

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NO. R. 6667

26 September 2025

PLANT HEALTH (PHYTOSANITARY) ACT, 2024 (ACT NO.35 OF 2024)

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
DRAFT IMPORT REGULATIONS


I, John Steenhuisen, Minister of Agriculture, acting under section 30, read with sections 12, 13, and 23 of the Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Act, 2024 (Act No.35 of 2024) hereby invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments and inputs on the proposed import regulations

Comments must be submitted within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice to:

Dr Maanda Rambauli
Department of Agriculture
Directorate Plant Health
Private X14, Gezina 0031

Physical address: Department of Agriculture
30 Hamilton Street, Harvest House, Arcadia Pretoria

Email: MaandaR@nda.gov.za or DesireeB@nda.gov.za
Contact details: 012 319 6164/ 6189
078 827 4608/ 072 461 4581



MR J. STEENHUISEN, MP
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
DATE: 02-05-25

PART I: DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

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

“Border Management Authority (BMA) officer” means an officer appointed in terms of the Border Management Authority Act, 2020 (Act No. 2 of 2020) responsible for the execution of frontline border law enforcement functions related to plant biosecurity control in terms of these Regulations;

“delegated officer” means the person delegated in terms of section 6(1)(a) of the Act;

“extended detention” means authorization of imports of plants, plant products and other regulated articles through designated ports of entry for inspection at an approved inland facility, beyond a 10 km radius from the port of entry, as determined by the BMA officials with the concurrence of the executive officer ;

“e-permit” means a digital platform or an electronic permitting system that allows an importer to apply for a permit online.

“interception (of a consignment)” means the refusal or controlled entry of an imported consignment due to failure to comply with phytosanitary regulations;

“post-entry quarantine” means quarantine applied to a consignment after entry; and

“quarantine facility” means an official facility for holding plants, plant products, and regulated articles under quarantine.

PART II: IMPORT OF PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS, AND OTHER REGULATED ARTICLES

Requirements for imports

2. (1) A person intending to import plants, plant products and other regulated articles into the Republic shall apply for an import permit in terms of section 13(1) of the Act.

(2) The importer must comply with the phytosanitary import requirements.

(3) The importer should stipulate the intended destination of the imported plants, plant products and other regulated articles into the Republic; where applicable, the delegated officer shall verify and validate the address to ensure traceability.

Application for an import permit

3. (1) An application for the issuing of an import permit shall be made in the form set out in Annexure B, or through the electronic permitting system (e-Certification) available on the departmental website

(2) Such an application form referred to in Annexure B shall be-

(a) fully completed and submitted to the executive officer or authorised person at least 30 working days prior to the date of the consignment leaving the exporting country; and

(b) accompanied by proof of payment made in accordance with the prescribed fees stipulated in Annexure A.

(c) sent via electronic mail (e-mail) to PlantHealthPermits@nda.gov.za or be delivered by post, addressed to the Directorate Food, Import and Export Standards, P.O. Box 40024, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0007 or by hand at Harvest House, 30 Hamilton Street, Arcadia, Pretoria.

Issuance of an import permit

4. (1) The application for an import permit shall be evaluated and verified by the executive officer or delegated officer to ensure compliance.
- (2) The import permit shall be issued within 30 days if the phytosanitary import requirements are available.
- (3) Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) will be conducted when there are no phytosanitary import requirements by NPPOZA, and upon completion of the PRA process an the import permit will be issued.
- (4) The import permit granted is solely applicable to the commodity stated on the import permit. and in the quantity indicated.
- (5) The issued import permit is valid for a period as determined by the executive officer.
- (6) The executive officer may review, amend or revoke the issued import permit in terms of section 13(4)(a) of the Act.
- (7) An import permit that requires compliance with the Plant Improvement Act, 2018 or other relevant legislations shall only be issued if accompanied by an approval letter from the relevant Registrar.

Point of entry

5. (1) Any person importing plants, plant products, and other regulated articles into the Republic on the authority of a permit must do so through the prescribed point of entry specified in Table 1 unless the executive officer has determined some other point of entry in terms of section 13(3)(a) of the Act.

Presentation of consignment for inspection

6. (1) The consignment imported and required documents shall be presented to the BMA officer or authorised person for inspection at the point

of entry or any other place determined by the executive officer in terms of section 13(3)(b) of the Act.

(2) The consignment inspected in sub-regulation 6(1) shall not be removed from the point of entry or any other place before the BMA officer or executive officer or authorised person has authorised such removal in writing.

(3) In cases where consignments do not comply with the phytosanitary import requirements the BMA officer or executive officer or authorized person may order the consignment to be:

- (a) removed from the Republic
- (b) destroy
- (c) treat (depending on the risk identified)
- (d) detained for any other phytosanitary action.

(4) The non-compliance referred to in sub-regulation 6(3) shall be communicated to the country of origin through the NPPOZA contact point.

Extended detention of imports for inspection at an inland facility

7. (1) Extended detention for all imports shall be authorised by the BMA officer with the concurrence of the executive officer.

(2) All consignments granted extended detention shall be:

- (a) verified at the designated point of entry prior to movement to an approved facility;
- (b) moved by affixing seals, marks, and movement documents issued at the point of entry to ensure consignment integrity;
- (c) monitored for traceability; and
- (d) inspected at an approved official facility.

(3) The seals may only be removed by a designated officer or authorised person during inspection.

(4) The consignment shall not be used for any other purposes unless it has been inspected and cleared for distribution in the Republic.

(5) The BMA officer and executive officer/ delegated officer within the responsible authority shall:

- (a) coordinate among each other for inspection;
- (b) perform any other functions to manage the risk of pest introduction;
- (c) provide a feedback report after inspection to the relevant authority.

(6) The executive officer/ delegated officer responsible for inspection will then release the consignment upon compliance.

(7) In cases of non-compliance in the consignment during inspection, such consignment will either be treated or destroyed, depending on the level of risk identified.

Post-entry quarantine measures

8. (1) Any importer shall seek guidance from the NPPOZA for propagation material that should be subjected to post-entry quarantine measures regarding the availability of an officially approved quarantine facility.

(2) All imported propagation material destined for post-entry quarantine measures shall be:

- (a) presented to the BMA officer at the point of entry
- (b) collected by the NPPOZA official directly from the point of entry for establishment and propagation at the quarantine facility.

(3) All post-quarantine facilities shall be approved by the executive officer.

(4) The NPPOZA shall inspect, test, and examine all the propagation material that is subjected to the post-entry quarantine facility.

(5) If the propagation material held in the quarantine facility does not pose any phytosanitary risks or and are free from regulated pests, the propagation material will be released.

Importation of a biological control agent

9. (1) A person importing a biological control agent shall apply for an import permit.
- (2) The NPPOZA with relevant entities shall conduct a risk assessment, and upon completion of the risk assessment, the NPPOZA shall issue an import permit.
- (3) The NPPOZA shall ensure that the biological agent is taken directly to the designated quarantine facility or mass-rearing facility, if appropriate, and passed directly for release into the environment.

Importation for research purposes

10. (1) A person intending to import plants, plant products and other regulated articles for research purposes shall apply for an import permit and comply with phytosanitary import requirements.
- (2) The researcher must adhere to specific disposal protocols after the research is complete.

PART III: GENERAL**Payment of fees**

11. (1) The cost of any application or other document which is submitted or furnished in terms of these regulations, as well as on or of anything pertaining thereto, shall be paid by the sender thereof in terms of section 13(3)(e) of the Act and as stipulated in Annexure A.
- (2) Any amount which is payable in terms of these regulations shall-
- (a) be paid by cash or at the bank, or electronically, and the proof of payment must be submitted together with the relevant document to the executive officer.

TABLE 1
POINTS OF ENTRY

1. The harbours of -	Cape Town, Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Ngqura, and Richards Bay.
2. The International airports-	Cape Town International Airport, King Shaka International Airport, Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport, Lanseria International Airport, O.R. Tambo (Johannesburg) International Airport and Chief Dawid Stuurman (George) International Airport
3. The border control points at-	Beitbridge, Caledonspoort, Ficksburg Bridge, Golela, Grobler's Bridge, Jeppes Reef, Kopfontein, Kosi Bay, Lebombo, Mahamba, Mananga, Maseru Bridge, Nakop, Nerston, Oshoek, Qacha's Nek, Ramatlabama, Skilpadshek, Van Rooyen's Hek and Vioolsdrift.

Annexure A**FEES PAYABLE**

NATURE OF SERVICE	TARIFF
1	2
1. Import Control:	
(a) During official office hours	
(i) Inspection outside the port of entry. This tariff includes consignments imported through official ports of entry and granted an extended detention	R 310.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(ii) Re-examination of imported regulated articles that were cleaned, disinfected or treated after examination	R 310.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(iii) Supervision over cleaning, disinfection or treatment of imported regulated articles	R 310.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(iv) Purification of regulated articles of declared organisms (excluding quarantine organisms)	R 310.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(v) Issuing of a permit to authorize importation of regulated articles	R240.00 per permit (Maximum of 10 plant genus)
(vi) Issuing of amendment letters	R 410.00 per letter
(vii) Issuing of copies	R 240.00 per copy
(b) Outside official office hours	
(i) Examination of imported regulated articles [Reg.5(2)]	
Weekdays from 16:00 – 20:00/ 06:00 – 07:30 and Saturdays from 06:00 – 20:00	R 450.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
Weekdays and Saturdays from 20:00 – 06:00 Sundays and Public holidays	R 580.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(ii) Re-examination of imported regulated articles that were cleaned, disinfected or treated after examination	
Weekdays from 16:00 – 20:00/ 06:00 – 07: 30 and	R 450.00 for 30 minutes or portion

Saturdays from 06:00 – 20:00	thereof including travelling
Weekdays and Saturdays from 20:00 – 06:00 Sundays and Public holidays	R 580.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(iii) Supervision over cleaning, disinfection or treatment of imported regulated articles	
Weekdays from 16:00 – 20:00/ 06:00 – 07: 30 and Saturdays from 06:00 – 20:00	R 450.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
Weekdays and Saturdays from 20:00 – 06:00 Sundays and Public holidays	R 580.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
(c) Laboratory tests Laboratory examinations of imported regulated articles:	
(i) Test for occurrence of bacteria	R 362.00 per isolation
(ii) Test for occurrence of fungi	R 257.00 per isolation
(iii) Test for occurrence of nematodes	R 176.00 per extraction
(iv) Test for occurrence of insects or mites	R 188.00 per sample
(v) Morphological identifications of insects, mites, nematodes or fungi	R 362.00 per identification
(vi) Biochemical tests for the identification of bacteria	R 303.00 per test
(vii) BIOLOG tests for the identification of bacteria	R 381.00 per test plate
(viii) PCR tests for the identification and/or detection of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, viruses and phytoplasmas	R 673.00 per sample for the first test plus R121.00 for every additional test
(ix) Sequencing for the identification of bacteria fungi, nematodes, insects, phytoplasmas	R 507.00 per sample
(x) ELISA tests for identification and/or detection of viruses	R 184.00 per test
(xi) Herbaceous indexing for the detection of viruses	R 323.00 per sample
2. Quarantine	
2.1 Approval of quarantine facilities (outside/ open quarantine) for evaluation of imported regulated articles	R 330.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof

2.2 Transport, sampling, examination and inspection of imported regulated articles	R 645.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof
2.3 Laboratory examinations of imported regulated articles (except regulated articles in DoA post entry quarantine stations)	
(i) Test occurrence of bacteria	R 362.00 per isolation
(ii) Test occurrence of fungi	R 257.00 per isolation
(iii) Test occurrence of nematodes	R 176.00 per extraction
(iv) Test occurrence of insects and mites	R 188.00 per sample
(v) Morphological identification of insects, mites, nematodes or fungi	R 362.00 per identification
(vi) Biochemical tests for the identification of bacteria	R 303.00 per test
(vii) BIOLOG tests for the identification of bacteria	R 381.00 per test plate
(viii) PCR tests for the identification of and/or detection of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, viruses and phytoplasmas	R 673.00 per sample for the first test plus R 121.00 for every additional test
(ix) Sequencing for the identification of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, viruses and phytoplasmas	R 507.00 per sample
(x) ELISA tests for identification and/or detection of viruses	R 184.00 per test
(xi) Herbaceous indexing for the detection of viruses	R 323.00 per sample
2.4 Inspection of a quarantine area in respect of which an application, adaptation or withdrawal of an instruction has been submitted	R 310.00 for 30 minutes or portion thereof including travelling
2.5 Test, examination or analysis of a sample taken in the course of an examination	
(i) Test occurrence of bacteria	R 362.00 per isolation
(ii) Test occurrence of fungi	R 257.00 per isolation
(iii) Test occurrence of nematodes	R 176.00 per extraction
(iv) Test occurrence of insects and mites	R 188.00 per sample

(v) Morphological identifications of insects, mites, nematodes or fungi	R 362.00 per identification
(vi) Biochemical tests for the identification of bacteria	R 303.00 per test
(vii) BIOLOG tests for the identification of bacteria	R 381.00 per test plate
(viii) PCR tests for the identification and/or detection of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, viruses and phytoplasmas	R 673.00 per sample for the first test plus R 121.00 for every additional test
(ix) Sequencing for the identification of bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, viruses and phytoplasmas	R 507.00 per sample
(x) ELISA tests for identification and/or detection of viruses	R 184.00 per test
(xi) Herbaceous indexing for the detection of viruses	R 323.00 per sample
3. Appeal in terms of section 23 of the Act [Reg. 10(1) of the Regulations]	R 9 200.00 per appeal

This amendment will come into operation on 01 April 2025

ANNEXURE B

APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT FOR THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS, PLANT PRODUCTS AND OTHER REGULATED ARTICLES IN TERMS OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PLANT HEALTH (PHYTOSANITARY) ACT, 2024 (ACT NO.35 OF 2024).

STANDARD APPLICATION: MUST BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 30 WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE CONSIGNMENT LEAVING THE EXPORTING COUNTRY

OTHER APPLICATIONS: APPLICANT WILL BE NOTIFIED OF HANDLING PROCEDURES.

DIRECTOR: DIRECTORATE: PLANT HEALTH, P.O. BOX 40024, ARCADIA, PRETORIA, 0007; OR
FAX: 27 12 319 6370 / E-MAIL PlantHealthPermits@nda.gov.za / TEL: 27 12 319 6102/ 6207/ 6383/ 6130/ 6396

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for a permit in terms of section 13(1) Plant Health (Phytosanitary) of the Act, 2024 to import the plants, plant products and other regulated articles of which the particulars appear hereunder, into South Africa. I hereby declare that the goods concerned do not contain any genetically manipulated organisms.

* Description of plants, plant products, and other regulated articles	Name of variety of plants (where applicable)	Quantity (number or mass)	Full name and address of foreign supplier	Point of entry	Purpose of which imported

Country of origin.....Name of company/applicant

Postal Address of applicant

Code Telephone / Cell phone no. Fax no.

E-mail address.....

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT PRINTED: NAME AND SURNAME OF APPLICANT DATE

* In the case of a plant (including seed), pathogen, insect or exotic animal, the scientific as well as the common name thereof shall be specified.

Collection of permits: -

Personal ☐

Courier (Importer to make own arrangement) ☐

Point of entry: