
GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. 6142

25 April 2025

**VETERINARY AND PARAVETERINARY PROFESSIONS ACT, 1982
(ACT NO. 19 OF 1982)****REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY
SERVICE**

The Minister of Agriculture intends, in terms of section 20A read with section 43 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982), to make regulations set out in the schedule.

Interested persons are invited to send written comments on the proposed regulations within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Minister, for the attention of the Director: Veterinary Public Health, Department of Agriculture, 20 Steve Biko street, Pretoria, 0083; Email: CCS@dalrrd.gov.za

SCHEDULE**DEFINITIONS**

1. In these Regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and, unless the context indicates otherwise-

“Act” means the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982);

“Department” means the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development;

“Locum tenens” means a veterinarian who fulfils the professional responsibilities of another veterinarian on a temporary basis, whether volunteering or for remuneration;

“name” includes a surname and identity number.

PERSONS WHO SHALL PERFORM COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

2. Compulsory community service shall, unless exempted in terms of these regulations, be performed by any person registering for the first time as a veterinarian with the Council in terms of the Act.

REGISTRATION OF PERSONS PERFORMING COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

3. A person intending to register for compulsory community service shall-

(a) apply simultaneously to both the Department and the Council on a form obtainable from the Department and the Council respectively; and

(b) submit proof to both the Department and the Council that the person is entitled to register in terms of the Act.

4. The Council and the Department shall each establish a register of all persons who have applied to perform compulsory community service as contemplated in regulation 3.
5. The Council shall provide the Department with a list of persons who have applied to perform compulsory community service as and when the list is required by the Department.
6. The Department shall provide the Council with the name of every person who is performing compulsory community service and the allocated places where such person performs compulsory community service within a month of assumption of duty by such person.

COMPLETION OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

7. Compulsory community service shall be deemed to have been completed when the veterinarian-
 - (a) has performed all activities as required in the performance agreement signed between the department and the veterinarian at the commencement of the contract of employment;
 - (b) is not subject to any pending investigation or disciplinary action; and
 - (c) does not have any outstanding debt with the department, provided that a signed agreement to reimburse the department, may be deemed sufficient for conditional completion of service.
8. Where a veterinarian is deemed to have not completed the compulsory community service, he or she shall be required to complete the outstanding activities and period of service before a letter of completion may be issued by the department.
9. Any outstanding activities and period of service as contemplated in regulation 8, shall be performed at the veterinarian's expense in an instance where the veterinarian has already been compensated by the department for the service.
10. The department may assign the veterinarian performing outstanding work, at a different compulsory community service registered facility.
11. The Council shall not issue a letter of good standing to a veterinarian with any pending investigation, disciplinary action or outstanding debt related to the performance of

compulsory community service: provided that Council is immediately informed should any of these circumstances occur.

12. The Department shall issue a signed and dated letter of completion of compulsory community service to a person who has completed such service.
13. A person shall, within one month of the receipt of the letter contemplated in regulation 12, submit a certified copy thereof as proof of completion of compulsory community service to the Council.
14. A person who has been issued with the letter of completion shall, upon submitting such letter to the Council, be removed by the Council from the register of persons performing compulsory community service and shall be placed on the register of practicing veterinarians.
15. The Department shall provide the Council with information of all persons who have completed the compulsory community service immediately upon completion of the service, as well as the dates on which such services were completed.
16. The Department shall provide the Council with information of persons who have not completed the compulsory community service immediately upon the expiry of such persons' contracted period of compulsory community service.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

17. The conditions of service applicable to the public service employees shall, unless otherwise agreed with the Department, apply to persons employed by the Department to perform compulsory community service.
18. A person performing compulsory community service may not practice the veterinary profession for own account.
19. A person who performs compulsory community service and intends to perform locum tenens must apply to the Department for written permission to perform locum tenens.
20. A person contemplated in regulation 19 must, after having been granted written permission, inform Council accordingly and must apply to Council for an extension of scope of registration.
21. Any remunerative work outside of a compulsory community service contract may not be performed in substitution of the compulsory community service.

22. A person who registers to perform a compulsory community service with the Department shall be required to enter into a performance agreement with the Department.

PLACES WHERE COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE MAY BE PERFORMED

23. Compulsory community service shall be performed under the employment of the Department provided that a person may apply to the Department to perform compulsory community service outside the employment of the Department.
24. A person who performs compulsory community service outside of the employment of the Department shall be required to enter into a performance agreement with the Department on the deliverables to be achieved and shall be expected to report as required by the Department.
25. A person performing compulsory community service outside the employment of the Department shall be remunerated by the entity at which the person performs the service.
26. Categories for places where compulsory community service is to be performed shall include, but not limited to-
- (a) Regulatory state veterinary facilities;
 - (b) State veterinary clinical facilities;
 - (c) Veterinary diagnostics laboratories;
 - (d) Research and teaching laboratories;
 - (e) Other government departments such as, or responsible for:
 - (i) South African Police Services
 - (ii) South African National Defence Force
 - (iii) Correctional Services
 - (iv) Environmental affairs and conservation
 - (f) Agricultural and veterinary/para-veterinary learning institutions;
 - (g) Manufacturers of veterinary products
 - (h) Animal welfare organisations;
 - (i) Nature conservation and wildlife facilities;
 - (j) Agricultural and veterinary commodities groups;
 - (k) Veterinary private practices; and
 - (l) Any other relevant facility that delivers veterinary services, to be determined by the Department.
27. Any place where compulsory community service is performed must be accredited by the Department and must be registered by Council.

PERIOD FOR COMPLETION OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

28. Compulsory community service shall be performed for a minimum period of twelve months (1 year), in accordance with the Department's standard working hours.
29. A person who seeks to start compulsory community service outside of the period determined by the Department must apply to the Department for permission to commence compulsory community service on an alternate date.
30. Compulsory community service shall be completed within a maximum period of 24 months from the date of first registration with the Council as a compulsory community service veterinarian.
31. A person who fails to complete compulsory community service within the period contemplated in regulation 30 due to any other circumstance beyond the control of that person may apply to the Department for permission to extend the period for completion of the service.

MISCONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

32. A person performing compulsory community service under the employment of the Department is subject to misconduct and disciplinary processes applicable to the Department.
33. The Department must inform the Council of any person contemplated in regulation 32 who is subject to any investigation or disciplinary process as well as the outcome thereof.
34. The Council may authorise a veterinarian who is subject any investigation or disciplinary process to act as locum tenens until the investigation or disciplinary process has concluded or any appeals finalised, if applicable.

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH PERSONS MAY BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PERFORMANCE OF COMPULSORY COMMUNITY SERVICE

35. (1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Council, exempt the following categories of persons from performing compulsory community service:
 - (a) persons whose expertise is required for veterinary sciences related research and training;

- (b) persons providing specialist veterinary services; or
 - (c) persons whose veterinary education was not directly or indirectly funded or subsidised by public funds.
- (2) A person who is not a South African citizen who could not be appointed to perform community service from 9 November 2015 up to the date of commencement of these regulations is exempted from performing community service.
- (3) A person who cannot be appointed by the Department to perform compulsory community service within a period of three months from the date of registration with Council to perform compulsory community service may be exempted by the Minister from performing compulsory community service.

REPEAL OF REGULATIONS

36. The regulations published in Government Notice No. R 1081 of 09 November 2015, are hereby repealed.

SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

37. These regulations are called Regulations Relating to the Performance of Compulsory Community Service and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the Government Gazette.

MR J STEENHUIZEN, MP
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE
DATE: