



Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 730

10

April
April

2026

No. 54476

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ISSN 1682-5845



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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NO. 7361

10 April 2026

**ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984
(ACT NO. 35 OF 1984)**

**DRAFT SCHEME RELATING TO FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE ROUTINE
VACCINATION**

I, John Henry Steenhuisen, Minister of Agriculture, acting under Section 10 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) hereby make known that I intend to publish a scheme to be known as the Routine Vaccination Scheme for Foot and Mouth Disease ("RVS-FMD").

All interested parties are invited to submit comments or make representations concerning the proposed Scheme set out in the Schedule hereto within seven (7) calendar days from the date of publication of this notice to the following address:

Dr EM Mogajane:

FMD Command Centre - FMDcommandcent@nda.gov.za



MR JH STEENHUISEN, MP
Minister of Agriculture

SCHEDULE

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Definitions

1.

In this Scheme any word or phrase to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act and the Regulations, shall have that meaning, unless the context indicates otherwise -

“**the Act**” means the Animal Diseases Act, No. 35 of 1984;

“**agricultural associations**” mean official associations or organisations of farmers of cloven-hoofed animals affected or potentially affected by FMD;

“**authorised animal health technician**” means any person who is registered or deemed to be registered in terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982), to practice the veterinary para-profession of animal health technician, and is authorised by the National Director: Animal Health and appointed by a participant;

“**animals**” means, for the purposes of this scheme, domesticated cloven-hoofed animals;

“**authorised veterinarian**” means a veterinarian authorised by the National Director: Animal Health and appointed by a participant, which veterinarian is duly registered at the South African Veterinary Council;

“**committee**” means the Committee established in paragraph 7;

“**controlled veterinary act**” has the meaning assigned in the Act;

“**department**” means the National Department of Agriculture;

“**Director-General**” means the Director-General: Agriculture;

“**FMD**” or “**Foot and Mouth Disease**” means the disease as specified in column 1 of Table 2 of the Animal Diseases Regulations GNR.2026 of 26 September 1986;

"**ICAR**" means International Committee for Animal Recording;

"**Minister**" means the Minister of Agriculture;

"**National Director**" means the officer in the department referred to in section 2 (1) of the Act, also referred to as the National Director: Animal Health.

"**officer**" means any employee as defined in section 1(1) of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation R103 of 1994), acting under delegation from or control of a Provincial or National director;

"**OVR-TAD**" means the Transboundary Animal Diseases Laboratory, Onderstepoort Veterinary Research Institute or its successor in title;

"**owner**" for the purposes of this scheme, includes any person who owns or exercises control over animals or a person authorised as such;

"**participant(s)**" mean owner(s) of animals enrolled in the scheme;

"**Scheme**" means this vaccination scheme, as mentioned in paragraph 2;

"**State Veterinarian**" means a veterinarian who is an employee of government;

"**traceable animal**" means any animal marked with a permanent identification mark (branded or tattooed) and, in the case of cattle, adult pigs and small stock, uniquely identified with an eartag. In the case of slaughter pigs, a batch number identifying the week of birth, and in the case of sheep and goats, a batch number recorded on the traceability system;

"**Traceability System**" means a system that enables the identification and tracking of animals (and animal products) throughout their entire life cycle—from birth, through movements and ownership changes, to slaughter or export.

"**veterinarian**" means a person as defined in section 1 of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, No. 19 of 1982.

Name

2.

- (1) This scheme will be referred to as the Routine Vaccination Scheme for Foot and Mouth Disease ("RVS-FMD").

Objects (s10(2)(a))

3.

The objects of this scheme shall be to –

- (1) Facilitate the vaccination against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) by state veterinarians or state animal health technicians, or authorised veterinarians or authorised animal health technicians, or animal owners or their employees, under the direction of the afore-mentioned authorised persons, to administer vaccinations within the requirements of the scheme.
- (2) Recommend the use of effective vaccine(s) against circulating strains and any other strain that may be identified during the duration of the scheme;
- (3) Ensure the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures to implement the scheme, including for -
 - (a) Compiling a schedule of vaccine quantity requirements and type of vaccine;
 - (b) Traceability and record-keeping relating to the scheme;
 - (c) Where applicable, monitoring and surveillance;
 - (d) Identification of animals at time of primary vaccination;
 - (e) Clear delineation of roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements to avoid duplication, gaps in oversight, and regulatory confusion.
- (4) Mitigate against the risk of FMD and ensure the allowance of continued business operations to participants; and

- (5) Inform owners and the public of the measures relating to the scheme.
- (6) Establish a committee in terms of paragraph 7.

Application and Scope of the Scheme

4.

- (1) The scheme applies to participating owners of cloven-hoofed animals, their animals, and the vaccination of those animals against Foot-and-Mouth Disease.
- (2) Voluntary enrolment in the Scheme shall be available nationwide

Duration of the Scheme

5.

- (1) The scheme will be in force until amended, or revoked by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.

Determinations in terms of s10(3) and additional powers (s10(7))

6.

- (1) Any state or private laboratory registered in terms of regulation 12B of the Animal Diseases Regulations, 1986 shall undertake the tests determined by the Committee.
- (2) The Committee shall, in consultation with the National Director of Animal Health, issue a peer-reviewed FMD manual to educate and empower owners of animals.

Establishment of the Committee in terms of section 10(6)

7.

- (1) The Minister hereby establishes a body called the Committee for the Routine Vaccination Scheme for cloven-hoofed animals. All members of the committee shall be appointed by the Minister.
- (2) The Committee shall consist of -
 - (a) A veterinary representative of the National Directorate of Animal Health from the Department of Agriculture, *ex officio*;
 - (b) two State Veterinarians who have experience in the control of Foot and Mouth Disease and the Epidemiology of the disease.
 - (c) two private sector veterinarians who have experience in the control of Foot and Mouth Disease, one of whom is primarily involved in the livestock industry and one who is involved in the wildlife industry.
 - (d) the OVR-TAD laboratory manager, *ex officio*;
 - (e) one representative each, nominated by the agricultural associations, representing cattle/stud, dairy, feedlot, small stock, and pigs .
 - (f) two experts in FMD from academia, one of whom must be a virologist and another a vaccinologist, both with voting rights.
- (3) Any Committee member may, when unable to attend, nominate an alternate to represent that Committee member and such an alternate shall have the same rights as the Committee member. The alternate member must have the same skills and understanding of the member that is being represented and must be an employee or person under the control, of the member or the body.
- (4) A quorum of the Committee shall be 50% plus 1 of its members as set out in subparagraph (2).
- (5) The Committee shall elect a chairperson and deputy-chairperson from amongst its members.
- (6) The Committee shall endeavour to make decisions by consensus, failing which a majority vote shall determine any matter.
- (7) The Chairperson shall have the casting vote on any matter for which the votes are equally distributed.
- (8) The Committee shall determine and control its internal arrangements, proceedings and procedures.
- (9) The Department, in partnership with industry, shall provide the necessary secretarial and logistical support to the Committee.
- (10) The members of the committee who are not in the full-time employment of the State shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as the Minister may determine in terms of section 10(8) of the Act.
- (11) In line with principles of Public Private Partnership consideration should be given to:
 - (a) subsidies or public funding support;
 - (b) cost sharing mechanisms; and
 - (c) phased implementation approaches to promote equitable participation and national coverage.
- (12) All members and alternate members shall sign non-disclosure agreements.

Powers and obligations of the Committee (section 10(2)(t), section 10(3) and 10(7))**8.**

The Committee shall -

- (1) Oversee and coordinate the scheme;
- (2) Oversee the processes for enrolment in the scheme;
- (3) Oversee the processes of issuing of all certificates by the traceability system;
- (4) Establish minimum requirements for interoperability, data standards, system governance, and oversight of the traceability system/s;
- (5) Determine the tests, -and examinations, consider positive- and negative results and the determination of the interpretation thereof, as well as any additional tests and examinations required, to ensure the effectiveness of the scheme;
- (6) The National Director of Animal Health may be requested to share with the Committee, any results pertaining to participants;
- (7) Provide oversight and issue compliance notices to traceability systems, authorised veterinarians, or recommend the issuance of notices to importers and distributors of vaccines by entities competent to do so;
- (8) Oversee the cancellation of enrolment by withdrawing certificates issued in terms of paragraph 15 (3);
- (9) Conduct inspections if necessary relating to the obligations of the authorised veterinarians in relation to this Scheme;
- (10) Report to the National Director and the Provincial Director/s where the participant is located, in line with the activities of the Scheme;
- (11) Provide oversight and liaison in relation to vaccine demand and distribution;
- (12) Monitor the framework of traceability data;
- (13) Provide oversight of and reporting of surveillance feedback, including the central system in place;
- (14) Grant exemption from any aspect of the scheme to any owner or any group or category of owners and/or animals, and subject such an exemption to any condition; and
- (15) Receive information from the Minister, the Department and the National Director so as to inform the development and responsiveness of the scheme.

Reporting by Committee**9.**

- (1) The Committee shall submit a quarterly report to the Minister and the National Director, containing statistics, trends, risks and recommendations.
- (2) The Committee shall ensure compliance with the laws of the country and specifically the Protection of Personal Information Act, No. 4 of 2013 and have due regard to commercially sensitive information, unless such information is available in the public domain.

Objections against decisions of the Committee**10.**

Objections will be managed as per section 23 of the Act.

(1)***Animals and disease (s10(2)(b) and(c))*****11.**

- (1) The scheme pertains to Foot-and-Mouth Disease, a highly contagious viral illness in animals that causes fever, blisters in the mouth and the hooves, leading to morbidity, mortality in some cases, and a significant economic impact.
- (2) Cloven-hoofed animals are susceptible to Foot-and-Mouth Disease and can spread the disease.

Controlled veterinary acts (s10(2)(d))**12.**

Controlled veterinary acts relating to the scheme include –

- (1) Monitoring the receipt of the vaccines from a licensed manufacturer, importer or distributor;
- (2) Auditing cold chain management of FMD vaccines after receiving the vaccines;
- (3) Keeping of a vaccination register with batch numbers and the number of animals vaccinated, per site and owner.
- (4) Oversight over correct vaccination technique by the vaccinator;

- (5) Post-vaccination surveillance to investigate key factors associated with the different vaccines used, including the lack of efficiency during the prescribed immunity period, the closure of outbreaks and reporting back to the Committee;
- (6) Investigations into mortality and morbidity in vaccinated herds to determine the association thereof with FMD- and vaccination status and post vaccination intervals and reporting back to the Committee;
- (7) Immediately report suspect cases to local provincial state veterinarian;
- (8) Receipt of results of laboratory tests, analysis thereof and communicating results to the Committee;
- (9) Provision of a tailored biosecurity plan for every site where animals are vaccinated, of which the owner remains responsible for implementation; and
- (10) Record-keeping and reconciliation of all vaccinations administered and reporting thereof.

Prevention of Infection/Re-infection (s10(2)(j))

13.

Notwithstanding other control measures as may be published from time to time, infection or reinfection of cloven-hoofed animals for the purposes of this scheme shall be mitigated by -

- (1) vaccination according to the manufacturer's package insert and instructions;
- (2) traceability and movement control; and
- (3) implementation of the biosecurity plan.

Requirements for Enrolment in the Scheme (s10(2)(k))

14.

Any owner of animals may enrol in the scheme, provided that -

- (1) All animals owned by the owner shall be traceable as per definition.
- (2) All animals need to comply with the requirements defined by "traceable animal".
- (3) All animals owned by the owner must be recorded on the traceability system.
- (4) The farm/property's location with defined boundary fencing where the animals are, must have Location coordinates and be registered on a traceability system.
- (5) The owner undertakes to comply with the requirements of the scheme, including an inspection checklist as issued by the Committee as part of the SOPs.
- (6) The owner has appointed an Authorised Veterinarian or authorised animal health technician who (if required) are remunerated by the owner.
- (7) The owner undertakes to submit to audits and inspections under the scheme.

Application, Refusal and Cancellation (s10(2)(l) s10(2)(m))

15.

- (1) A person intending to participate in the scheme shall partake in a traceability system. Previously infected herds that have been vaccinated and are no longer under quarantine are eligible to participate.
- (2) Participation will be terminated when the following minimum standards are not met -
 - (a) The objectives of the Act are not met or adhered to;
 - (b) The owner of the herd no longer complies with paragraph 14(2);
 - (c) The criteria set by the scheme, applicable to the type of operation, are not met;
 - (d) There is no appointed Authorised Veterinarian or Authorised animal health technician;
 - (e) The necessary undertakings in terms of the scheme are not given; and/or
 - (f) Animals of the owner are not individually recorded on the traceability system.
- (3) Enrolment shall commence by issuance of a Certificate of Participation by the Committee that attests to the owner being a participant in the scheme upon meeting the requirements set by the scheme.
- (4) A participant's animal's record will determine whether the animal is covered by the scheme.
- (5) Enrolment shall lapse or be cancelled on expiry thereof or material non-compliance.
- (6) Enrolment shall be cancelled after failure to comply with a compliance notice issued by the committee, within 14 days of delivery of such notice.
- (7) Participation in the Scheme will be suspended should the farm/entity be under suspicion of or positive for FMD and placed under quarantine. Re-enrolment is possible once a herd is no longer under quarantine.
- (8) Should the participation be terminated for whatever reason, the establishment shall remain under quarantine in full compliance with all measures in terms of the Act.

Control Periods and surveillance (s10(2)(n))

16.

- (1) For the duration of participation in the scheme, on-farm clinical surveillance must continue, and any suspicious FMD signs must be reported to the Director
- (2) Observed incidents shall be reported to the Director and then included in the traceability system. and included in the traceability system.

Information to be Recorded (s10(2)(o))

17.

- (1) An owner of animals in the scheme must keep the following records updated on his/her traceability system -
 - (a) Certificate of Participation;
 - (b) Tags and tagging system;
 - (c) FMD vaccine and vaccination registers;
 - (d) Records of temperature of vaccine storage fridge for maintenance of the cold chain;
 - (e) FMD vaccine records in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, No. 101 of 1965;
 - (f) Morbidity;
 - (g) Mortality, sales, purchases, births, and/or movement;
 - (h) Audit reports.
 - (i) Any other information that shall assist in determining the FMD status of the animals and effectiveness of the vaccine and other control measures
- (2) All records shall be retained for at least 5 years.
- (3) Where not electronically possible, records shall be submitted to a relevant traceability system for recording.

Facilities to be Provided (s10(2)(p))

18.

- (1) Facilities required for purposes of the performance of any controlled veterinary act, or any other tending, detention, tests, treatments or examinations of the animals shall be provided by the owner of the animals to be vaccinated. Such facilities must be fit for human entry and occupancy for lengthy periods and should ensure that all safety and biosecurity control measures are complied with in such a facility.

Marks and Identification (s10(2)(q))

19.

- (1) Animals intended for slaughter must be marked using a unique identification method.
- (2) All animals other than those referred to in subparagraph (1) shall have a permanent mark, either branded or tattooed, as a Herd Designation Mark according to the Animal Improvement Act, No. 62 of 1998 or a registered brand mark as registered in terms of the Animal Identification Act, No. 6 of 2002, followed by an owner-unique number.
- (3) Animals must be tagged as provided for in paragraph 14(2), and in cases where electronic tagging is not feasible, the Committee may approve alternative mechanisms of marking and identification.
- (4) Tags and permanent identification marks must be recorded in the owner's traceability system.

Certification of Animals (s10(2)(r))

20.

- (1) An animal shall be certified as being vaccinated and having a valid vaccination status, for as long as the animal's FMD vaccination record is recorded on the traceability system, indicating that the animal's vaccinations are completed and up to date according to the prescripts of the vaccine manufacturer.

Area-wide Applicability (s10(2)(u))

21.

- (1) Notwithstanding the voluntary nature of the scheme, the Minister may publish control measures, which may require mandatory action by owners and responsible persons.

Non-compliance

22.

- (1) The Committee shall, upon notification of the failure to comply with requirements, issue a non-compliance notice, setting out the nature of the non-compliance and a timeframe of 14 days, within which corrective measures must be implemented.
- (2) A failure to adhere to the conditions of a non-compliance notice within the stipulated timelines will result in the withdrawal of enrolment as a participant in the scheme.

Non-participation

23.

- (1) Non participants of the Scheme shall continue to be governed in terms of the Act and must ensure full and strict compliance thereto.

Commencement

24.

- (1) The scheme shall come into operation on the date of publication thereof in the *Government Gazette*.

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Contact Centre Tel: 012-748 6200. eMail: info.egazette@gpw.gov.za
Publications: Tel: (012) 748 6053, 748 6061, 748 6065