
GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE 888 OF 2008

DRIED FRUIT INDUSTRY

APPLICATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF STATUTORY MEASURES

COMMENTS REQUESTED BY NAMC

The Minister of Agriculture received a request from the Dried Fruit Technical Services (DFTS), in terms of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act (MAP Act), Act No, 47 of 1996, for the continuation of statutory measures (registration, records & returns and levies). It is proposed that the statutory measures be implemented for a new four year period.

Currently, the following statutory measures are applicable in the dried deciduous fruit industry:

- Keeping of records and returns;
- Registration of persons; and
- Payment of statutory levies (the proposed levy, on locally produced and imported dried deciduous fruit into South Africa, is to finance Information and communication, Research and Technology development; Transformation and training; International liaison and Administration)

The NAMC believes that the measures requested are consistent with the objectives of the MAP Act (as set out in section 2 of the Act).

The DFTS is acting on behalf of its directors who represent the following directly affected groups in the dried fruit industry:

- Dried Vine Fruits Producers Organisation
- Dried Tree Fruits Advisory Committee (dried tree fruit producers)
- South African National Consumer Union
- SA Farm Workers Association
- Developing Agriculture

The DFTS proposed the following levy amounts for the new period:

	Current levels	Proposed levy levels
Raisins	4 c/kg	5c/kg
Apricots, Apples, Peaches	8 c/kg	9 c/kg
Nectarines, pears, prunes	7 c/kg	8c/kg

It is argued that the proposed statutory measures will not be detrimental to food security, the number of employment opportunities within the economy or to fair labour practice. In fact, the DFTS argues that they are aimed at growing the competitiveness and capacity of the industry. The NAMC has no new evidence to suggest that this will not be the case.

Directly affected groups (e.g. exporter, importer, producers, processor, inspection bodies and agents) in the dried fruit industry are kindly requested to submit any comments, in writing, regarding the proposed statutory measures, to the NAMC on or before 15 August 2008, to enable the Council to finalise its recommendation to the Minister in this regard.

ENQUIRIES:

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