
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 936

28 JUNE 2019

ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984

(ACT No 35 OF 1984)

Call for Public Comment on Proposed Amendments to the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986) under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984), as previously amended

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

- (a) invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the proposed amendments to "Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986)", and to do so within 90 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
Private Bag X138
PRETORIA
0001

E-mail: PetuniaM@daff.gov.za and AliciaC@daff.gov.za

- (b) inform all that the proposed amendments to "Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986)", can be accessed on the DAFF website <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy> or obtained from the Director: Animal Health

MR. SENZENI ZOKWANA

Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE:**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ANIMAL DISEASES REGULATIONS (R. 2026 OF 1986) UNDER THE ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO. 35 OF 1984), AS PREVIOUSLY AMENDED**

Table 2 of the Regulations of the Act prescribes control measures relating to certain "controlled animal diseases". For several controlled diseases, the destruction, slaughter or disposal of animals and things under official control or supervision is prescribed as a control method for infected and in-contact animals. Advancing scientific knowledge, improving testing methods and changing disease and vector distributions have made the blanket prescription for the destruction of infected and in contact animals scientifically, ethically and economically questionable in the global setting. The Director: Animal Health thus proposes revision of the relevant control measures in Table 2, to remove reference to automatic compulsory destruction. In-contact and infected animals are instead to be dealt with as determined by the Director: Animal Health (DAH). The purpose of this change is to allow the Director: Animal Health to prescribe and apply the most efficient, effective and economic options according to the prevailing scientific information and taking into account the particular circumstances when dealing with a controlled disease outbreak. This matter has been extensively consulted through the National Animal Health Forum and their respective industry members. Veterinary Procedural Notices (VPNs) contain detailed and regularly updated descriptions of relevant control measures. All new VPns or changes to existing VPns are taken through a process of Public Consultation.

Pertaining to contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Lungsickness), there are no routine controlled veterinary acts to be performed in respect of susceptible animals at this time, since there are no controlled areas in South Africa. It is suggested that the entry in the column for susceptible animals be deleted. If an outbreak occurs, the Director will determine the relevant response required for susceptible animals.

The wording "effective" remedy" is to replace the wording of "efficient" remedy when used as part of control measures throughout Table 2. Currently "effective remedy" and "efficient remedy" are both used and may create confusion based on differing definitions. The term "effective" is the correct term for use in the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986) in terms of international and South African legislation. The effectivity of a medicine is evaluated during registration of the medicine with either Act 36 or Act 101. It is important that only registered remedies, i.e. those with proven effectivity, are prescribed for controlled diseases wherever possible.

The proposed Regulation amendment also includes the inclusion of minor changes in Table 2 that reflect current scientific advances pertaining to relevant diseases.

This notice serves to invite comment on the newly proposed amendments to "Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986)", as previously amended, for a period of three (3) calendar months from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the newly proposed amendments may be obtained on request from the Director: Animal Health or alternately can be accessed on the DAFF website.

Comments on the newly proposed amendments to "Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations (R. 2026 of 1986)", as previously amended, must be addressed in writing, before the end of the consultation period, to the Director: Animal Health at the above address or preferably via email to PetuniaM@daff.gov.za and AliciaC@daff.gov.za.