

Are you intending to sell potatoes in the Republic of South Africa?

South Africa has self-sufficient capacity to produce potatoes for local consumption as well as cater for export markets. Potatoes play a significant role in the food basket for most South Africans. They serve as one of the staple vegetables for the country's food security. In most of national markets potato remains in the top 5 produce in terms of sales and volumes and is currently one of the highly demanded produce in the markets.

In terms of Section 3 of Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), no person shall sell regulated products unless the product complies with; class or grade, prescribed standards regarding quality, management control systems, packing, marking/labelling, or product does not contain a prescribed prohibited substance or does not contain a prescribed substance. Potatoes intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa are regulated in terms of grading, packing and marking requirements as prescribed under Regulations No. R1031 of 12 November 2010. The regulation is intended to ensure, among others, safe and fair trade in the local markets, transparency, traceability, good quality as well as increasing the consumer confidence on the local produce.

It is important for the potatoes producers, packers and importers to note that potatoes will be subjected to inspection in the local

markets to determine compliance with the prescribed regulations applied in the national markets. Product Control for Agriculture (Prokon) is an assignee of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) appointed to conduct inspections of the potatoes in the local markets. Prokon is a non-profit company in terms of the Companies Act 2006 that renders a comprehensive quality assurance, product management and grading service to the South African fresh produce industry.

The ability to comply with the said regulation and related food safety and quality measures is quite instrumental to the attainment of, among others, the objectives

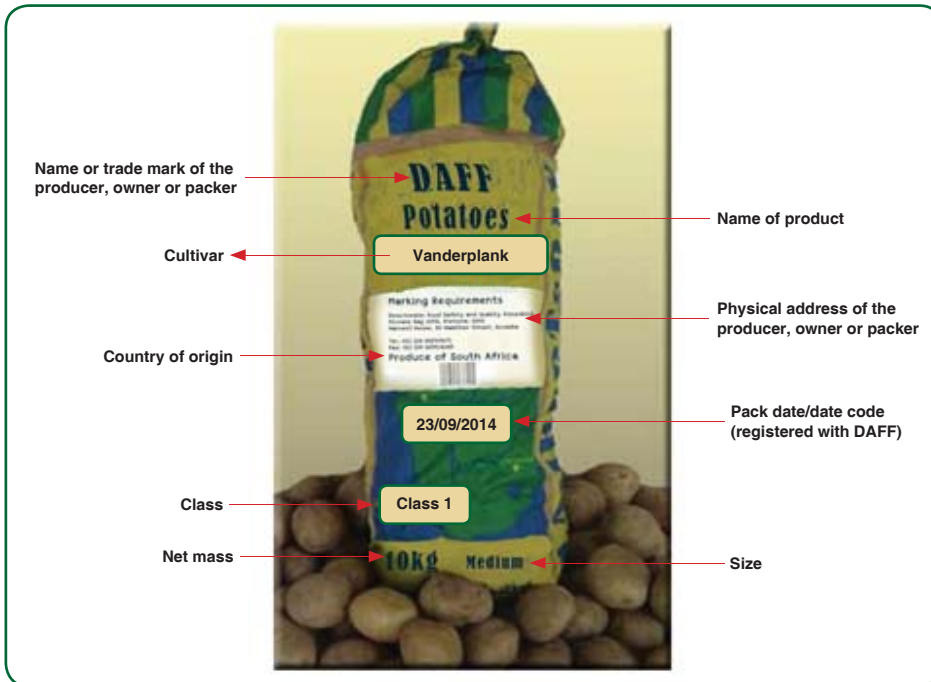
of potatoes that meets market requirements, i.e. marked and packaged properly, good quality, healthy and safe for human consumption. On a general note, potato producers, packers and importers are advised to comply with the market requirements enshrined in the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) and its regulations and in particular, apply Good Agricultural Practices in order to produce quality, healthy and safe produce that can compete in the market.

It is important to remember that food safety and quality compliance begins in the farm and not at the point of sale. Your success as a producer/supplier is our success; we

are therefore determined to assist your agricultural business enterprise with market access information to enable your entrance in both national and international markets.

For further information on other regulations for regulating local produce such as agronomy, deciduous fruit, animal products, processed products, local vegetables

and local citrus and subtropical fruit, please contact the Directorate: Food Import and Export Standards at 012 319 6118.



A bag of potatoes marked properly as per regulation

of the National Development Plan and the Agricultural Policy Action Plan relative to fighting unemployment, alleviating poverty and market access. The success of our potato producers/suppliers and potato industry in contributing to economic growth and positioning South Africa in the world is dependent on, among others, marketing and supplying our nation and the world with po-



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Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA