

24 November 2010

Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Private Bag X20
PRETORIA
0010
Tel: (012) 319 6000
Fax: (012) 319 0000

Dear Minister

IMPLEMENTATION OF INDEPENDENT MEAT INSPECTION- APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSIGNEE

The Meat safety Act (Act 40 of 2000) was promulgated in 2000 with the purpose i.e. to provide for independent meat inspection services at all abattoirs. Although the act provides for the appointment of assignees (Section 4 (vii) and with an application in this regard from the industry in 2001, no progress was made to fully implement the requirement of the Act.

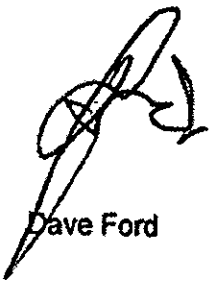
Following broad consultation with the various industries during the past two years, and specific discussions with the red meat industry by the department;

1. The red meat industry agreed to the funding of meat inspection services on a national basis to the benefit of all consumers
2. The Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF) submitted a business plan to provide for the rendering of this service on behalf of the department
3. An independent meat inspection forum was proposed to provide for an active involvement of all provinces and industries in the provision of these services.
4. A fee structure was proposed to provide a tariff per abattoir on the basis of the number of inspectors required to meet the requirements of the Act

This information was provided in a business plan provided to the Department on 16 September following which the principles of this application were approved by ITCA. On this basis we urge your serious consideration to the appointment of the Independent meat Inspection Forum (IMIF) in order to effect the appointment of an independent assignee for meat inspection.

The RMIF would also gladly meet with you to discuss any uncertainties which might arise from the submission or the business plan. In view of the current requirements of the Meat Safety Act and the proposed Consumer Protection Act, we regard the implementation of an Independent Meat Inspection Service as an important assurance of meat safety to the South African consumer.

Yours faithfully



Dave Ford

Chairman RMIF