment

- (a) The use of routine antibiotics is prohibited for the animals.
- (b) Sick animals shall be separated, treated, and records shall be kept of such animals.
- (c) For each animal type, there shall be a dedicated quarantine area to separate sick animals from the main herd or flock, and where applicable, their products shall be kept separate as well.

4.3 Antibiotics may be used when:

- (a) A registered veterinarian diagnoses disease or injury requiring treatment.
- (b) Treatment shall be applied to individual animals or affected groups only.
- (c) All animals treated with antibiotics for medical reasons must be permanently identified and have the treatment recorded in farm records.

4.4 Non-compliant animals treated with antibiotics and their products may be returned to the “no routine antibiotics” system –

- (a) only if the animals and products have been subjected to double the withdrawal periods prescribed for the antibiotics administered, and
- (b) if, in the case where other management control systems registered in terms of the regulations have been implemented, it is allowed by the minimum standards for these systems to return the animals and products to the system.

5. Feed and Water

5.1 Feed and water supplied to animals shall not contain any antibiotics.

5.2 Feed suppliers shall provide declarations/certificates confirming the absence of antibiotics.

6. Traceability

6.1 Animals and/or product batches shall be traceable to the farm of origin.

6.2 Records shall connect animal identification, treatments, feed inputs, movement, and exclusion lists.

6.3 Records of antibiotics administered and double withdrawal periods shall be available for the animals and products concerned.

7. Testing

7.1 A schedule needs to be drawn up for the screening analysis of antibiotic residues.

7.2 The inspector shall take 5 samples and submit them to the laboratory for them to make up one composite sample.

7.3 Testing for antibiotic residues should take place yearly.

7.4 Testing should include, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Tetracyclines
- (b) β - Lactams
- (c) Macrolides
- (d) Quinolones
- (e) Aminoglycosides
- (f) Sulphadimidine

(g) Ionophores

8. Labelling and claims

- 8.1 The type of agricultural products mentioned in point 1 may be presented as “No Routine Antibiotics” only if it complies to this minimum standard for the registered “no routine antibiotics” system.
- 8.2 Products derived from the “No Routine Antibiotics” system shall also be labelled in accordance to the regulations and standards for the mentioned products published in terms of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990.

9. Enforcement

- 9.1 The designated assignee/inspectors shall ensure that only farms registered with the Department for the “No Routine Antibiotics” system as a Management Control System” are allowed to pack and label the product, container or outer containers as “No Routine Antibiotics.”
- 9.2 The List of registered farms will be placed on the department website at <https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/core-business/agricultural-production/inspection-services/food-safety-quality-assurance>

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