

Food Quality Standards and Consumer Protection

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Directorate: Food Safety and Quality Assurance



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forestry & fisheries

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The Act

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARDS ACT, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990)

Amended in 1998

Approved by Parliament



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Legislation

REGULATIONS

Local (Imported products)

Approved by Minister of Agriculture

&

STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

(Export)

Approved by Executive Officer



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Scope

The regulations/standards and requirements are product specific--

Not general

Covers a specific product or group of products

Scope determined by the definitions or scope declaration



Responsibilities

APS Act:

Local market (imported) – only quality (all regulated products)

Department of Health – food safety and health issues

Export market – quality (all regulated products) and food safety and hygiene issues (only regulated plant products)



Contents

- **Packing & Container requirements**
- **Labelling requirements**
- **Marking requirements**
- **Quality standards for classes or grades**
- **Food safety and hygiene requirements (export)**



Process of drafting legislation

Determine need

Set standard/regulation – agreement

(Draft → Distribute for comments, Meetings, etc. → New draft)

World Trade Organisation (WTO) notification (local)

Ministerial approval/Executive Officer

Publish



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Regulated products

Divisions:

Vegetables and grain

Fresh vegetables, grains and oilseeds, nuts

Fruit and Flowers

Fresh fruit, and flowers and ornamental foliage for export

Animal and Processed Products



Animal and Processed products

Honey (local)

Mayonnaise & Salad Dressings (local)

Red Meat (local)

Vinegar (local)

Edible Ices (local)

Fat spreads (local)

Table Olives (local)

Honeybush (export)

Apricot and Peach Kernels (export)

Poultry Meat

Eggs

Dairy and Imitation Dairy Products

Rooibos

Canned Fruit

Canned Vegetables

Canned Pasta

Canned Mushrooms

Dried Fruit

Frozen Fruit & Frozen Vegetables

Jam, Jelly and Marmalade



Grading and Classification

Degrees of quality

- **Choice Grade dried fruit**
 - **Standard Grade dried fruit**
 - **Substandard/Industrial Grade dried fruit**
 - **[Not fit for human consumption (Undergrade) dried fruit]**
-
- **Class 1 apples**
 - **Class 2 apples**
 - **Lowest Class apples**



Grading and Classification

Product description

- High Fat Yoghurt
- Full Fat Yoghurt
- Medium Fat Yoghurt
- Low Fat Yoghurt
- Fat Free Yoghurt



Why set product quality norms and standards?

Why?

Consumer choice

Allow purchases over time and distance

Consumer protection

Level playing field for industry

Enforcement – Own inspectors and assignees



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Role of quality in food fraud

Food fraud is a collective term used to encompass..

The deliberate and intentional...

- **Substitution, addition, tampering, or misrepresentation of**
- **food, food ingredients, or food packaging,**
- **or false or misleading statements made about a product,**
- **for economic gain**

Imitate a good quality product using cheaper alternatives or misleading descriptions



Melamine

Melamine is a white powder used in plastic-making

Melamine is rich in nitrogen, and relatively cheap

Adding it to sub-standard or watered-down **milk or milk powder** makes the **milk's** protein level appear higher

Standard quality tests estimate protein levels by measuring nitrogen content



Vinegar

Overdilution

Vinegar must contain minimum 5% total acid (expressed as acetic acid)

Substitution

Sell diluted industrial acetic acid (Imitation Vinegar) as Spirit Vinegar

Honey mixed with syrup



Red meat classification

Mainly classified based on age (amount of permanent incisors)

Class A, AB, B, C

Then on other characteristics – Fatness, conformation, damage, masculinity

Intentional incorrect classification/roller-marking

Classify and Roller-mark on day of slaughter

Independent classifier

Independent service provider



Canned products

Label fraud

Imported canned baked beans

Photocopied a well known brand label

Re-labelled all the cans with the photocopies



Maize meal

Dilution resulting in unintentional food safety issues

All maize products shall have a moisture content of less than 14%

Moisture = Extra weight = More product

Mould growth



Agricultural inputs

Eastern Cape pineapples that were grown using fertiliser that was supplied by a well known company

The fertiliser, zinc sulphate, was contaminated with cadmium, a toxic heavy metal

Result: SA Canning factories closed down – all canned pineapple sold in SA is imported



Export MRL levels for food products of plant origin

**Factories must implement HACCP principles for export
Supplier and raw material risk management – spray
programmes, withholding periods, etc.**

Intentional non-disclosure

**Pesticides not registered for use on product
Frozen berries with high pesticide level**



Injected chicken meat

Brine mixture contains water, salt dextrose, phosphate, thickener, starch, flavouring, sometimes butter/oil, etc.

Enhances taste, flavour, juiciness, water binding, etc.

No injection limit for poultry meat portions – now set at maximum 15%

Labelling:

Frozen Chicken Drumsticks with Brine Based Mixture

Meat 70%, Water 30%

Ingredients list



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Injected chicken meat

Does the consumer understand the labelling?

300g of 1kg frozen poultry portions is added water

600g of 2kg frozen poultry portions is added water

Muscle is approximately 75% water (depending on cut) and 20% protein with the remaining 5% representing a combination of fat, carbohydrate and minerals.

Level playing field?

Still not level with 15% rate



Electronic documents

lacon
INSTITUT

Inspection Certificate

Production, Processing, Trade

Certificate issued according to the LACON Organic Standard, equivalent with the provisions of regulation (EC) Nr. 834/2007 and regulation (EC) Nr. 89/2008 for operators in Non-EU Countries
No. BD-21705-2016-EU-r1

Producer, Processor, Trader	Control body:
Ardor SA Ltd 2 Raymond House 196 Raymond Street Waterkloof, 0181 South Africa	LACON GmbH Molkestraße 4 D-77654 Offenburg BD-BIO-134
Products:	Status:
sweet potatoes Black Tea, Green Tea	organic In conversion to organic farming

Details in annex to this certificate

Validity period for all products mentioned above

from: 14.09.2016 to: 30.09.2017	Last audit: 04.05.2016
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This document has been issued on the basis of the existence with the provisions of regulation (EC) No. 834/2007 and of regulation (EC) No. 89/2008, set out in the LACON Organic Standard and/or focus. The certified operator has submitted his activities under control, and meets the requirements laid down in the named Standard.

This certificate is process-related and does not replace a transaction certificate for buyers or certificate of inspection for buyers according to regulation (EC) 1259/2008.

Offenburg, 14.09.2016


Jürgen Schwarz




DAkkS
Deutscher
Akkreditierungsstelle
D. Z. 14001-01-01



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Thank you



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