

Legislation / Regulations relating to Food Safety (Residues in Food) of Animal-derived Foods in Zimbabwe

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Animal Health Act Chapter 19:01

- Main Act enforced by the Veterinary Services
- AN ACT to provide for the eradication and prevention of the spread of animal pests, diseases and conditions in Zimbabwe, for the prevention of the introduction into Zimbabwe of the same, and incidental matters
- Date of commencement: 1st January, 1961.

Scope (e.g. Does it incorporate a definition of animal which included fish, crustacean, molluscs, wildlife?)

- Section 3 says Animals, diseases and pests subjected to the Act are specified by Minister responsible for Agriculture.
- The Act defines 'animals' but also empowers the Minister to broaden the definition by way of directives and regulations as necessary.

Structure of the legislation (law, decrees, regulations),

- The Act and its various repeals
- Accompanying Statutory Instruments, Regulations as appropriate from time to time
- Directives by the Director of Veterinary Services from time to time

Advantages of the Act

- Confers great powers to Director Veterinary Services
- Indemnifies staff should tests not confirm the suspected condition, even after destruction of the foods / animals / products
- [Extracts from the Animal Health Act Chapter 19.docx](#)

Omissions/disadvantages, and the need for upgrading the Act

- Has not been reviewed when the operating environment has significantly changed
- Largely non-specific, having to rely on staff opinions and other national and international regulations (EC / EU Directives, Foods and Food Standards Act, Public Health Act, Dairy Act)

Authorities-in-charge, difficulties encountered in the law enforcement, and the respect by the public and private operators

- The Act is administered and enforced by the Director of Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Agriculture. Director appoints 'authorized persons' and empowers them.
- Difficult to have high levels of compliance by stakeholders, necessitating penalties.
- Some penalties are no longer that deterrent.

Supporting Legislation

1. Dairy Regulations: Government Notice No. 886 of 1977. [CAP.107]

- INSPECTION, SAMPLING AND TESTING

Section 21.Appointment of dairy officers, inspectors and sampling officers.

Section 22.Sampling.

Section 23.Test equipment.

Section 24.Prescribed tests of dairy produce.

Section 26. Standards of composition of dairy produce.

Supporting Legislation

2. Public Health Act 15:09

- Public Health Act (Abattoir, Animal and Bird Slaughter and Meat Hygiene) Regulations of 1995, Section 22 (9) provides for the sampling and testing of meat as required by the Director of Veterinary Services.
- Date of commencement of Act: 1924
- Tests are done in accordance with national and/or international guidelines (OIE manuals on diagnostic tests).

Supporting Legislation

3. Export Produce Regulations (Statutory Instrument 111 of 1984)

- Provides for sampling and testing of products for export .
- Tests are done in accordance with national and/ or international guidelines (OIE manuals on diagnostic tests).
- Zimbabwe's Central Veterinary Laboratory is ISO accredited in some tests.
- Reference laboratories are used where national capacity is lacking.

Guidelines at the Director's disposal

- Provisions by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission on residues of veterinary drugs in animals and foods
- Guidelines on the Farm-to-Fork principle
- TAHC
- AAHC
- EC Directives
- Guidelines from Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe (MCAZ)
- Any new knowledge from research, academia