



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WATER AND FORESTRY

Tel: +264-61-208 7505
Fax: +264- 61- 2087779
E- mail: bamharec@mawrd.gov.na

Directorate of Veterinary Services
Private Bag 12022
Windhoek
NAMIBIA

Ref: V13/1/3/2/1/2

22 May 2007

CIRCULAR V9/2007

TO: ALL IMPORTERS AND VISITORS
CUSTOMS OFFICIALS

RE: IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS INTO NAMIBIA

Introduction

In terms of the standing regulations under the Animal Diseases and Parasites Act (Act 13 of 1956) **veterinary import permits** are required for the importation of **ALL** animals and animal products from foreign countries. Namibian veterinary import permits can be obtained on application to the Permits office of the Directorate of Veterinary Services in Windhoek (Tel (+ 264 61) 303150; or (+264 61) 276580 fax +264 61 305151). This involves completing an application form and payment of an appropriate fee (currently N\$ 50 per permit). Payment can be made at any of the State veterinary Offices and copies of the receipt faxed together with the application form to head office in Windhoek. Applications will not be processed unless proof of payment has been received. Permits are generally valid for a limited period and for one importation only.

In general, veterinary import permits consist of a page which gives permission to import a specified product subject to conditions specified in the health certificate part of the permit. Importers must note that the mixing of certain food items within the same consignment will not be accepted eg **the mixing of fish and meat; or meat and vegetable items.**

Products which are **imported through third countries** must be kept under official supervision throughout for them to qualify for a non-manipulation permit. Products which have been moved into private cold stores which are not under official veterinary supervision are not eligible for re-export to Namibia.

In-transit permits are subject to veterinary conditions and will in general not be issued for any products or animals which would not normally be allowed into the country. Importers must present copies of import permits from the country of final destination with their applications.

The veterinary authorisation does not absolve the importer from obtaining other permits required for the importation of the product(s) which may be required by any other Namibian law eg Livestock Improvement Permit, Meat Board Permits, CITES or Ministry of Environment and Tourism Permits

To be valid, the original health certificate section of the permit must be completed and signed by authorised veterinary officials in the exporting country. **Only ORIGINAL permits** are acceptable. In exceptional cases authorisation to use fax copies may be granted.

Special arrangements as a result of a bilateral agreement apply for imports from South Africa. On the basis of the agreement small quantities of products for own consumption may be imported without an import permit.

The measures are designed to protect the national animal health status. Epizootic disease outbreaks in many parts of the world have been linked to illegal imports of animal and animal products.

1. IMPORT FROM ALL COUNTRIES

Animals and animal products may not be imported, or brought into NAMIBIA for own or commercial use, without a Namibian veterinary import permit. Applications for veterinary import permits will be considered, but not necessarily approved.

The following list of animals and products are given **as examples**:

- Raw unprocessed or partially processed trophies
- Manure / animal waste
- Bones, teeth or horns
- Live poultry or birds
- Milk and milk products (cheese)
- Fish
- Horses and horse semen
- Pigs and pig semen and embryos
- Game including cloven hoofed, soliped, elephants, rhino, hippo
- Zoo animals
- Bovines and bovine semen
- Sheep and goats and semen and embryos
- Bovines and bovine semen and embryos
- Camelids
- Lagomorphs (rabbits) and rodents
- Reptiles
- Ostriches/emus

2. IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS FOR OWN USE FROM SOUTH AFRICA INTO NAMIBIA – SPECIAL AGREEMENT

2.1 General conditions

- 2.1.1 This arrangement is limited to animal products forming part of travellers' personal luggage and intended for their personal use. Such products may not be sold or disposed of in any way other than by own consumption / use. **Products for own use may not be sent by courier or by post.**
- 2.1.2 Only limited quantities may be imported (see Section 2.2.1 to 2.2.5)
- 2.1.3 In the event of a disease outbreak, this dispensation will be cancelled without prior notice.
- 2.1.4 The Directorate of Veterinary Services in Namibia does not accept any responsibility for the safety of products imported for own consumption.
- 2.1.5 Only clean containers may be used for packaging, e.g. no second-hand hessian / jute bags may be used for the transport of products e.g. mopani worms.

- 2.1.6 In order to qualify as a person in terms of this guideline, the person must be older than 12 years of age.
- 2.1.7 These conditions are effective with immediate effect.

2.2 Importation of Edible Animal Products for Own Consumption (FMD free areas without vaccination)

The following products for own use may be imported from South Africa without an import permit or a veterinary health certificate issued by the South African veterinary authorities if they originate from areas outside the FMD control areas.

The limits stipulated in this document apply to passenger vehicles and trucks. The responsible official at the port of entry will judge the quantity allowed for bus passengers. An import permit or a veterinary health certificate (as the case may be) is required for quantities exceeding those indicated.

2.2.1 Raw Meat (including venison and meat from domesticated species eg beef, mutton and poultry)

- 25 kg meat (**excluding pork**) per person may be imported without a Namibian import permit or a South African veterinary health certificate.
- A Namibian veterinary import permit will be required for products derived from wild or domesticated pigs which have not been subjected to a process, to ensure satisfactory inactivation of African Swine fever and Classical swine fever viruses.

Up to 25 kg (excludes pork and pork products)	No Namibian import permit or South African veterinary health certificate is required. Only from FMD free zone
>25 - 250kg per importer	Namibian veterinary import permit and a veterinary health certificate from state vet in South Africa are required.
Consignments exceeding 250kg of meat per importer not regarded as being imported for own consumption. The importer must apply for a commercial Namibian veterinary import permit . The meat must be processed at establishment approved for export to Namibia.	

2.2.2 Biltong / Droe Wors

Less than 10 kg	No Namibian import permit or South African veterinary health certificate is required. Only from FMD free zone
> 10 kg -100kg per importer	Namibian Veterinary import permit and a health certificate from state vet in South Africa are required.
Consignments exceeding 100kg of biltong per hunter are not regarded as being imported for own consumption. The importer must apply for a commercial Namibian veterinary import permit .	

2.2.3 Other Processed Meats (canned, cooked, polony, brawn, pies etc)

A total mass of 25 kg per passenger **vehicle** may be imported without a Namibian veterinary import permit or a South African veterinary health certificate. Larger quantities must be accompanied by a Namibian import permit and a health certificate endorsed by the South African veterinary authorities.

2.2.4 Dairy Products

Up to 10 kg or litres of dairy products per passenger vehicle may be imported without a Namibian veterinary import permit or a South African veterinary health certificate. Larger

quantities must be accompanied by a Namibian import permit and a health certificate endorsed by the South African veterinary authorities and must originate from processing plants approved for export to Namibia. Coffee creamers made from vegetable products as well as chocolates are exempted from veterinary import permits.

2.2.5 Eggs

2½ dozen per passenger vehicle may be imported without a Namibian import permit or South African veterinary health certificate. Larger quantities must be accompanied by a Namibian import permit and a health certificate endorsed by the South African veterinary authorities.

- 2.2 **Dogs and cats:** may be imported from South Africa if accompanied by inter-territorial movement permit certified by a registered veterinarian.
- 2.3 **Horse:** Namibian veterinary import permit required for the import of horses and other equines from South Africa. A livestock improvement permit is also required.
- 2.4 **Birds:** a Namibian import permit is now required for the import of all birds from South Africa.

3. Importation of Inedible Animal Products for Own Use from South Africa

The following products may be imported for own use from RSA without a Namibian veterinary import permit. Products must however be accompanied by a valid South African veterinary health certificate.

- Mats made from fully processed animal skins
- Fully processed leather articles (Curios, hand bags, skin, rugs, shoes, kaross) hides &
- Fully mounted trophies
- Sjamboks & leather whips

Limited numbers/volume of the following products may be imported for own use without a veterinary import permit but require a veterinary health certificate

Curios containing the following raw products provided a certificate is produced to prove that they do not originate from areas under restriction

- Curios containing hides and skins or items from game trophies
- Drums covered with unprocessed skin
- Bones, horns, hooves, claws, antlers or teeth in small quantities which must have been treated to ensure that any matter other than bone, horn, hoof, claws antlers or teeth is removed. A certificate to that effect must be provided.

4. The following products may not be imported, or brought into Namibia without a valid Namibian veterinary import permit. Applications for veterinary import permits will be considered, but not necessarily approved.

- Any animal or animal product from the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) surveillance (red line); buffer or infected zone
- Any edible product where the mass exceeds the limits prescribed
- Raw pork or meat from wild pigs
- Inedible animal products imported for commercial purposes (The responsible official at the port of entry will judge the quantity of inedible products allowed for own use)
- Raw unprocessed or partially processed trophies
- Manure / animal waste
- Bones, teeth or horns
- Bone meal, carcass meal
- Live animals (excluding dogs, cats)
- Live poultry or birds
- Semen and embryos
- Fish (live)
- Veterinary pharmaceuticals or vaccines

Conditions for the import of animals and animal products change frequently. Importers are therefore advised to check with the veterinary permits office before making arrangements to bring such products into the country.

Animals or animal products which are brought into Namibia without the necessary veterinary documents will be confiscated and destroyed without compensation, and the culprits will be prosecuted.

Enquiries: **Permits office:** + 264 61 303150/276580.
State veterinary Office, Robert Mugabe Avenue

Dr C Bamhare
For: **Director of Veterinary Services.**