

Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

National Directorate: Veterinary Public Health

Notice No:	VPN/55/2018-01
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TO: PROVINCIAL VETERINARY OFFICERS

SUBJECT: Standard for the implementation of animal welfare practices for ostriches to be transported to and slaughtered at European Union and USA approved export ostrich abattoirs.

PART I	Definitions Introduction Responsibilities
PART II	Transport from the farm of origin off-loading and lairaging.
PART III	The Animal Welfare Officer.
PART IV	Slaughter Procedures.
PART V	References
PART VI	Auditing Tool

This VPN/55/2018-01

Implementation date: 2020 -06- 0 1



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Director: Veterinary Public Health**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
DIRECTORATE: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH
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FORESTRY & FISHERIES

PART I

DEFINITIONS

<i>Abattoir</i>	A slaughter facility in respect of which a registration certificate has been issued in terms of section 8(1) and in respect of which a grading has been determined in terms of section 8(2);(i) of the Meat Safety Act (Act 40 of 2000).
<i>Animal Welfare Officer</i>	Any employee of the abattoir who has completed an Animal Welfare Officer's training course accredited by the Competent Authority (CA) and who holds a Certificate of Competence from the CA based on the outcome of such a training course.
<i>Ostrich handler</i>	A person, who holds a certificate of competence in any related operations such as handling, lairaging, restraining, stunning and bleeding of ostriches, but has not been accredited by the Competent Authority as an Animal Welfare Officer.
<i>Competent Authority (CA)</i>	The central authority of South Africa, competent to ensure compliance with the requirements of this regulation or any other authority to which that central authority has delegated that competence.
<i>Emergency killing</i>	The killing of animals which are injured or have a disease associated with severe pain or suffering and where there is no other practical possibility to alleviate pain or suffering.
<i>Establishment</i>	An abattoir, processing facility, cutting plant or a unit grouping together several such enterprises that have been approved by the Competent Authority.
<i>Food Business Operator</i>	Refers to the person or persons responsible for ensuring that the prescribed requirements of the export standards and requirements of national food law are met within the food business under his or her control.
<i>Killing</i>	Any intentionally induced process which causes death of an animal.
<i>Lairaging</i>	Keeping animals in pens or covered areas associated with the abattoir.

Official Veterinarian	A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of South Africa to perform certain tasks associated with animal health and/or public health inspections.
Operator	A person, who holds a certificate of competence in the electrical stunning of ostriches, who operates an electrical stun device for ostriches.
Personnel	Any persons in the employ of the management of the establishment.
Restraint	The application to an animal of any procedure designed to restrict its movements sparing any avoidable pain, fear or agitation in order to facilitate effective stunning and killing.
Standard operating procedure	Written instruction which assigns responsibilities and details the actions to be taken in pre-determined situations.
Stunning	An intentionally induced process which causes loss of consciousness and sensibility without pain, including any process resulting in instantaneous death.

PART I

INTRODUCTION

THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF SLAUGHTER OR KILLING IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN THAT AFFECTS CONSUMER ATTITUDES TOWARDS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IN ADDITION, IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF SLAUGHTER CONTRIBUTES TO HIGHER MEAT QUALITY AND INDIRECTLY HAS A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY IN ABATTOIRS.

The welfare of animals is largely influenced by the daily management of operations at the abattoir. Well trained and skilled personnel improve the conditions under which animals are treated. Animals should be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.

- Establishments are to develop standard operating procedures at all stages of the process and implement monitoring tools to evaluate their effects on animal welfare.
- An Animal Welfare Officer's course was designed to ensure the competence of people responsible for the implementation of animal welfare requirements at establishments.
- The course includes all aspects of ostrich behaviour, ostrich handling practices and technical aspects of the slaughter process and will cover the following competencies specifically:
 - the handling and care of ostriches before they are restrained;
 - the restraint of ostriches for the purpose of stunning or killing;
 - the stunning of ostriches;
 - the assessment of effective stunning;
 - the shackling or hoisting of live ostriches;
 - the bleeding of live ostriches.

PART I

RESPONSIBILITIES

ABATTOIR MANAGEMENT

The management of individual establishments must:

- a. Provide a standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling and keeping animals upon arrival at the abattoir.
- b. Provide a SOP for the stunning and killing of animals including instructions for an emergency slaughter procedure.
- c. Provide a manual for the correct use and maintenance of the stunning apparatus which shall include regular verification of the effectiveness of electrical stun delivery.
- d. Provide a back-up stunning apparatus and procedure in case of failure of the primary apparatus.
- e. Provide an emergency stun apparatus and procedure to be used in case of injured or diseased ostriches.
- f. Ensure that regular checks are performed on a representative sample of animals and recorded to ensure humane stunning/killing.
- g. Provide for a monitoring apparatus that can record key stun parameters (voltage, amperage and time) on a continuous basis. Records must be accessible at a later date and information must be presented in a manner which proves adherence to animal welfare requirements.
- h. Appoint an Animal Welfare Officer (AWO). The AWO must be both technically competent as well as imbued with the necessary authority to fulfil his/her role effectively.
- i. Must ensure that regular ante mortem checks are performed on all ostriches presented for slaughter to ensure their welfare before slaughter.
- j. Must make training arrangements for all handlers of live ostriches as well as operators that carry out stunning and killing.
- k. Shall keep records of actions taken to improve animal welfare.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The official veterinarian (OV) will be responsible to:

- l. Perform ante mortem inspection on each lot of ostriches arriving at the abattoir for slaughter.
- m. Verify the findings of checks performed by the AWO on ostriches arriving at the abattoir for slaughter.
- n. The OV will attend and demonstrate competence in the accredited Animal Welfare Officer's course.

- o. Evaluate all handlers of live ostriches as well as operators that carry out stunning and do killing according to the requirements of this VPN. The OV will make recommendations to the CA with regards to the competency of such trainees.
- p. Verify on a regular basis the records produced by the continuous monitor for the electrical stun process.
- q. Verify on a regular basis, through inspections, the implementation of good animal welfare practices at the abattoir. This shall include all stages of the slaughter process from the arrival of live ostriches up to stun and killing.

PART II

TRANSPORT FROM THE FARM OF ORIGIN TO THE ABATTOIR

LOADING OF OSTRICHES ON THE FARM.

1. Loading of ostriches on the farm shall be performed in accordance with Chapter III of Annexure 1 of EC 1/2005 .

TRANSPORT.

Minimum requirements for transport vehicles:

2. Upon arrival of a consignment of ostriches at the abattoir the AWO, or a trained ostrich handler reporting directly to the AWO, shall evaluate the transport vehicle for compliance to the following criteria:
 - 2.1 Compartmentalised loading space.
 - 2.2 No less than 0.5m² space per 80kg ostrich and/or a maximum of 12 ostriches per compartment.
 - 2.3 Adequate number of handlers accompanying the ostriches.
 - 2.4 Closed vehicles shall provide for adequate ventilation.
 - 2.5 Slip proof floors.
 - 2.6 Solid sides.
 - 2.7 No sharp or protruding objects.
3. The results of checks, including non-conformances noted and the corrective actions taken shall be recorded.

Documentary requirements:

4. Upon arrival of a consignment of ostriches at the abattoir the AWO shall verify that documentation containing the following information accompany the consignment of ostriches:
 - 4.1 Origin & Ownership.
 - 4.2 Place of departure.
 - 4.3 Date and time of departure.
 - 4.4 Destination.
 - 4.5 Expected duration of the trip.
5. Ostriches may not be transported for more than 8 hours from the place of origin to the place of destination.

6. A consignment of ostriches shall not be approved for slaughter for the export market if any of the required documentation is outstanding.

OFFLOADING OSTRICHES AT THE ABATTOIR

Off-loading facilities:

7. Offloading facilities must make provision for different heights of vehicles.
8. Offloading facilities shall be designed without sharp or protruding edges where ostriches can injure themselves.
9. Ostriches shall not be off-loaded at an incline of more than 20 degrees.
10. Off-loading facilities shall have solid sides and slip proof floors.
11. Areas where injuries may occur shall be padded or matted to reduce the risk of potential injuries.
12. Structures shall be maintained in good condition.

Handling techniques:

13. Ostriches shall be offloaded without undue delay.
14. Offloading shall be performed slowly, calmly and with minimum force, one ostrich at a time.
15. A sufficient number of ostrich handlers shall be available to facilitate offloading.
16. Ostriches may not be grabbed by any sensitive body part and pulled from the truck.
17. Ostriches shall be guided gently from the truck by preferably two handlers flanking each ostrich.

Requirements for rest and the availability of food and water.

18. Clean drinking water shall be available immediately at offloading and remain available at all times.
19. Ostriches that remain penned for more than 12 hours before slaughter shall receive a sufficient quantity of appropriate food at regular intervals.
20. Ostriches shall be fed away from the floor in feeding troughs designed for this purpose.
21. Feeding troughs shall be designed to minimise the potential for injuries and shall be easily cleanable and constructed from durable material.
22. Feed shall be stored away from the penned ostriches in a manner that shall prevent the attraction of pests or exposure to adverse weather conditions.
23. Records shall be kept of the date and time of arrival and of feeding of consignments of ostriches.
24. Ostriches shall be slaughtered as soon as possible, but not until obvious signs of stress have abated.
25. Ostriches shall not be slaughtered until the OV has performed an ante mortem inspection and approved the consignment for slaughter.
26. No ostrich shall be penned for more than 48 hours before slaughter.

Lairaging

Requirements for holding pens and passageways:

27. Holding pens shall be designed with secure sides to prevent ostriches from escaping.
28. No less than 1 m² of space shall be available for each ostrich.
29. The maximum capacity of the holding pen shall be indicated on the pen.
30. The origin, date and time of arrival and number of ostriches penned at any given time shall be indicated on the pen.
31. Flooring with or without bedding shall allow for adequate drainage and comfort.
32. The number and capacity of the holding pens shall be adequate in relation to the approved daily throughput of the abattoir.
33. Holding pens shall provide protection against the elements.
34. Artificial light shall be available and in working condition at all times.
35. A separate isolation pen shall be available and ready for use at all times.
36. Passageways shall be wide enough to allow animals to move freely and sides shall be constructed in a manner that will prevent undue injuries.
37. Structures shall be maintained in good condition.
38. Lairages shall be cleaned between each lot of ostriches.

Training requirements for animal handlers.

39. Ostrich handlers responsible for assisting with offloading, herding, restraining, stunning and bleeding shall be trained in ostrich handling techniques and the technical execution of their duties.
40. Initial and annual training for ostrich handlers will be performed by or under direct supervision of the AWO.
41. Training shall consist of both theoretical and practical training and shall include a practical evaluation of competency.
42. All ostrich handlers shall hold a Certificate of Competence from the CA in their specific field of work.
43. Certificates of Competence from the CA shall be valid for 5 years from the date of issue.
44. Newly appointed personnel may work for 3 months under the direct supervision of someone who holds a Certificate of Competence in order to allow time for training and obtaining a Certificate of Competence.
45. All ostrich handlers shall, after initial training by or under supervision of the AWO, be evaluated by the OV according to the official format provided in Annex A.
46. The OV shall recommend competent candidates for Certificates Competence to the CA by using the official format provided in Annex B.
47. Apart from initial and annual training, ongoing training will be performed whenever a non-conformance affecting animal welfare is identified by the AWO, the OV or any other person or inspector.
48. Records shall be kept of all training exercises and evaluations performed.

Techniques for handling ostriches:

49. Ostrich are herd/group animals and individuals should only be isolated if injured, ill or if they are aggressive to other birds.
50. Ostriches shall be herded from the holding pens to the slaughter area in small groups.
51. Enough handlers shall be available to herd ostriches so that handlers both in front of the group as well as behind the group can be assured.
52. Ostriches shall be herded with minimal noise and without undue force.
53. Ostriches may not be dragged or kicked.
54. Individual ostriches shall always be handled by a minimum of two handlers flanking the ostrich, using gentle force to push the ostrich forward with the hands placed on the rump of the ostrich.
55. No sensitive body parts like the beak, neck, wing tips or cloaca may be grabbed in a manner that causes pain or be used to forcefully direct the animal.
56. The crush leading to the stun area shall not be overcrowded to avoid ostriches trampling each other.
57. Ostriches waiting in the crush leading to the stun area shall under no circumstances be left without supervision.
58. Ostriches shall not be left for extended periods in the crush leading up to the stun area.
59. Entrance into the stun area shall be facilitated by one handler on the outside of the area gently pushing the ostrich and 2 handlers on the inside of the stun area, flanking and herding it into the restraining equipment.
60. It should be avoided to handle an ostrich by its wings at any point, but where necessary such handling should be executed with minimum force for the shortest possible period. Wings should never be pulled horizontally. Hands should be placed flush against the body of the ostrich just behind the attachment of the wing.

PART III

THE ANIMAL WELFARE OFFICER

Training:

61. Only people trained through the official CA accredited AWO course and who have been deemed competent may act as Animal Welfare Officers.
62. Certificates of Competence issued by the CA to competent officers shall be available on file for each appointed AWO.
63. Certificates of Competence issued by the CA shall be valid for 5 years from the date of issue.

Duties and responsibilities:

64. People acting as AWO's shall be designated by the Food Business Operator (FBO) and shall be in the direct employ of the FBO.
65. Such designation shall be officiated through an appointment letter.
66. The appointment letter shall imbue the AWO with the authority to carry out his or her duties, including requesting personnel to carry out any remedial actions necessary to ensure compliance with animal welfare requirements, without interference.
67. The AWO shall report directly to the FBO.
68. The AWO shall advise the FBO on animal welfare issues, including changes to structure, equipment, handling and operational practices and keep a record of any such improvements executed.
69. Records of communications with the FBO with regards to animal welfare issues shall be available.
70. The AWO shall assist in drafting SOP's for the offloading and handling of ostriches, slaughter and emergency slaughter practices.
71. The AWO shall provide or directly supervise the initial, annual and ongoing training of all ostrich handlers performing related activities up to the point of stunning and bleeding.
72. The AWO shall ensure the humane handling and slaughter of ostriches through performing regular checks and/or verifying the checks performed by a trained person who directly reports to the AWO. Such checks shall be performed on a representative sample of ostriches and shall include:
 - 72.1 Ante Mortem inspection at the time of offloading.
 - 72.2 Regular health checks (at least once a day) on ostriches due for slaughter within the next 48 hours.
 - 72.3 Checks on the availability of food and water.
 - 72.4 Checks on the handling technique during herding and restraining of ostriches.
 - 72.5 Manual checks on the compliance of stun parameters at regular intervals during operations.

- 72.6 Physical checks on the signs of effective stunning at regular intervals during operations.
- 72.7 Manual checks on the duration of the period from stunning to bleeding.

- 73. Records of all checks shall be available.
- 74. The AWO shall verify and record daily, at the start-up of slaughter, that stun equipment is fully functional.
- 75. The AWO shall verify historical records from the continuous recorder of stun data at least on a weekly frequency for compliance to recommended stun parameters.
- 76. The AWO shall verify and record on a regular basis that back up and emergency stun equipment is fully functional and available for use.
- 77. The AWO shall verify on a regular basis that preventative maintenance is carried out to satisfaction on stun, back up- and emergency stun equipment.
- 78. The AWO shall advise on and supervise any emergency slaughter procedures carried out at the abattoir.
- 79. The AWO shall stop slaughter when adherence to animal welfare requirements cannot be demonstrated.
- 80. The AWO shall record any non-compliances with regards to animal welfare as well as the corrective actions taken in response to non-compliances.
- 81. The practical duties/responsibilities of the AWO shall be detailed in a documented work instruction or SOP.

PART IV

SLAUGHTER PROCEDURES

Restraining:

82. Restraining equipment shall be designed specifically for use in ostrich slaughter.
83. Restraining equipment shall be designed and maintained to prevent undue injuries to the ostrich being restrained.
84. The recommended method of restraining is through the use of an automatic restraining device that is designed to hold the ostrich's body secure while clamping the legs and providing a secure custom fitted restrain box for the ostriches head. The restrain box for the head houses the electrodes through which electrical stun will be achieved.
85. The sides of the restrain apparatus shall be padded with cushioning that is maintained in good condition to prevent discomfort and pain for the ostrich.
86. The leg clamps shall be fitted with rubber ends that are maintained in good condition.
87. The operator shall ensure that both feet is clamped effectively before proceeding with electrical stunning.
88. The operator shall ensure that electrical stunning proceeds without undue delay once the ostrich is securely restrained.
89. No healthy ostrich shall be stunned with an electrical current unless properly restrained.
90. The species and weight category for which the restraining equipment is designed shall be documented.
91. The preventative maintenance requirements for restraining equipment shall be described and included in the preventative maintenance program.
92. Records of maintenance performed on restraining equipment shall be available.
93. Ostriches shall be herded to the restraining equipment in the manner described in paragraph 59 of this document.
94. Only one ostrich shall be allowed in the restrain area at a time.
95. A door between the waiting ostriches and the ostrich being restrained shall be kept closed.

Stunning:

96. Electrical stunning with both electrodes spanning the brain is the approved and recommended stunning method for ostriches.
97. The use of a captive bolt pistol for back-up and/or emergency stunning may be considered.
98. All ostriches shall be stunned before killing for normal slaughter purposes may take place.
99. The stun procedure shall ensure the loss of consciousness and sensibility.

100. The loss of consciousness and sensibility shall be maintained until the death of the ostrich.
101. The following physical signs may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of stun in combination with adherence to the minimum electrical stun parameters:
 - 101.1 Immediate collapse followed by an epileptiform insult.
 - 101.2 No signs of rhythmic breathing.
 - 101.3 No oesophageal tone.
 - 101.4 Absence of the corneal reflex.
 - 101.5 No reaction to sound, light, odour or physical contact.
 - 101.6 No sign of fear or excitement.
102. The following minimum electrical stun parameters levels for head-only stunning shall be consistently adhered to or exceeded:
 - 102.1 90 Volts
 - 102.2 400 mAmps
 - 102.3 50 Hertz
 - 102.4 In all cases, the correct levels shall be attained within one second of the initiation of stun and maintained at least for four seconds (4 sec) and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
103. A SOP detailing the stun procedure shall be available.
104. The maximum number of ostriches to be slaughtered per hour shall be described.
105. The corrective actions to be taken in the event of non-compliance to the recommended stun procedure shall be documented.
106. The manufacturer's instructions for the restrain and stun apparatus shall be available.
107. Preventative maintenance needs for the stun equipment, including back-up and emergency stun equipment, shall be known and shall be included in the preventative maintenance schedule.
108. Records of maintenance performed on stun equipment shall be available.
109. The electrical stun apparatus shall be fitted with a display device that displays the electrical parameters at all times during stunning in a manner that is visible to the stun operator.
110. The electrical stun apparatus shall be connected to an additional continuous monitoring device that is able to record the key stun parameters (Voltage, amperage and duration of stun) and store the data for retrieval of historical stun data for at least one year.
111. The continuous monitoring device shall be able to record data and present it in a format that can prove adherence to the minimum welfare requirements for electrical stunning.
112. Records of such recorded data shall be available and shall be verified at regular intervals by both the AWO and the OVI.
113. An audible alarm shall be linked to the electrical stun apparatus. This alarm shall sound when the duration of stun exposure falls below the minimum requirement.

114. The electrical stun apparatus shall be equipped with a manual stun function that shall be available and functional whenever non-compliance to recommended stun parameters is noted or whenever an ostrich does not display the physical signs of proper stunning.
115. The electrical stun apparatus (including the back-up and emergency stun apparatus) shall be verified regularly to determine the following:
 - 115.1 The voltage produced exceeds the minimum level of 90 Volts when tested with an externally calibrated voltage meter.
 - 115.2 The voltage reading on the display apparatus corresponds to the reading of an externally calibrated voltage meter.
 - 115.3 The voltage reading of the continuous recording device corresponds with the voltage reading of the stun device.
 - 115.4 The amperage reading produced while an ostrich is being stunned exceeds the minimum level of 400 mAmp when tested with an externally calibrated amperage meter.
 - 115.5 The amperage reading on the display apparatus corresponds to the reading of an externally calibrated amperage meter.
 - 115.6 The amperage reading of the continuous recording device corresponds with the amperage reading of the stun device.
116. The alarm shall be tested regularly to confirm that it sounds when the duration of stun exposure falls below the minimum requirement.
117. Records of all verification- and test procedures shall be available and shall regularly be verified by the AWO .
118. The calibration certificates for voltage and amperage meters used in the verification process shall be available.
119. Appropriate back-up stun equipment shall be available and functional for use at all times during stunning operations in case of failure of the normal stun equipment.

Shackling:

120. Shackling will commence without delay once stunning has been achieved.
121. Shackles shall be placed securely around both feet of the unconscious ostrich.
122. The ostrich shall only be released from the restrain apparatus once proper shackling has been achieved.

Bleeding:

123. Bleeding shall commence within 60 seconds of electrical stunning.
124. Bleeding shall be achieved through severing both carotid arteries with or without severing the spinal cord.
125. Bleeding may be aided by performing a cut directly into the heart.
126. The bleeder shall at regular intervals perform the corneal reflex test on a representative sample of ostriches before severing the carotid arteries in order to demonstrate the absence of consciousness and sensibility in the ostrich to be bled.

127. Electrical stimulation shall only be performed once the unconsciousness of the animal has been verified.

Emergency slaughter procedures:

128. A SOP for emergency slaughter shall be available.
129. Instructions on how to use emergency slaughter equipment shall be available.
130. Emergency slaughter equipment shall be tested regularly and shall be functional and available at all times.
131. The electrical emergency stun apparatus shall be verified regularly in the manner described in paragraphs 115.1, 115.2, 115.4 and 115.5 of this procedure.
132. A mechanical stun apparatus (Captive bolt pistol) shall be verified to be fully functional at least annually by an external service provider.
133. A mechanical stun apparatus may only be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the size of cartridge used shall conform to the manufacturer's instructions.
134. Only trained and competent personnel shall perform the emergency slaughter procedure.
135. The AWO shall personally supervise all emergency slaughter procedures performed at the abattoir.
136. Methods shall be available to humanely stun (or kill) severely injured ostriches where they lie. This may be on the truck or anywhere from the point of offloading to the stun area.
137. No injured ostrich may be dragged.
138. Emergency slaughter shall be performed without undue delay whenever severely injured or non-ambulatory ostriches are presented at the abattoir.
139. Both the OV and the meat inspector shall be informed when emergency slaughter procedures are carried out.
140. Records shall indicate the actions taken when injured ostriches present at the abattoir or are identified during routine health checks.

PART V

REFERENCES

- (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.
- 2008 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- 2011 Code of conduct for the commercial production of ostriches (South African Ostrich Business Chamber, National Council of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).
- Regulation 54 of 2007 under Act 40 of 2000 (Ostrich regulations).
- Act 71 of 1962 (Animals Protection Act).
- The Animal Welfare Officer in the EU (European Commission).
- Better training for safer food: Animal Welfare (European Commission).
- Stunning and slaughter of ostriches (MH0109) – S Wotton, J Sparrey
- Electrical and captive needle stunning methods for ostriches – E Lambooij, 1998.
- SANS1488:2014 - Humane transportation of livestock by road.
- (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations.

PART VI**AUDITING TOOL**

Establishment		Date	
ZA Number		Auditor	

**HUMANE HANDLING AND SLAUGHTER OF RATITES
VERIFICATION COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST:**

The Animal Welfare Officer (AWO).

Reference paragraphs:		Comments:
P I, h	<u>Appointment:</u> Appointment of an AWO	
65	Appointment letter	
66	Delegation of power to the AWO to institute corrective actions.	
81	SOP/work instruction which details the duties of the AWO	
61-63	<u>Training:</u> Certificate of Competence, issued by the CA, for the appointed AWO.	
68-69	<u>Reporting:</u> Records of recommendations made by the AWO/ improvements executed by the establishment.	

Documentary Controls: Transport and off-loading.

Reference:		Comments:
4	<u>Transport:</u> Ante mortem documents for each consignment of ostriches delivered including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Origin & ownership • Place of departure • Date and time of departure • Destination • Expected duration of trip 	
2.2 3	Records of checks on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of ostriches/space per ostrich per compartment; • the general condition of the trucks. 	
PI, a	<u>Off-loading:</u> A documented SOP/Procedure for the handling of ostriches upon arrival at the abattoir?	
72.1 73	Records to prove ante mortem checks by the AWO (or a trained person reporting directly to the AWO) for each consignment of ostriches delivered at the abattoir.	
72.2 72.3 73 23	Evidence of follow-up health checks for ostriches that stay longer than 12 hours before slaughter including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of checks. • Documented findings. • Traceability of slaughter lots inspected. • Date and time of arrival. • Availability of food and water. • Date and time of feeding. 	

Documentary Controls: Training of ostrich handlers.

Reference:		Comments:
40 41 71	Records available to prove job specific and animal welfare training to all individuals who handle ostriches from the point of arrival up to bleeding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual refresher training. • Content of training material adequate. • Evidence of evaluation of competence by the trainer (AWO). 	
42 43	Certificates of Competence, endorsed by the CA, available for all personnel (including supervisors) who handle ostriches from the point of offloading to bleeding?	

Documentary Controls: The slaughter process.

Reference:		Comments:
PI, b 102 103 105	A SOP/procedure for stunning and bleeding including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stun parameters included? • Corrective actions when an ostrich is not correctly stunned described? 	
104	Documented line speed.	
90	Species and weight limits for the restrain/stun equipment documented?	
101 103	Physical signs of effectiveness of stun documented.	
106	Manufacturer's instructions for the restraining and stunning equipment.	
107	Preventative maintenance schedule includes maintenance requirements for the restraining and stunning equipment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back/up stunner, • Emergency stunner. 	
108	Records of preventative maintenance on restraining and stunning equipment.	
109	Verification of the records for preventative maintenance for restraining and stunning equipment by the AWO.	

110 102 112	Records of historically recorded stun data including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voltage, Amperage, duration. • Adherence to minimum requirements. • Regular verification of data, by the AWO and the OVI. 	
116 117	Records demonstrating regular testing of the audible alarm.	
115	Records to prove regular verification of the electrical stun equipment as well as back up and emergency stunners, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voltage produced exceeds 90V • Voltage value displayed correctly on stunner display. • Voltage value recorded by back-up recorder corresponds to stunner value. • Amperage reading exceeds a minimum of 400mA. • Amperage value displayed correctly on stunner display. • Amperage value recorded by back-up recorder corresponds to stunner value. • Regular verification of records by the AWO. 	
118	Current calibration certificates available for the instruments used to verify stun equipment.	
72.4 72.5	Records to demonstrate implementation of the following checks by the AWO during the slaughter process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks on the handling technique during herding and restraining. • Manual checks on the compliance of stun 	

<p>72.6</p> <p>72.7</p> <p>74</p> <p>76</p>	<p>parameters on a representative sample of ostriches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical checks on a selection of the signs of effective stunning. • Manual checks on the duration of the period from stun to bleed. • Checks on the functionality of the electrical stun equipment at start-up of every production day. • Checks on the functionality of the back-up and emergency electrical stun equipment? 	
<p>Part I,b</p>	<p>A SOP for emergency slaughter available including instructions on how to use the emergency stun apparatus.</p>	
<p>132</p>	<p>If a mechanical stun device is used – a certificate of calibration (pressure test) from an external service provider.</p>	
<p>72.2</p> <p>73</p>	<p>Records to indicate the actions taken when injured ostriches present at the abattoir or are identified during routine health checks.</p>	

Inspection of structures and equipment:

Reference:		Comments:
33	<p>Adequate measures for inclement weather: Establishment able to adapt its facilities and handling practices to inclement weather (e.g., extreme cold, heat, humidity, heavy rains, or high winds) to ensure the humane handling of ratites.</p>	
7-12	<p>Off-loading facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for different heights of vehicles. • No sharp/protruding edges. • Solid sides, slip proof floors. • Ongoing maintenance. 	
27-38	<p>Lairages, walkways, holding pens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit for purpose feeding troughs. • Feeding troughs away from the floor. • Separate safe storage for feed. • Secure sides to pens. • Capacity indicated on pens. • Origin, date and time of ostriches housed indicated on pen. • Flooring provide adequate drainage. • Protection against the elements. • Artificial light. • Isolation pen. • Passage ways wide, solid sides. • Ongoing maintenance. 	

<p>82 83 119 130 136 109 113 113 114</p>	<p>Restrain and slaughter facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment fit for purpose. • Equipment in good condition. • Back-up stun equipment available. • Emergency stun equipment available. • Methods available to humanely stun (or kill) severely injured ostriches where they lie. • Display device available and visible to the operator which displays real time stun parameters. • Audible alarm linked to the electrical stun apparatus. • Alarm rings when the duration of exposure falls below the required limit. • Automatic stun apparatus fitted with manual stun function. 	
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Inspection of slaughter operations:

Reference:		Comments:
14 14 16 17 17	Off-loading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One ostrich at a time. • Minimum force. • No pulling on sensitive parts. • Sufficient personnel. • Two handlers to guide ostrich. 	
50 51 52 53 54 56 57	Herding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small groups at a time. • Handlers in front and behind the group. • Minimal noise, no undue force. • No dragging, kicking or grabbing sensitive body parts. • Two handlers per individual ostrich. • Crush to stun area not overcrowded. • Supervision for ostriches held in the crush to the stun area. 	
59 83 87 88 94 95	Restrain, stun and bleed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ostriches entering the stun are pushed from a handler outside as well herded by two handlers from inside. • Ostrich fits snugly in restraining device. • Both feet clamped securely before electrical stun proceeds. • Minimum time in restrain apparatus before stun proceeds. • One ostrich at a time in restrain area. • Door to the waiting area kept closed between ostriches. 	

102	<p>Minimum electrical stun parameters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 Volts • 400 mAmps • Duration of 4 sec 	
101	<p>Signs of effective stun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate collapse followed by an epileptiform insult. • No signs of rhythmic breathing. • No oesophageal tone. • Absence of the corneal reflex. • No reaction to sound, light, odour or physical contact. • No sign of fear or excitement. 	
120	<p>Shackling fast, effective, without delay?</p>	
123 124 126	<p>Bleeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 60 sec's from stunning. • Both carotid arteries severed. • The corneal reflex test performed at regular intervals to ascertain absence of consciousness. 	

ANNEX A

Ostrich handler evaluation sheet A:

Trainee:
ID Number:

I declare that I have never been convicted in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962).

Trainee signature:



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Date:
OV Signature

Field of Competence	Verbal Assessment	Mark	Practical Assessment	Mark	Total
Receiving & Off-loading	1. How to handle ostriches one at a time during off-loading?		1. Handling technique: -No pulling, -2 persons per ostrich -Handler in front and behind group.		
	2. When to give water?		2. Off-loading one ostrich at a time?		
	3. When to give food?		3. Availability of food and water?		
	4. Who to report to when an ostrich is injured?		4. Effective, humane execution of emergency slaughter?		
	5. How to handle an injured ostrich?				
	6. Emergency slaughter procedure?				
	TOTAL MARK	/18	TOTAL MARK	/12	/30
Comments:					

ANNEX A

Ostrich handler evaluation sheet B:

Trainee:
ID Number:

I declare that I have never been convicted in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962).

Trainee signature:



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Date:
OV Signature:

Field of Competence	Verbal Assessment	Mark	Practical Assessment	Mark	Total
Herding	1. Handling technique for individual ostriches?		1. Small groups at a time?		
	2. Size of groups to be moved?		2. No physical abuse?		
	3. Handling technique for a group of ostriches?		3. Handlers in front and behind the group?		
	4. Who to report to when an ostrich is injured?		4. Individuals handled by at least 2 people at a time?		
	5. Handling technique for injured ostriches?		5. Effective, humane execution of emergency slaughter?		
	6. Emergency slaughter procedure?				
	TOTAL MARK	/18	TOTAL MARK	/15	/33

Comments:

ANNEX A

Ostrich handler evaluation sheet C:

Trainee:
ID Number:

I declare that I have never been convicted in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962).

Trainee signature:



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department:
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Date:
OV Signature:

Field of Competence	Verbal Assessment	Mark	Practical Assessment	Mark	Total
Restraining:	1. Name the physical signs of effective stunning?		1. One ostrich at a time in restrain area?		
	2. What is the importance of the audible alarm?		2. Door to crush kept closed?		
	3. What is the line of communication if anything goes wrong during the restrain/stun procedure?		3. Handling technique: -Pushed from behind upon entry? -Minimal force on wings?		
	4. What should be done if an ostrich is not properly stunned?		4. Restrain box chain bolt locked?		
			5. Both legs clamped properly before stunning?		
			6. Fast and effective shackling?		
	TOTAL MARKS	/12	TOTAL MARKS	/18	/30

Comments:

ANNEX A

Ostrich handler evaluation sheet D:

Trainee:
ID Number:

I declare that I have never been convicted in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962).

Trainee signature:



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA


Date:
OV Signature:

Field of Competence	Verbal Assessment	Mark	Practical Assessment	Mark	Total
Electrical stunning	1. What is the recommended stun parameters? V, mAmp, Duration		1. Ostrich stunned properly?		
	2. What are the physical signs of proper stunning?		2. Stunned only once properly restrained?		
	3. Knowledge of the manual override function of the stunner?		3. Line speed controlled to allow bleeder time to finish bleeding procedure?		
	4. Knowledge of when and how to use the back-up and/or emergency stunner?				
	5. Importance of the audible alarm?				
	6. What to do if proper stunning is not achieved?				
	7. Who to report to when proper stunning cannot be achieved?				
	TOTAL MARKS		/21	TOTAL MARKS	/9

Comments:

ANNEX A

Ostrich handler evaluation sheet E:

<p>Trainee: ID Number:</p> <p>I declare that I have never been convicted in terms of the Animal Protection Act (Act 71 of 1962).</p> <p>Trainee signature:</p>	 <p>agriculture, forestry & fisheries</p> <p>Department: Agriculture, forestry & fisheries REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA</p> <p>Date: OV Signature:</p>
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Field of Competence	Verbal Assessment	Mark	Practical Assessment	Mark	Total
Bleeding	1. What is the physical signs of proper stunning?		1. Procedure performed within 60 seconds of stunning?		
	2. What is the duration from stun to bleed?		2. Both carotid arteries severed?		
	3. How is the corneal reflex test performed?		3. Corneal reflex checked on a representative sample of ostriches?		
	4. What should be done if an ostrich is not properly stunned?				
	5. Who should it be reported to if proper stunning cannot be achieved?				
	TOTAL MARKS	/15	TOTAL MARKS	/9	/24

Comments:

ANNEX A

Ostrich Handler evaluation summary:

Trainee:
ID Number:



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Agriculture, forestry & fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Date:

Fields of competence tested:	Mark achieved per field	Competent Yes/no
Receiving and Offloading		
Herding		
Restraining		
Electrical stunning		
Bleeding		

<u>General comments:</u>

Official Veterinarian:

Official stamp:

Signature:

POINT STRUCTURE AND SUBMISSION OF RESULTS:

Marks are allocated out of a maximum of 3 marks per question where:

- 1 = not competent.
- 2 = competent with room for improvement.
- 3 = fully competent.

Marks are totalled per section and the sum of the verbal and practical mark allocations represents the sum of the marks for a specific section (field of competency).

Trainees may be tested in one, more or all of the fields at once, but shall only be tested in the fields that they are actively working in.

An average of 75% grand total per field needs to be achieved to qualify for a Certificate of Competence as an ostrich handler.

Where a trainee is awarded a "1" rating for incompetence in any of the questions, but still manages to achieve an average grand total of 75% or above for a specific field that trainee shall be retrained in that specific area of incompetence, to the satisfaction of the OV, before a recommendation of competence can be made and records shall be available to attest to the retraining exercise.

Official Veterinarians shall verify that internal training records for each individual is available and up to date before recommending any trainee for a C.o.C.

Official Veterinarians shall submit a summary of the results of trainee evaluations to the CA using the official submission form provided in Annex B.

A copy of the submission form shall be provided to the establishment as proof of evaluation.

Official veterinarians shall keep, on file, copies of the original evaluation forms for each handler.

Certificates of Competence for ostrich handlers found competent in related operations shall be forwarded by the CA to the submitting veterinarian who will in turn supply original certificates to the establishment.

Official Veterinarians shall assess ostrich handlers only for competence in related operations and not for competence as full Animal Welfare Officers.

Annex B

Ostrich handler evaluation submission form.

The following trainees have been evaluated as ostrich handlers according to the requirements of EC 1099/2009 and have been found competent. It is recommended that Certificates of Competence be issued to them.

Full Name:	Fields of competency: <small>(Mark fields that are not applicable as N/A)</small>	Marks Obtained
	Receiving and Offloading	
ID number:	Herding	
	Restraining	
Abattoir:	Electrical stunning	
	Bleeding	
Full Name:	Fields of competency: <small>(Mark fields that are not applicable as N/A)</small>	Marks Obtained
	Receiving and Offloading	
ID number:	Herding	
	Restraining	
Abattoir:	Electrical stunning	
	Bleeding	
Full Name:	Fields of competency: <small>(Mark fields that are not applicable as N/A)</small>	Marks Obtained
	Receiving and Offloading	
ID number:	Herding	
	Restraining	
Abattoir:	Electrical stunning	
	Bleeding	

Date of submission:

Official stamp:

Official Veterinarian:

E-mail address:

Postal address: