



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

From: Chief Information Officer
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Mr S. Maimane
South African History Archive
P.O. Box 31719
BRAAMFONTEIN
2017

Dear Mr Maimane

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING ABATTOIRS AND HEALTH INSPECTORS DATED 13 MARCH 2013

According to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, No. 108 of 1996, abattoirs are an exclusive provincial competence and as such the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act no. 40 of 2000) automatically delegates functions relating to the registration and day to day running of abattoirs to the Provinces. As such, the Directorate is of the view that the information requested could be best addressed if it is requested directly from the individual Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

The Directorate: Veterinary Public Health of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has nonetheless requested the Provincial Veterinary Services to supply the information requested, and to date the Directorate has only received and managed to consolidate responses from Gauteng, Northern and Eastern Cape Provinces and KwaZulu Natal (South region). As the provinces operate autonomously, it is recommended that the outstanding information can be requested directly from the Provinces. The responses to the request are as follows:

Total number of abattoirs licensed to slaughter cattle, pork, sheep, chickens and any other licensed meat product from 2008 – 2009:

The number of abattoirs registered in terms of the Meat safety Act (Act no. 40 of 2000):

Province	Year	red meat abattoirs	poultry abattoirs	ostrich abattoirs	crocodile abattoirs	game abattoirs	Other (Export cutting plants)	Total
Gauteng	2008	35	36	1	1	2	-	77
	2009	37	36	1	1	2	-	
Eastern Cape	2008	77	37			5	1	
	2009	76	36			4	1	
Northern Cape	2008 to 2009	49	17					66
KwaZulu Natal (South Region)	2008 to 2009							59
Total								277

Total number of registered health inspectors hired to inspect, monitor and evaluate abattoirs from 2008 to 2012:

It is assumed that the Occupation Classification the enquiry is referring to is that of registered Environmental Health Practitioners (Meat Inspectors). There are Meat Inspectors employed by the private sector and such inspectors work directly in abattoirs and are present on a daily basis. The Department does not have statistics/ figures of these individuals.

There is additional group of Meat Inspectors employed by Directorate of Veterinary Services in the Provincial Departments of Agriculture – these Meat Inspectors provide an oversight regarding the implementation of the Meat Safety Act, 2000 (Act no. 40 of 2000)

Numbers of Meat Inspectors employed by the Provinces are indicated in the table below:

Province	Year	Number employed	Number of available posts
Gauteng	2008	12	12
	2009	12	12
	2010	10	12
	2011	9	12
	2012	8	12
	2008	23	-
	2009	24	-

	2010	25	-
	2011	23	-
	2012	24	-
Northern Cape	2008 to 2012	7	-
KwaZulu Natal (South Region)	2008 to 2012	3	-

Total number of cases where abattoirs have been closed contradicting the Health Act from 2008 – 2012:

Monitoring of abattoirs by the Departments of Agriculture is regulated by the Meat Safety Act (Act no. 40 of 2000) – and not the Health Act. As such, The Directorate is unaware of any abattoirs that were closed for contradicting Health Act.

It is hoped that these responses will assist in the mean time.

The Department will transfer the request to the remaining Provinces.

Yours sincerely



Ms P. Tsotso Sehoole

Deputy Information Officer: PAIA

Date: 2013/05/27