

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 490

18 MAY 2018

ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO. 35 OF 1984)

Draft Veterinary Procedural Notice for African Swine Fever Control in South Africa or "ASF VPN" under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and the Animal Diseases Regulations (R.2026 of 1986)

I, Senzeni Zokwana, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby

- (a) invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the draft ASF VPN, and to do so within 60 days from the date of publication of this Public Consultation Notice to the following address:

The Director

Directorate: Animal Health

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,

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- (b) inform all that the draft ASF VPN can be obtained from the Director: Animal Health or alternatively can be accessed on the DAFF website:

<http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy>


MR. SENZENI ZOKWANA

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE:**DRAFT VETERINARY PROCEDURAL NOTICE FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA, ALSO KNOWN AS DRAFT "ASF VPN"**

African Swine Fever (ASF) is fatal for pigs and is devastating to the pig owner, as in most cases almost all the pigs die. ASF in domestic pigs can be spread via contact between sick and healthy animals and/or indirectly by feeding infectious swill or contact with contaminated objects. South Africa is not endemic for the domestic cycle of ASF transmission. The sylvatic cycle involves transmission of the virus between soft ticks and warthogs or bushpigs. The sylvatic cycle is present in South Africa and the area where it occurs is described as the ASF controlled areas.

The disease may spill over from the warthogs/bushpigs in the ASF controlled area to domestic pigs either directly (contact between an infectious warthog/bushpig with domestic pigs) or indirectly (via feeding infectious material from warthog/bushpig to domestic pigs or via infectious ticks which may fall off warthog/bushpig). It is therefore important to regulate the keeping of domestic pigs in the ASF controlled areas, to prevent outbreaks of the disease in domestic pigs in the ASF controlled zone. It is also important to control the movement of live pigs, live warthogs and bushpigs and their products from the ASF controlled areas into the rest of the country

ASF is a controlled animal disease according to the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations. Table 2 of the Regulations entails that the Director: Animal Health is obliged to control outbreaks of this disease.

Internationally, ASF is listed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as a disease of concern, which requires risk mitigation measures for trade and can serve as a barrier for trade.

The draft ASF VPN is intended to serve as a guide on how to apply the legal prescripts (in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984) and Regulations) for moving and keeping pigs in the ASF controlled area in South Africa in order to prevent outbreaks and spread of ASF and is hereby presented for consultation before implementation.

This notice serves to invite comment on the draft Veterinary Procedural Notice for African Swine Fever control in South Africa for a period of 60 days from publication of this notice. A copy of the draft ASF VPN may be obtained on request from the Director: Animal Health or alternately can be accessed on the DAFF website.

Comments on the draft ASF VPN must be addressed in writing, before the end of the consultation period, to the Director: Animal Health.