SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD AND FEED SAFETY REGULATIONS: Where DAFF and DoH differ

Mr. Albert SMITH
SCIENTIST MANAGER
13 October 2015
Table of contents

1. Organizational structure of the Branch: Agricultural Production, Health & Food Safety (APHFS) in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)

2. Food and Feed Safety - Interaction within the Branch: Agricultural Production, Health & Food Safety

3. Food and Feed Safety – Broad overview of regulations

4. Feed Safety – Overview of regulations

5. Food Safety – Overview and role players

6. Instruments used - to ensure food safety

7. Enforcement

8. Other aspects of regulations

9. Conclusion
1. Organizational structure of the Branch: Agricultural Production, Health and Food Safety (APHFS) in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF)
2. Food & Feed Safety - Interaction within the Branch: Agricultural Production, Health & Food Safety

- Food Safety and Quality Assurance (FSQA)
- Plant Production
- Animal Health
- Animal Production
- Veterinary Public Health
- Genetic Resources
- Plant Health
- Foods Import and Export
- Agriculture Inputs Control

FOOD & FEED SAFETY
### 3. Food and Feed Safety – Overview of regulations

**Liquor Products Act, 1989 (Act No 60 of 1989)**

To provide for control over the sale and production for sale of certain alcoholic products, the composition and properties of such products and the use of certain particulars in connection with the sale of such products; for the establishment of schemes; for control over the import and export of certain alcoholic products; and for matters connected therewith.


To provide for measures to promote meat safety and the safety of animal products; to establish and maintain essential national standards in respect of abattoirs; to regulate the importation and exportation of meat; to establish meat safety schemes; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

**Agricultural Product Standards Act (APS), 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990)**

To provide for control over the sale and export of certain agricultural products, control over the sale of certain imported products and control over other related products and for matters connected therewith.

**Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No 36 of 1947)**

To regulate or prohibit the importation, sale, acquisition, disposal or use of fertilizers, farm feeds, agricultural remedies and stock remedies; to provide for the designation of technical advisers and analysts; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.
4. Feed Safety – Overview of regulations

• In South Africa for local use
  - Feeds for local use (locally manufactured and imported) are regulated in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural remedies and Stock remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947).
  - Imported feeds that contain animal products also require a permit from Animal Health (Act 35 of 1984 – Animal Diseases Act).
  - Meat by-products for use as ingredients in animal feeds must comply with the Meat safety Act, (Act No. 40 of 2000)

• For exports
  - Facilities that manufacture feeds for export are certified by the Directorate of Animal Health in terms of Act 35 of 1984. It is called a “ZA number”.

5. Food Safety – Overview and role players

- **DIRECTORATE: FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE (D: FSQA)**
- **SUBDIRECTORATE: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT QUALITY ASSURANCE**
  - POLICY UNIT
    - LEGISLATION
  - Industry bodies
    - SAMIC (ASSIGNEE) RED MEAT (LOCAL)
    - PPECB (ASSIGNEE) REGULATED AGRIC PRODUCTS (EXPORT)
    - PROKON (ASSIGNEE) POTATOES (LOCAL)
  - Assignees
    - ENFORCEMENT
- **DIRECTORATE: INSPECTION SERVICES**
- **SUB-DIRECTORATE: ANALYTICAL SERVICES**
  - ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES
6. Instruments used - to ensure Food Safety

- **On-Farm**
  - Farm
  - On-Farm packhouse
  - GAP/Hygiene

- **Off-Farm**
  - Factory
  - Off-Farm packhouse
  - Hygiene & HACCP principles

- **Transport**
  - Storage
  - Transport
  - Hygiene & HACCP principles

- **Export**
6. Instruments used - to ensure Food Safety (continue)

- **Agricultural Product Standards Act (APS), 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990)**
  - Regulations provides for:
    - The regulation of agricultural products (of plant origin) quality (local & export); and
    - Food Safety (export) based on local and importing country requirements, e.g.:
      - Pesticide residue monitoring programme (MRL's)
      - Mycotoxins in/on groundnuts and agronomy products
      - *Salmonella* and *E.coli* on Rooibos and Honeybush and Green Tea
      - Heavy Metals, etc.

- **Other subordinate legislation:- Standards and Requirements i.t.o the APS Act**
  - Regulation R.707 of 13 May 2005 (export) (SAGAP) and which relates to relates to requirements regarding Food Hygiene & Food Safety at all stages of the food production value chain (‘farm to fork’)

- **Liquor Products Act Export Regulations and Standards & Requirements**
  - The regulation of wine and other liquor products for quality and food safety requirements
  - Product composition and adulteration
  - Mycotoxins
  - Heavy metals and food additives
7. Enforcement

- How is the DAFF enforcing these regulations?
  - Act 36 of 1947 has inspectors that enforce its laws.
  - Inspectorate services and assignees (PPECB, Prokon, SAMIC)

- Random food inspections conducted
  - Animal feeds manufacturing facilities are visited at least once a year for routine inspections and they also visit facilities following complaints or incidents of non-conformance.
  - Inspections by PPECB (for exports), D: Inspection Services and other assignees

- Function of the DAFF National Analytical Labs and ARC labs
  - ARC Irene: Nutrition and microbiology analysis
  - ARC Soil Water & Climate Institute: Heavy metals analysis
  - Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI): Mycotoxins, Antibiotic residues, Hormones and metabolites analysis
  - DAFF Pretoria Labs: Chemical residue, compositional testing for dairy products and processed foods
  - DAFF Stellenbosch Labs: Chemical residue, microbiological and liquor products testing
8. Other aspects of regulations

• **Basis for regulation**
  - Food and feed regulations are risk based and supported by scientific evidence.

• **How are limits (MRL) for contaminants set**
  - During registration of products with Act 36 of 1947
  - Following a risk assessment review process (human toxicology – ingestion and environmental exposure) for setting the ADI & recommend registration - DoH

• **Frequency to review/change regulations**
  - There is no specified review period, but going back in history the feeds regulations have been reviewed every 4 years based on the need for change.

• **Key drivers to changing regulatory limits**
  - Limits for contaminants are amended based on incidents or availability of scientific data suggesting that the current limits are inadequate.
  - Regulatory changes internationally (Standard Setting Bodies / Trading Partners)

• **Industry consultation**
  - A proposal is published in the gazette inviting public comments followed by workshops to discuss the proposed changes.
9. Conclusion

- South Africa has a food safety control system in place and necessary policies with regards to the export control of regulated agricultural products of plant origin.

- Implementation of policies on the export front are robust both in terms of food safety and quality.

- However, the continuous strengthening of the food safety control system remains ongoing.
Thank you