ATTENTION TO ALL IMPORTERS

SPECIFICATIONS FOR APPLICATION FOR AN IMPORT PERMIT FROM THE NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

The National Biotechnology Authority would like to highlight the following procedures to be adhered to by importers when submitting applications for authority to import food, feed and seed.

Any organization seeking to be granted authority by the NBA to import food, feed or seed into Zimbabwe should meet the following requirements:

1. First, the organisation must be registered with NBA and its certificate of registration should be valid. To register the organisation must provide the following documents:
   - CR14
   - Certificate of incorporation
   - Company profile
   - ZIMRA tax clearance

2. Submit an application letter which must be on original letterhead of the importing company. (Photocopies will not be accepted)

3. The letterhead should have the logo, contact address both physical and postal and telephone numbers of the importing company.

4. The letter should have the original signature of the author of the letter, be dated and preferably stamped with the official company stamp.

5. The contents of the letter should meet the following:
   - Be addressed to the Registrar & Chief Executive Officer of the National Biotechnology Authority of Zimbabwe.
   - Highlight the type and quantity of product to be imported e.g. 10 000 Metric Tones of White Maize. In the case of seed, the variety should be specified.
   - Should prove that they have the capacity to handle the quantity of product specified on the application letter within the validity period of the biosafety permit i.e. 3 months.
   - Highlight the country of origin of the product and the Port through which the product will enter Zimbabwe.
   - Highlight the intended use of the product e.g. use for the under five feeding scheme in Masvingo Province.
- In the case of grain and seed the importer should state the mode of transportation and security measures to be taken to ensure no spillages and pilferage occur in transit, offloading and storage.
- Attach a GM certificate to the letter or declaration from a competent authority (e.g. NBA in Zimbabwe) in the country of origin of the product on the GM status of the consignment.

6. On submission of the application it must be accompanied with the following:
- A GM certificate or declaration from a competent authority (e.g. NBA in Zimbabwe) in the country of origin.
- Application form for import from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Attach copies of the Agricultural Marketing Association (AMA) certificate of registration and support letter.

7. The GM certificate must meet the following requirements:
- Be on original letterhead of the laboratory conducting the test. The letterhead should have the logo, contact address both physical and postal. Telephone numbers should be included.
- The testing laboratory should be accredited to a competent authority in the country in which the testing facilities are located.
- Have the original signature of the person responsible for the testing facilities.
- Bear the official stamp of the testing institute.
- The date of testing must not be more than 3 months old.

8. The contents of the GM Certificate should meet the following:
- State the date of testing of the product and date of issue of the certificate.
- Bear the certificate number.
- State the name and address of the importing organization.
- Provide clear description of the sample i.e. type, variety, quantity.
- State the place of sampling, sampling method and quantity of source material.
  - Please note that sampling must be done by the testing laboratory and this should be indicated on the GMO certificate.
- Provide a clear description of the GMO testing method using PCR. The description should include: sample number, PCR Cycles, Limit of Quantification (which should be not more than 0.02%).
- Provide the test result and their interpretation.
- Make a declaration/statement about the testing laboratory facilities and procedures.

9. GMO declarations will only be accepted for milled products and for any other products excluding seed and grain which are not known to be genetically modified. For seed and grain only PCR tests and GMO certificates which meet guidelines 7 and 8 above will be accepted. Only GMO declarations issued by the biosafety office of government in the country of origin of the consignment will be accepted.

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