



Western Cape
Government

Western Cape Department of Agriculture

Management Improvement Plan

Western Cape Meat Safety Evaluation

M Wolhuter
2020

Management Improvement Plan: Meat Safety Evaluation 2020

1. Management Response on Recommendations

	Recommendation	Record of agreement or disagreement	Reasons for disagreement / Comments
1	Subsidize abattoirs to attain legal compliance with the Meat Safety Act, Act 40 of 2000	Agree in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Falls outside of the mandate of Sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health Will require additional budget allocation and financial control procedures
2	Improve the abattoir registration process for smaller abattoirs to permit them entry into the meat industry economic sector	Agree in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The requirements and procedures for abattoir registration is legally prescribed Abattoir registration is an integrated legal process that includes regulatory prescripts of Department of Agriculture (Approval of abattoir plans, approval of abattoirs after construction, ensure provision of a meat inspection service, safe removal of condemned material and waste), Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs (Environmental impact assessment), local government ordinances (Zoning of land used, approval of building plans, air pollution) and Department of Water and Sanitation (Prevention of water pollution caused by effluent) to mention a few of the most important role players From the Department's side the abattoir registration process can be improved by providing user friendly information and guidelines to prospective abattoir owners
3	Create operational definitions for different levels of Hygiene	Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HAS is inherently developed to include detailed operational definitions

	Assessment System (HAS) performance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide for national standardization in implementation of the HAS tool, further guidance is provided by two national documents: 'Guide Notes, HAS, Poultry Abattoirs' and 'Guide Notes, HAS, Red Meat Abattoirs'
4	Develop a continuous professional development (CPD) programme for Veterinary Public Health Officials (VPHO)	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VPHOs are qualified Environmental Health Practitioners (previously Health Inspectors). Registration with the Health Professions Council of South Africa makes CPD compulsory. Department of Agriculture does not prescribe registration with the HPCSA and hence CPD is not mandatory A policy of CPD for VPHO is however supported, which may include a prescribed programme for CPD
5	Meat inspection must be taken over by government	Agree in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure independence of meat inspection and hygiene monitoring and control in abattoirs, independent, government employed meat inspectors will be the best option This is not however currently an unaffordable option for Government and per National agreement abattoir owners currently have to fund the cost of meat inspection and abattoir monitoring and control on a day to day basis. This brings into question the independence of the meat inspectors at the abattoirs (Oversight auditing and compliance monitoring by the Department is therefore deemed an essential oversight function)
6	Monitor training and development of abattoir employees	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The monitoring of training and development of abattoir employees already forms an integral part of the compliance monitoring and auditing carried out by the VPHOs of the Department. The monitoring is based on a legal requirement for abattoir owners to ensure that their personnel are adequately trained to ensure the intended food safety outcomes prescribed by the Meat Safety Regulations

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The instruments used for this purpose are: Regular abattoir inspections, abattoir reports provided to abattoir owners, issuing of request for corrective actions, issuing of legal instructions, HAS evaluations
7	Implement European Foods Safety Standards (EFSA) standards for biological hazards in meat safety from farm to abattoir	Agree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These EFSA Standards (mostly published close to 10 years ago) is the current standard for meat safety risk evaluation in all abattoirs in the province, country and world and is considered in the development of the Hygiene Managements Systems at abattoirs The current Meat Safety Act Regulations does not provide details for microbiological testing of meat, but a policy is in the process of being compiled by the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (Proposed VPH 52) Very little integrated meat production (one continuous owner from farm to fork) takes place in the Western Cape Province, so implementation of monitoring of epidemiological indicators as envisaged in the EFSA publications will be possible only at a select few abattoirs and these will be mostly poultry abattoirs Purposeful implementation of epidemiological monitoring of meat for biological hazards is cost prohibitive for both the Department and abattoir owners A programme of basic microbiological monitoring in abattoirs, which renders a similar outcome, is being implemented by sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health in the Western Cape Province
8	Replace Hygiene Assessment System (HAS) as an auditing tool with the Hygiene Performance Rating System (PRS) developed by Animalia of Norway	Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The details of the system is not available in English This a labour intensive and technology based rating system that by far exceeds the capacity of the of abattoirs in the Western Cape Province to implement

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advantage of this system over the visual evaluation methods deployed by VPHOs in monitoring of abattoirs does not warrant the cost of the inputs required • The most important difference between the proposed Norway PRS and HAS is that the former is a daily monitoring tool by personnel in the abattoir while the latter is used as a snapshot in time of abattoir legal compliance for the purpose of independent VPH monitoring of abattoirs in the province • Since the same principles are followed by VPHOs while carrying out inspections at abattoirs it may be of value to ensure that meat inspection reports are standardized between VPHOs and detailed enough to render food safety assurances equal to that envisaged by the PRS
9	<p>Incorporate HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) in the Hygiene Management System of abattoirs</p>	Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk based food safety management is already a legal requirement for all abattoirs without which abattoirs cannot be allowed to operate. The risk management is reflected in the mandatory Hygiene Management System that must be implemented by each abattoir. • The management of meat safety in an abattoir is the responsibility of the abattoir owner and he/she is therefore at liberty to choose the food safety management system of his/her choice (HACCP, ISO, FSSC 22000, BRC standard, etc.) as long as it complies with legal prescriptions for the prescribed Hygiene Management System • Classic HACCP (SANS 10330) can only be implemented in a small minority of abattoirs due to the absence a single food safety process control step that can contribute to reduce bacterial load on meat
10	<p>Incentivize farmers to adopt improved biosecurity measures on farm level</p>	Agree in principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falls outside the mandate of Sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health

2. Improvement objectives

Recommendation 2	Improve the abattoir registration process for smaller abattoirs to permit them entry into the meat industry economic sector
Improvement objective 1:	Ensure user friendly access to business processes offered by sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health
Recommendation 4	Develop a continuous professional development (CPD) programme for Veterinary Public Health Officials (VPHOs)
Improvement objective 2:	Empower Veterinary Public Health personnel to deliver meat safety controls and advice in line with most recent local and international developments
Recommendation 7	Implement European Foods Safety Standards (EFSA) standards for biological hazards in meat safety from farm to abattoir
Recommendation 8	Replace Hygiene Assessment System (HAS) as an auditing tool with the Hygiene Performance Rating System (PRS) developed by Animalia of Norway
Improvement objective 3:	Enhanced controls over the production of safe meat in the province

3. Improvement Plan

Improvement objective 1		Ensure user friendly access to business processes offered by sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health					
Output	Priority	Activity	Deliverable	Person	Deadline	Budget available	Progress
1.1	Compile guidelines for the registration of abattoirs	1.1.1 Compile user friendly prospective guidelines for abattoir owners regarding the requirements for registering	Guideline document	M. Wolhuter	28 February 2023	Internal	

				abattoirs in terms of the Meat Safety Act, Act No. 40 of 2000									
			1.1.2	Publish the user guideline for the registration of abattoirs on the Eisenburg website	Guideline document available on Eisenburg Website	M. Wolhuter	31 March 2023	Internal					
			1.1.3	Provide all Veterinary Public Health Officials (VPHO) with an electronic copy that can be made available to prospective abattoirs in either electronic format or hard copy	All VPHOs in possession of Guideline document	M. Wolhuter	31 March 2023	Internal					
Improvement objective 2:	Empower Veterinary Public Health personnel to deliver meat safety controls and advice in line with most recent local and international developments												
2.1	Continuous Professional Development of Veterinary Public Health Personnel	Priority	Activity	Deliverable	Person	Deadline	Budget available	Progress					
			2.1.1	Conduct a workshop with Veterinary Health personnel to compile a policy for continued professional development (CPD)	Workshop attendance register	M. Wolhuter	31 October 2022	Internal					
			2.1.2	Compile a CPD policy for personnel of the	CPD Policy for Sub-programme:	M. Wolhuter	31 December 2022	Internal					

				sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health to ensure annual CPD activities	Veterinary Public Health					
			2.1.3	Compile a CPD programme for the next financial year	CPD Programme	M. Wolhuter	31 March 2023	Internal		
Improvement objective 3:	Enhanced controls over the production of safe meat in the province									
3.1	Implement European Foods Safety Standards (EFSA) standards for biological hazards in meat safety	Priority	Activity	Deliverable	Person	Deadline	Budget available	Progress		
			3.1.1	Draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the implementation of microbiological base line and pathogen surveillance in the abattoirs of the Western Cape Province	Standard Operating procedure	M. Wolhuter	31 October 2022	Internal		
			3.1.2	Management approval of SOP	Approved Standard Operating Procedure	Dr. G. Msiza	30 November 2022	Internal		
			3.1.3	Compile a meat sampling programme	Meat Micro-biological sampling programme	M. Wolhuter	31 November 2022	Internal		

					3.1.4	Set meat sampling programme in operation	Start of sampling date	M. Wolhuter	1 April 2023	Internal	
					3.1.5	Compile meat microbiological base line and pathogen surveillance report	Report	M. Wolhuter	28 February 2024	Internal	
3.2					3.2.1	Three workshops with VPHO team to design standardized abattoir reports and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementation	Three Workshop attendance registers Minutes of decisions taken/working documents compiled at each workshop	M. Wolhuter	31 December 2022	Internal	
					3.2.2	Approval of SOP/standardized abattoir inspection reports	Standardized abattoir report format and SOP	Dr. G. Msiza	31 March 2023	Internal	
					3.2.3	Training of VPHO team in implementation of new reporting format	Training attendance register	M. Wolhuter	31 May 2023	Internal	
					3.2.4	Implementation of all abattoir	Formal implementation instruction	M. Wolhuter	1 June 2023	Internal	

			reports standardized	issued by management to VPHOs		
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4. Communication Plan

Target audience	Message	Purpose	Media vehicle	Deadline	Person	Budget available	Progress
Prospective abattoir owners	Document: Guidelines for the registration of abattoirs	Inform prospective abattoir owners of all requirements for the registration of abattoirs	Eisenburg website	31 March 2023	M. Wolhuter	Internal	
Prospective abattoir owners	Document: Guidelines for the registration of abattoirs	Inform prospective abattoir owners of all requirements for the registration of abattoirs	Distributed by Veterinary Public Health Officials	31 March 2023	M. Wolhuter	Internal	
Prospective abattoir owners	Document: Guidelines for the registration of abattoirs	Inform prospective abattoir owners of all requirements for the registration of abattoirs	AgriProbe	31 March 2024	M. Wolhuter	Internal	

Veterinary Public Health (VPH) personnel	Continuing professional development (CPD) policy for personnel of the sub-programme: Veterinary Public Health	Inform VPH officials regarding the requirements for CPD	Internal memorandum	31 December 2022	M. Wolhuter	Internal	
Abattoir owners	Inform abattoirs of the meat microbiological monitoring programme	To give abattoir owners the legal basis, background, purpose and intended outcomes of the proposed meat meat microbiological sampling programme	Official letter to each abattoir owner	31 May 2022	M. Wolhuter	Internal	
Abattoir owners	Meat microbiological base line and pathogen surveillance report	Report on the status of meat safety in the Western Cape province	Official letter to each abattoir owner included in the sampling programme	31 March 2023	M. Wolhuter	Internal	
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development	Meat microbiological base line and pathogen surveillance report	Report on the status of meat safety in the Western Cape province	Official letter to the Department	31 March 2023	M. Wolhuter	Internal	

Veterinary Public Health (VPH) personnel	Standardized abattoir report format and SOP	Inform Veterinary Public Health Officials regarding the prescribed procedures regarding abattoir reports	Internal memorandum	30 April 2023		
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5. Signing off

It is recommended that this Management Improvement Plan is implemented



DR. GININDA MSIZA

PROGRAMME MANAGER: VETERINARY SERVICES

21.02.2022

DATE



RECOMMENDED/~~NOT RECOMMENDED~~



DR I TRAUTMANN

DDG: AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND REGULATORY SERVICES

21/02/2022

DATE

~~APPROVED/NOT APPROVED~~



DR. M. SEBOPETSA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

28 February 2022

DATE