

No. R. 123

8 February 2008

HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT, 1974 (ACT NO. 56 OF 1974**REGULATIONS DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROFESSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH: AMENDMENT**

The Minister of Health intends, under Section 33(1) read with Section 61(2) of the Health Professions Act, 1974 (Act No. 56 of 1974) and on the recommendation of the Council, to make the amendments to the regulations as published under Government Notice No. R.888 of 26 April 1991 as reflected in the Schedule.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations in writing on the proposed amendments to the regulations to the Director-General: Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Human Resources Stakeholders Relations and Management Services) within three months from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE**Definitions**

1. In this Schedule, "**the regulations**" means the regulations defining the Scope of the Profession of Environmental Health published under Government Notice No. R.888 of 25 April 1991, and any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the regulations shall bear such meaning, unless the context otherwise indicates.

Amendment of the regulations

2. The regulations are hereby amended by the addition at the end of the regulations as an Annexure, of the following Scope of Practice for Environmental Health Practitioners.

ANNEXURE

SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

In addition to the scope of the profession as prescribed in the regulations, the following acts fall within the Scope of Practice for Environmental Health Practitioners.

Environmental Health Services include performance of the following acts;

(1) **WATER**

- (a) Monitoring water quality and availability, including mapping of water source. Enforcement of laws and regulations related to water quality management.
- (b) Ensuring water safety in respect of safe quality (microbiological and chemical), and accessibility to an adequate quantity for domestic use as well as in respect of the quality of water for recreational, industrial, food production and any other human and animal use.
- (c) Ensuring that water supplies that are readily accessible to Communities and to the planning, design, management and health surveillance of community water supplies that are readily accessible to Communities.
- (d) Ensuring monitoring and effective waste water treatment and water pollution control, including the collection treatment and disposal of sewage and other water borne waste and control of the quality of surface water (including the sea) and ground water.
- (e) Advocacy on proper and safe water and waste water usage.
- (f) Water sampling and testing on the field or in a laboratory.

(2) **FOOD CONTROL**

- (a) Food safety in respect of acceptable microbiological and chemical standards and quality of all food for human consumption and optimal hygiene control throughout the food supply chain from point of origin, all primary ground, or raw products production up to the point of consumption.
- (b) Food inspection at production, distribution and consumption area.
- (c) Informal Street Trading Monitoring.
- (d) Food premises inspection and control of stationary nuisances.
- (e) Enforcement of food legislation and Codex Alimentarius.
- (f) Food quality monitoring programmes and principles through various techniques e.g. HACCP.
- (g) Promote the safe transportation, handling, storage and preparation of food stuffs used in the Primary School Nutrition programme (PSNP), Prisons, Health Establishments, Airports and ect.
- (h) Promote safe handling of meat and meat products including Abattoir inspections.
- (i) Promote the safe handling of milk and milk products.

(3) **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Waste management and general hygiene monitoring including:

- (a) Ensuring proper refuse collection, storage and disposal.
- (b) Ensuring proper liquid waste management including sewerage and industrial effluents.

- (c) Ensuring the proper storage, treatment, collection, transportation, handling and disposal of health care waste and hazardous waste.
- (d) Sampling and analysis of any waste or product (sewage), refuse or other wastes.
- (e) Investigations and inspections of any activity relating to the waste stream or any product resulting there from.
- (f) Advocacy on appropriate sanitation.
- (g) Control of the handling and disposal of diseased animal tissue.
- (h) Ensuring safe usage of treated sewerage sludge and the health safety of reclaimed waste.
- (i) Ensuring waste management including auditing of waste management systems and ensuring the "cradle to grave" approach is adhered to.

(4) **HEALTH SURVEILLANCE OF PREMISES**

Including:

- (a) Environmental Health Impact Assessment including housing projects and indoor air quality monitoring.
- (b) Assessment of factors including ventilation, lighting, moisture proofing, thermal quality, structural safety and floor space.
- (c) Assessment of an overcrowded, dirty or unsatisfactory condition in any residential, commercial, industrial or other occupied premises.

- (d) Monitoring all buildings and all other temporary or permanent physical structure for residential, public or institutional use (including health care and other care, detainment, work and recreation including travel, tourism, holiday resorts and camping sites) as well as the facilities in connection therewith and the immediate precincts thereof.
 - (e) Ensuring the urban and rural land-use planning and practices that are conducive to sustainable development through sound environmental health impact and other assessments.
 - (f) Prevention and abatement of any condition on any premises which is likely to constitute a danger to health.
 - (g) Ensuring the health safety of the public passenger transportation facilities such as busses, trains, taxis, boats and aeroplanes as well as all other facilities in connection therewith.
 - (h) Ensuring compliance with the principles of Agenda 21, the Healthy Cities approach to integrated service rendering and the practical minimizing of any detrimental environmental health risk.
- (5) **SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES EXCLUDING IMMUNISATIONS**
- (a) Health and hygiene promotion aimed at prevention of environmentally induced diseases and related communicable diseases.
 - (b) Collection analyses and dissemination of epidemiological data and information
 - (c) Use of Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Training (PHAST) approaches for effective control measures at Community Level.
 - (d) Epidemiological surveillances of diseases.

(e) Establishment of effective Environmental Health Surveillance and Information System.

(f) Develop environmental health measures with protocols reference to epidemics, emergencies, diseases and migrations of population.

(6) **VECTOR CONTROL**

Vector control monitoring including:

(a) Identification of vectors, their habits and breeding places.

(b) Vector control of public health interest including the control of anthropods, molluscs, rodents and other alternative hosts of diseases.

(c) Removal or remedying of conditions resulting or favouring the prevalence or increase of rodents, insects, diseases carriers or pests.

(d) Residual spraying of premises and surrounds.

(e) Investigate zoonotic diseases and other vector borne diseases in the working and living environment.

(f) Surveillance of imported cargo and livestock for the prevalence of disease vectors.

(g) Serological tests of rodents, dogs and other pests.

(7) **ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL**

Including:

(a) Ensuring hygienic working, living and recreational environments.

(b) Identification of polluting agents and their sources i.e. air, land and water.

- (c) Conducting environmental health impacts and assessments including Major Hazardous Installations.
- (d) Conducting environmental health hazards and risk mapping.
- (e) Accident prevention e.g. paraffin usage.
- (f) Approval of environmental health impact reports and commenting on Environmental Impact Assessment applications.
- (g) Ensuring clean and safe air externally (ambient and point sources) including emission inventories monitoring, modelling and toxicological reviews and complaint investigations.
- (h) Control and prevention of vibration and noise pollution.
- (i) Prevention and control of land pollution detrimental to human, animal and plant life.
- (j) Ensuring compliance with the provisions of Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations including anticipating, identifying, evaluating and controlling of occupational hazards.
- (k) Preventative measures required to ensure that the general environment is free from health risks.
- (l) Ensuring the registration, permitting, monitoring and auditing of all industries, activities, trade and etc, which involves the control of internal impacts on the worker and external impacts on the community.
- (m) Integrity management including pipelines and tankage.
- (n) Emergency preparedness under abnormal operating conditions and disasters jointly with other role players.

- (o) Develop sustainable indicators appropriate for monitoring the effectiveness of Environmental management Systems of Industry.

(8) **DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD**

Control, restriction or prohibition of:

- (a) The business of a undertaker or embalmer, mortuaries and other places or facilities for the storage of dead bodies.
- (b) Regulating, control and prohibition of graves, cemeteries/ crematoria and other facilities for the disposal of dead bodies.
- (c) Manage, control and monitor exhumations and burials or disposals of human remains.

(9) **CHEMICAL SAFETY**

Including:

- (a) Listing all operators, fumigation firms formal or informal, retail premises, which deal with the (manufacturing, application, transport or all of and storage of chemicals).
- (b) Permitting and auditing of premises e.g. Schedule Trade Permit.
- (c) Facilitating pesticides and/or chemical safety advice education and training.

(10) **NOISE CONTROL**

- (a) Assessment of the extent of noise pollution and its effect on human health.
- (b) Facilitate noise control measures.

(c) Measuring of ambient sound levels and noise levels.

(11) **RADIATION AND IONISING AND NON-IONISING MONITORING AND CONTROL**

Including:

(a) Ensuring that ionising and non-ionising sources are registered with the Department of Health.

(b) Ensure the registered ionising and non-ionising sources meet the licence conditions.

(c) Monitor the safe transportation of radio active materials.

(d) Ensuring that radio active sources are licensed at the Nuclear Energy Council (NECSA).

(e) Ensuring that all radiation material waste from hospitals are properly disposed off.

(f) Ensuring safety against any form or sources of electro magnetic radiation.

(12) **PORT HEALTH**

(a) Monitoring, inspecting, sampling, labelling of all imported foodstuffs, cosmetics and disinfectants into the Country at all harbour and border points(land).

(b) Monitoring of all imported foodstuffs, cosmetics, disinfectants where certificate of approval is required.

(c) Sampling of foodstuffs consumed on board all planes and ships.

(d) Monitoring, inspecting and sampling i.e. chemical, bacterial of all maize and wheat imports which occurs throughout the year.

- (e) Continuous Rodent and Vector Control Programme at the airports/harbours.
- (f) Monitoring the import of used pneumatic tyres entering the country for mosquitoes.
The *Aedes albopictus* which is the vector for yellow, Dengue fever including Encephalitis.
- (g) Providing a continuous vaccination programme for sea fares at all ports.
- (h) Monitoring, inspection of all hazardous cargo entering the country.
- (i) Monitoring and prevention of communicable diseases on a 24 hour basis.
- (j) Monitoring of water on board ships – sound for human consumption.
- (k) Monitoring of food garbage/ medical waste for disposal.

(13) **MALARIA CONTROL**

Ensure, develop and implement a Malaria Control Programme for the country. Thus lowering parasite levels in the population and prevent deaths through rapid diagnosis and prompt treatment.

- (a) Ensures a continued active surveillance programme.
- (b) Carryout house to house surveys.
- (c) Ensure that blood smears from local and foreign mosquito populations
- (d) Random blood samples from the population during seasonal changes.
- (e) Epidemiological surveys to look at the extent of transmission, gather data and population of infected people.

(f) Vector Control on an annual basis by application of residual insecticides on interior of walls, roofs, eaves of dwellings in malaria affected areas.

(g) Continuous health education/awareness programme i.e. distribution of pamphlets/campaign etc.

(14) **CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

In terms of control/monitoring the following is undertaken:

(a) Ensure that substances are correctly labelled.

(b) Ensure that all active ingredients are indicated.

(c) Ensure that warning signs are indicated.

(d) Ensuring that precautions are taken during storage/transportation and all protective gear is utilized during handling.

(e) Ensure that all substances are registered with the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs.

(f) To ensure control of substances to prevent injury, ill-health or death by reason of their toxic, corrosive, irritant or flammable nature.

(g) To control the importation, manufacture, sale, operation, application, modification or dumping of such substances.

(h) To undertake licensing and registration of premises.

(i) Inspection of premises to ensure safety, storage, compliance precaution measures, etc.

(j) Ensure that sampling is done according to procedure.

- (k) Ensure that all labelling regulations are complied with.
- (l) Check on all stock records; ensure hazardous substance register is updated.
- (m) Ensure that empty containers are disposed of according to requirements.



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MINISTER OF HEALTH