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GENERAL NOTICE

NOTICE 360 OF 2010

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

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

PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED NOTICE ON MEASURES TO CONTROL CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASES.

I, Tina Joemat-Pettersson, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries hereby invite public comments on the proposed notice on measures to control the spread of Corridor / Buffalo disease and Foot and mouth disease.

Comments must be submitted on or before 7th July 2010. They must be sent to:

The Director
Directorate: Animal Health
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
Private Bag X138,
Pretoria 0001
Tel.: +27 12 3197456
Fax: +27 12 3297218
Email: PA.DVS@daff.gov.za

PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED NOTICE ON MEASURES TO CONTROL CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASES

Prior to 1996, no live buffalo were allowed out of the Corridor or Buffalo disease controlled area and prior to 1998, no live buffalo were allowed to be transported out of the Foot and mouth disease controlled areas. The "disease free" buffalo breeding projects were introduced as pilot projects designed to produce "disease free" calves from diseased parent stock, to provide official conservation organizations and the wildlife ranching industry with clean buffalo from controlled areas that did not pose any disease risk. Following several "break through" infections, it became apparent that the pilot projects did not sufficiently lower the risk inherent in the movement of the buffalo from the controlled areas into the non-controlled areas. At a meeting held with the Buffalo industry in December 2001 at Hoedspruit, there was consensus and an agreement with the representatives of the majority of persons involved in the pilot projects (that make use of "infected" parent stock to breed "disease free" buffalo), that these activities would be phased out by 31st December 2011. Currently there are 28 "disease free" buffalo breeding projects in South Africa.

Further evidence has emerged that shows increasing disease risk associated with movement of calves bred from infected parents. In the light of such evidence, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is considering what measures may be taken to control this risk. Such measures may include halting all movement or removal of live buffalo bred from infected parent stock out of controlled areas for Corridor / Buffalo disease or the buffer zone and infected zone portions of the Foot and mouth disease controlled areas.

Regulation 20 (6) published in Notice No. 588 published on 22 May 2009 prohibits "the movement or removal of live buffalo out of the controlled areas for Corridor or Buffalo disease or the infected and buffer zone portions of the controlled areas for Foot and mouth disease as described in Table 1. Any exemption in terms of Regulation 11 (2) (a) and (b) may be granted only subject to written approval of the director referred to in section 2 (1) of the Act".

This consultation processes is intended to determine the appropriate measures which may be imposed to contain the spread of the relevant diseases. A decision on whether an exemption in terms of Regulation 20 (6) may be granted for the movement of disease free buffalo bred from infected parents until the phasing out date of 31 December 2011 will depend on what measures are determined appropriate after all submissions have been considered.

The public is invited to make comments on:

- a. whether granting exemption in terms of Regulation 20 (6) for the movement of "disease free" buffalo bred from infected parents from the controlled areas for Corridor disease and /or Foot and mouth disease would defeat the controlled purpose;
- b. whether the "disease free" buffalo bred from infected parents presently located in the vector free areas of the country should be returned to the controlled areas for Corridor disease and /or Foot and mouth disease; and
- c. whether other measures may be imposed which sufficiently control the risk posed by "disease free" buffalo bred from infected or diseased parents.

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