

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No.

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

DRAFT REGISTERED “FARMED WITHOUT ADDED HORMONES” 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 “Farmed Without Added Hormones” 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 “Farmed Without Added Hormones” System as a Management Control System for Animal Products intended for Sale and Export”.

ANNEXURE P

THE APPLICABLE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR THE REGISTERED “FARMED WITHOUT ADDED HORMONES” SYSTEM AS A MANAGEMENT CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR SALE AND EXPORT

1. Type of Agricultural Product

- 1.1 “Farmed Without Added Hormones” is a type of agricultural product regulated in terms of sections 3, 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 –meat.
- 1.3 “Farmed Without Added Hormones” means animals that have not been administered with synthetic, natural, or analogue hormonal substances used for growth promotion or productivity enhancement.
- 1.4 It covers on-farm production practices, feed inputs, veterinary interventions, and verification requirements up to slaughter or product processing.

2. Farm requirements

- 2.1 A farm map shall --
 - (a) be available and regularly updated to reflect the current “Farmed Without Added Hormones” operation; and
 - (b) indicate quarantine areas, all stores containing chemicals, veterinary treatments, feed and supplements, etc.
- 2.2 Dual and split systems (i.e. “Farmed Without Added Hormones” and farming with added hormones) shall not be allowed on the same farm for the “Farmed Without Added Hormones” animals and products concerned.

3. Animal management

- 3.1 Production practices:
- (a) No added hormones may be administered for any purpose related to growth promotion or feed efficiency.
 - (b) Producers shall maintain animal identification and movement logs.
 - (c) Producers shall maintain detailed veterinary treatment records.
 - (d) Producers shall maintain medication purchase records.
- 3.2 Health and treatment:
- (a) Where hormones are required strictly for veterinary treatment or reproductive emergencies, the following apply:
 - (i) A registered veterinarian must authorise and administer the treatment.
 - (ii) Treated animals must be permanently identified.
 - (iii) Treated animals must be excluded from the claim.
- 3.3 Non-compliant animals or products shall not carry the claim until corrective measures are implemented.

4. Feed and Water

- 4.1 Feed and water supplied to animals shall not contain hormone-based additives.
- 4.2 Feed suppliers shall provide declarations/certificates confirming the absence of hormone-based additives.

5. Traceability

- 5.1 Animals and/or product batches shall be traceable to the farm of origin.
- 5.2 Records shall link animal identity, treatments, and movement.
- 5.3 All animals shall be traceable and where required, identifiable as prescribed by the Animal Identification Act, 2002 (Act No.6 of 2002) and the regulations published in terms of this Act, provided that lesser harmful applications of identification marks shall take preference if allowed

6. Testing

- 6.1 A schedule needs to be drawn up for the screening analysis of added hormones.
- 6.2 The inspector shall take 5 samples and submit them to the laboratory for them to make up one composite sample.
- 6.3 Testing for hormone residues should take place yearly.
- 6.4 Testing should include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (a) β – Agonists (Sulbutamol)
 - (b) Zilpaterol (Zilmax)
 - (c) Zeranol

7. Labelling and claims

- 7.1 The type of agricultural products mentioned in point 1 may be presented as “Farmed Without Added Hormones” / “Farmed Without Growth Promoters” only if it complies to this minimum standard for the registered “Farmed Without Added Hormones” system.
- 7.2 Products derived from the “Farmed Without Added Hormones” 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.

8. Enforcement

- 8.1 The designated assignee/inspectors shall ensure that only farms registered with the Department for the “Farmed Without Added Hormones” system as a Management Control System” are allowed to pack and label the product, container or outer containers as “Farmed Without Added Hormones”.
- 8.2 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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