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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 7534

29 May 2026

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT No. 119 OF 1990)

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION AND MARKING OF MEAT INTENDED FOR SALE IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

I, John Henry Steenhuisen, Minister for Agriculture, acting under section 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), hereby make known that I intend to publish the amended regulations relating to classification and marking of meat intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa

All interested parties are invited to submit comments and any representations concerning the above-mentioned proposed amended regulations in writing within **30 days** from the date of publication of this Notice to the following address:

Executive Officer: Agricultural Product Standards
Department of Agriculture
Private Bag X343, Pretoria, 0001
30 Hamilton Street, Harvest House Building, Arcadia, Room 156
Tel. no. 012 319 6231; Fax no. 012 319 6265
Email: DibetsoK@nda.gov.za

The proposed amendment regulations are available on the Department's website at the following link: [Department of Agriculture - Draft Legislation for Comments](#), or can be forwarded via electronic mail or posted to any person upon request.



MR JH STEENHUISEN, MP
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE

DRAFT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. R.

2026

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (ACT No. 119 OF 1990)

**REGULATIONS REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION AND MARKING OF MEAT INTENDED FOR SALE IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA: AMENDMENT**

The Minister of Agriculture has, acting under section 15 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No.119 of 1990), made the regulations in the Schedule.

DRAFT

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In this Schedule, “**the Regulations**” means the regulations published by Government Notice No. R. 6436 of 18 July 2025.

Amendment of regulation 1 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 1 of the Regulations is hereby amended by –

(a) The substitution for the definition of “classification stamps” of the following definition:

“**classification stamps**” means the stamps used to stamp mark the carcass according to the meat classification requirements in the manner set out in regulation 15;

(b) the deletion, after the definition of “imported” of the following definition:

“**independent qualified person**” means an individual, performing meat classification in the service of a service provider, who has been trained and thereafter successfully assessed by the assignee in meat classification in terms of the requirements of these regulations and who has no association, either directly or indirectly, with the abattoir concerned;

(c) the substitution for the definition of “meat classification” of the following definition:

“**meat classification**” means the evaluation and marking of the carcass by way of age classification, fatness classification, conformation classification, damage classification and gender in the manner set out in these regulations;

(d) the insertion, after the definition of “meat classification”, of the following definition:

“**method of production**” means a manner of production, and or processing, and or handling of certain agricultural products following a particular auditable protocol which is distinguished by the use of a claim as defined in the regulations relating to the management control system in respect of the sale and export of certain agricultural products published in terms of the Act;

(e) the deletion, after the definition of “permitted”, of the following definition:

“**quality indication**” means a word or expression or brand name or trade mark or any other mark or symbol, that may directly or by implication influence the choice of the buyer in buying that specific meat, that has been approved by the executive officer on written request for use in an roller mark and/or as a stamp on the carcasses and /or as indication on meal or the packaging;

(f) the substitution for the definition of “registration/registered” of the following definition:

“**registration/registered**” with regard to the abattoir-identification code, means the process by which the executive officer allocates an abattoir-identification code to an abattoir that intends to classify meat;

(g) the deletion, after the definition of “roller-mark equipment” of the definition:

“**service provider.**” Means an independent organization or entity that provides independent qualified persons performing meat classification services at abattoirs, and confirmed by the assignee to comply with the list of requirements in Table 6; and

(h) the insertion, after the definition of “treated meat,” of the following definition:

“**week**” with regard to the age of a boar carcass, means the first week of the year which is the earliest week with at least 4 days of the month January and where Monday is the first day of the week.”

Amendment of regulation 2 of the Regulations

3. Regulation 2 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 2 (2)(b) and will read as follows:

“(b) the sale of meat carcasses which have been marked with any mark, symbol or other method of expression that is or purports to be a method of production or an indication of a class thereof.”

4. Regulation 2 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following sub-regulation after sub-regulation (3):

“(4) The restriction in sub-regulation (1)(c) above shall, where necessary, not apply in the following instances: Provided that the assignee shall be informed in writing on an annual basis by the abattoir concerned:

- (a) Roller-marking of calf, bovine, sheep and goat carcasses, as prescribed in regulations 17, 18 and 19, when such carcasses are destined for export or processing.
- (b) Applying of classification stamp marks on pig carcasses, as prescribed in regulation 15, when such carcasses are destined for export or processing: Provided further that classification markings shall still be indicated on the ears.”

Amendment of regulation 3 of the Regulations

5. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of sub-regulation (3)(1)(b), which read as follows:

“(b) the abattoir has at its disposal the services of an independent qualified person.”

6. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “if 40 and more that specific species are slaughtered per month” in sub-regulation (3)(3)(a) and will read as follows:

“(a) if an abattoir-identification code has been registered for an abattoir, all carcasses of a species originating from that abattoir shall be classified and roller-marked.”

7. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “of which 40 and more of that specific species are slaughtered per month at the abattoir” in sub-regulation (3)(3)(b) and will read as follows:

“(b) a period of grace not exceeding three months after the registration of an abattoir-identification code shall be allowed with regard to the implementation of the meat classification and roller-marking for each species.”

8. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of sub-regulation (3)(4)(c), which read as follows:

“(c) the abattoir does not have at its disposal the services of an independent qualified person.”

9. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of sub-regulation (3)(4)(f):

“(3)(4)(f) the abattoir does not pay the fees as set out in section 3(1a) of the Act, to the assignee within 30 days from the start of each calendar month.”

10. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the following sub-regulations 7 and 8:

“(7) the service provider shall inform the executive officer or assignee within 24 hours when there is any change of the independent qualified person at an abattoir.”

“(8) In case an abattoir loses the services of the independent qualified person or discontinues meat classification permanently, the responsible person shall inform the executive office as well as the assignee within 24 hours and all classification equipment shall be handed over within 24 hours to the nearest police station for collection by the assignee, or be handed over directly to the assignee or safekeeping.”

11. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “of which 40 or more of a specific species are slaughtered per month” in sub-regulation 11 and will read as follows:

“(11) All carcasses originating from an abattoir for which an abattoir-identification code has been registered shall be classified and, excluding pig carcasses, also be roller-marked in the abattoir.”

Amendment of regulation 5 of the Regulations

12. Regulation 5 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the wording “as the” in sub-regulation 5(1)(a) and will read as follows:

“(a) age as the classes A, AB, B, or C in accordance with the provisions of regulation 6;”

Amendment of regulation 6 of the Regulations

13. Regulation 6 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following sub-regulation after sub-regulation (3):

“(4) all carcasses that are slaughtered at a registered abattoir shall at all times, for the purpose of age classification, be identifiable with the head of such a carcass by attaching the same numbered stickers to the carcass and corresponding head: Provided that in the case of the head the sticker shall consist of a label permanently attached to the head.”

Amendment of regulation 11 of the Regulations

14. Regulation 11 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the wording “including the head” and “on the day of slaughter” in sub-regulation 11(1) and will read as follows:

“11 (1) A pig carcass, including the head, with a mass of 20 kg or less on the day of slaughter shall be classified as the class “Sucking pig.”

15. Regulation 11 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following sub-regulation after sub-regulation (1):

“(2) A pig carcass, including the head, with a mass of 20,1 kg or more but not more than 110 kg on the day of slaughter, shall be classified as a class as stipulated in column 1 of Table 3 of the Annexure, if the fat thickness is as specified in column 2 of the table opposite the class concerned: Provided that boar carcasses up to the age of 22 weeks of which the number of the week of birth –

(a) has been marked clearly on one or both of the ears, may be included up to 110 kg; or

(b) has not been marked clearly or not marked at all on one or both of the ears, be included up to 100 kg only.”

16. Regulation 11 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following sub-regulation after sub-regulation (2):

“(3) A pig carcass, including the head, with a mass of 110,1 kg or more on the day of slaughter or 100,1 kg or more for boar carcasses with the week of birth mark not clear or without the week of birth mark on the ear(s), shall be classified as the class “Sausage pig.”

Amendment of regulation 12 of the Regulations

17. Regulation 12 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “percentage meat” and replaced by the wording “fat thickness” and will read as follows:

“Determination of fat thickness”

18. Regulation 12 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “percentage meat” and replaced by the wording “fat thickness” in sub-regulation 12(1) and will read as follows:

“(1) The fat thickness of a pig carcass shall be measured.”

19. Regulation 12 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “the fat thickness and muscle thickness have been measured” in sub-regulation 12(1)(a) and will read as follows:

“(a) by means of an electronic thickness meter; or.”

20. Regulation 12 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “the fat thickness has been measured by means of” in sub-regulation 12(1)(b) and will read as follows:

“an intrascope, between the 2nd and 3rd last rib and 45 mm from the midline of the carcass while the carcass is in a hanging position.”

21. Regulation 12 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the following sub-regulations 2 and 3:

“(2) The percentage meat is calculated, depending on the technique, by means of the following formulae (fat thickness and muscle thickness in mm):

Percentage meat electronically = $72.5114 - (0.4618 \times \text{fat thickness}) + (0.0547 \times \text{muscle thickness})$.

Percentage meat with intrascope = $74.4367 - (0.4023 \times \text{fat thickness})$.”

“(3) The result of a calculation set out in sub-regulation (2) shall be rounded to the nearest integer before a carcass is classified.”

Amendment of regulation 15 of the Regulations

22. Regulation 15 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the following sub-regulation 7:

Amendment of regulation 17 of the Regulations

23. Regulation 17 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the wording “and in the case where it is not possible before entering the cold rooms, roller-marking of the carcasses may be done in the cold rooms.” in sub-regulation 17(2) and will read as follows:

“(2)(a) warm on the day of slaughter, before entering the cold rooms and in the case where it is not possible before entering the cold rooms, roller-marking of the carcasses may be done in the cold rooms.”

24. Regulation 17 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the wording “including the method of production” and the deletion of the wording “that consists of the expression “HALAL”, “KOSHER” or “KOSJER”.” in sub-regulation 17(4) and will read as follows:

“(4) The carcass of a calf, bovine, sheep or goat may also be roller-marked with a separate roller-mark indicating the method of production.”

Amendment of regulation 18 of the Regulations

25. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the insertion of the following sub-regulation after sub-regulation (3)(a):
- “(3)(b) a goat that has been classified as age class --
- (i) A, be applied with blue ink; and
 - (ii) AB, B and C be applied with orange ink.”
26. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “a quality indication” and replaced by the wording “the method of production” in sub-regulation 18(6)(b) and will read as follows:
- “6(b) If the method of production does appear in the roller-mark, the twelve rows of symbols in the roller-mark shall be composed as follows --”
27. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 18(6)(b)(i) and will read as follows:
- “6(b)(i) in the case where the method of production consists of two rows and the abattoir-identification code of two rows, the age class shall appear three times, the fatness class three times, the method of production twice and the abattoir-identification code once, alternatively, in the roller-mark;”
28. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 18(6)(b)(ii) and will read as follows:
- “6(b)(ii) in the case where the method of production consists of two rows and the abattoir-identification code of one row, the age class shall appear three times, the fatness class three times, the method of production twice and the abattoir-identification code twice, alternatively, in the roller-mark;”
29. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 18(6)(b)(iii) and will read as follows:
- “6(b)(iii) in the case where the method of production consists of one row and the abattoir-identification code of two rows, the age class shall appear three times, the fatness class three times, the method of production twice and the abattoir-identification code twice, alternatively, in the roller-mark; or”
30. Regulation 18 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 18(6)(b)(iv) and will read as follows:
- “6(b)(iv) in the case where the method of production consists of one row and the abattoir-identification code of one row, the age class shall appear three times, the fatness class three times, the method of production three times and the abattoir-identification code three times, alternatively, in the roller-mark: Provided that the method of production may in addition be stamped onto the carcass or used on its own as a stamp.”

Amendment of regulation 19 of the Regulations

31. Regulation 19 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “the method of production” in sub-regulation 19(3)(b) and will read as follows:
- “(3)(b) If the method of production does appear in the roller-mark, the age class shall appear at least six times and the abattoir-identification code shall appear at least four times: Provided that the method of production may in addition be stamped onto the carcass or used on its own as a stamp.”

Amendment of regulation 20 of the Regulations

32. Regulation 20 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” in sub-regulation 20(1)(b) and will read as follows:

“1(b) A method of production: Provided that the method of production may in addition be stamped onto the carcass or used on its own as a stamp.”

Amendment of regulation 23 of the Regulations

33. Regulation 23 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “Quality indications such as the words “super”, “prime”, “prima”, “top”, “choice”, “quality”, “extra”, or “ultra” or” and will read as follows:

“(2) any other word or expression which directly or by implication create or may create the impression that meat or a carcass is of a special or particular quality other than a characteristic referred to in these regulations, may not be marked or stamped on the container or outer container of meat or a carcass: Provided that the use of the description “prime rib” for the meat cut concerned is allowed.”

34. Regulation 23 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the wording “quality indication” and replaced by the wording “method of production” and an additional deletion of “its use is approved by the executive officer on written request: Provided that”, replaced by the wording “it is registered in terms of the regulations relating to the management control system in respect of the sale and export of certain agricultural products published in terms of the Act;” in sub-regulation 23(3) and will read as follows:

“(3) A method of production shall not be marked or stamped on the container or outer container of meat or a carcass unless its use is approved by the executive officer on written request: Provided that – it is registered in terms of the regulations relating to the management control system in respect of the sale and export of certain agricultural products published in terms of the Act;”

35. Regulation 23 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of the sub-regulations (23)(3)(a) and (23)(3)(b).

36. Regulation 23 of the Regulations is hereby amended by changing sub-regulations (23)(5)(a) and (23)(5)(b) into sub-regulations (23)(4)(a) and (23)(4)(b).

Amendment of annexures of the Regulations

37. Table 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of column 2 “Calculated percentage meat of carcass (%) #/Berekende persentasie vleis van karkas (%) #” and renumbering column 3 “Fat thickness measured by means of instruments (mm)/Vetdikte soos bepaal met instrumente (mm)” as the new column 2, and will read as follows:

“CLASSES FOR PORK CARCASSES/KLASSE VIR VARKKARKASSE (Reg. 11)

Class/Klas	Fat thickness measured by means of instruments (mm)/Vetdikte soos bepaal met instrumente (mm)
1	2
Sucking pig/Speenvarc	*

Class/Klas	Fat thickness measured by means of instruments (mm)/Vetdikte soos bepaal met instrumente (mm)
1	2
P	At least 1 but not more than 12/Minstens 1 maar hoogstens 12
O	More than 12 but not more than 17/Meer as 12 maar hoogstens 17
R	More than 17 but not more than 22/Meer as 17 maar hoogstens 22
C	More than 22 but not more than 27/Meer as 22 maar hoogstens 27
U	More than 27 but not more than 32/Meer as 27 maar hoogstens 32
S	More than 32/Meer as 32
Sausage pig/Worsvark	*
Rough/Ru	*

* Not specified/Nie gespesifiseer nie

With due regard to regulation 12(3)/Met inagneming van regulasie 12(3)"

38. Table 5 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion of column 3 "Action to be taken/Optrede om geneem te word" will read as follows:

"CLASSIFICATION DEVIATIONS ALLOWED/KLASSIFIKASIE-AFWYKINGS TOEGELAAT
(Reg. 4(5), 10(5))

Carcass characteristics/Karkaseienskappe	Percentage (%)* deviation/Persentasie (%)* afwyking
1	2
Age (bovine, sheep and goat)/Ouderdom (bees, skaap en bok) [Reg. 6]	No deviation allowed

Carcass characteristics/Karkaseienskappe	Percentage (%)* deviation/Persentasie (%)* afwyking
1	2
Fatness (bovine, sheep and goat)/Vetheid (bees, skaap en bok) [Reg. 7] Conformation (bovine, calf and pig)/Bouvorm (bees, kalf en vark) [Reg. 8 and/en 13] Damage (all species)/Beskadiging (alle spesies) [Reg. 9 and/en 14] Gender (all species)/Geslag (alle spesies) [Reg. 15(3)]	Up to 6/Tot en met 6 More than 6 up to 20/Meer as % tot en met 20 More than 20/Meer as 20
Percentage meat (pigs)/Persentasie vleis(varke) [Reg. 11(2)]	Incorrect measuring position deviation/Verkeerde metingsposisie afwyking: Horizontal/Horisontaal - 5 Horizontal/Horisontaal - 20 Vertical/Vertikaal – 0 (between 2 nd and 3 rd rib)

* Based on 50 carcasses or what is available. If less than 50 - calculate on a 50 carcass basis

* Gebaseer op 50 karkasse of wat beskikbaar is. Indien minder as 50 - bereken op 'n 50 karkas basis"

39. Table 6 "Requirements for service providers/Vereistes vir diensverskaffers" of the Regulations is hereby amended by the deletion.

COMMENCEMENT

40. These regulations shall come into operation 6 months after the date of publication thereof.