



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**

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Date: 11 January 2019

**VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO. 2 of 2019**

**RE: SUSPENSION ON IMPORT AND IN TRANSIT MOVEMENT OF CLOVEN HOOFED ANIMALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry would like to update importers and the Namibian public about the suspension of import and in transit movement of cloven hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, antelopes, etc.) and their products from South Africa due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in that country. This suspension was initially announced on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 in Veterinary Public Notification 1 of 2019 issued in terms of Section 11(1) of the Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No. 1 of 2011). The purpose of this second notification is to provide details on which animals and products cannot be imported and those that can be imported into the country for the benefit of the importers and the public.

**1. The following cannot be imported into or transit through Namibia**

- Live cloven hoofed animals like (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, antelopes, etc.) and their fresh/frozen uncooked products originating from South Africa
- Uncooked products of cloven hoofed animals imported from other countries and processed in South Africa
- Uncooked processed meat products of cloven hoofed animals from South Africa
- Live cloven hoofed animals originating from other countries via South Africa
- Uncooked meat products of cloven hoofed animals for own consumption

**2. The following can be imported into Namibia provided they are accompanied by a valid Namibian veterinary import permit and veterinary health certificate**

- Non-cloven hoofed animals such as horses, donkeys, dogs, cats, zebra, lion, leopard, cheetah, crocodile etc.
- Products of non-cloven hoofed animals
- Cooked processed meat products of cloven hoofed animals
- Break dry biltong
- Heat treated milk and milk products of cloven hoofed animals
- Dry salted and wet blue hides and skins
- Fully processed karakul pelts and fully processed trophies

- Fresh uncooked products of cloven hoofed animals from other countries v'ia South Africa
- Semen and embryos of cloven hoofed animals from other countries via South Africa
- Commercial processed animal feed
- Hay from approved commercial facilities certified by South African Veterinary Authority

The disease was detected in the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province in the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free Zone of South Africa and reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on 7 January 2019. As a result of this development, the official OIE recognised FMD-free status of South Africa is temporarily suspended. Consequently any exports from South Africa where FMD free zone attestation is required, cannot be certified.

#### **Clinical symptoms**

Foot and Mouth Disease is one of the most contagious diseases of cloven hoofed animals and is a disease of economic importance. Common clinical signs of the disease include: salivation, not grazing, limping, reluctance to move, blisters and sores on the tongue, gums, nose, udder and on the feet of cloven hoofed animals.

#### **Transmission and spread of FMD virus**

FMD virus is found in all excretions and secretions from infected animals. Notably, these animals breathe out a large amount of aerosolised virus, which can infect other animals via the respiratory or oral routes. The virus may be present in milk and semen for up to 4 days before the animal shows clinical signs of disease.

The significance of FMD is related to the ease with which the virus can spread through any or all of the following:

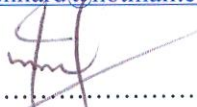
- infected animals newly introduced into a herd (carrying virus in their saliva, milk, semen, etc.);
- contaminated pens/buildings or contaminated animal transport vehicles;
- contaminated materials such as hay, feed, water, milk or biologics;
- contaminated clothing, footwear, or equipment;
- virus-infected meat or other contaminated animal products (if fed to animals when raw or improperly cooked);
- infected aerosols (spread of virus from an infected property via air currents).

Animals that have recovered from infection may sometimes carry the virus and initiate new outbreaks of the disease.

FMD is not readily transmissible to humans and is not a public health risk.

The suspension remains in force and all previously issued import and in transit permits are hereby cancelled and recalled. Importers are urged to contact the Veterinary Import/ Export Office for further information.

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