

Tel office: +264 61 379 501  
Mobile: +264 81 4352718  
Fax office: +264 61 22 5371  
E-mail: Emilie.Abraham@nab.com.na  
Website: www.nab.com.na

Physical address:  
Agricultural Boards' Building  
30 David Hosea Meroro  
Road, Windhoek

Postal address:  
PO Box 5096  
Ausspannplatz  
Windhoek  
Namibia



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## **RULES PERTAINING TO THE ANNUAL LICENCING OF HORTICULTURE TRADERS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Namibian Agronomic Board (NAB) is mandated to promote the agronomic and horticulture industry in Namibia and to facilitate the production, processing, storage, and marketing of agronomic and horticultural products. Section 10 (1) (o) of the Agronomic Industry Act, (Act No. 20 of 1992), empowers the NAB Board to issue permits or licenses concerning the sale of controlled products.

Currently, horticulture traders are only required to comply with the registration requirements at the application for registration as a trader and most of them do not comply with the trading requirements from there onwards. It was also discovered that traders whose import permits are cancelled due to non-compliance normally continue trading in the same premises by sourcing locally and in some cases importing through business associates who qualify to import.

Therefore, this document presents the rules for the implementation of the annual trading license to horticulture traders to address the above-mentioned matters. These rules will ensure that there is consistent compliance with various regulatory requirements such as payment of levies, submission of monthly returns, facility compliance with food safety requirements, and so forth.

### **2. RULES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **2.1 Issuance of the annual trading license**

- i) All new traders are required to meet the existing registration requirements as stipulated in the MSP rules and procedures, before being issued with the horticulture annual trading license.
- ii) The license shall be valid for twelve (12) months and shall be renewed one (1) month in advance, before the expiry date.
- iii) The license issued to a trader is not transferrable and cannot be sold to another person.
- iv) No fees applicable to the issuance of the annual trading license.
- v) Import permits shall only be issued to traders with a valid license and this is to ensure that only licensed traders are allowed to import.
- vi) The license shall only be issued to formal traders, and such traders shall not be allowed to sell horticultural products in the streets.

## **2.2 Annual trading license renewal conditions**

All horticulture traders who are registered with the NAB shall be required to obtain a trading license and must comply with the following:

- (i) Must not have outstanding monthly returns or statutory levies/fees from the previous license period.
- (ii) The facility must pass the basic Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles based on the NAB checklist used during the registration of new traders.
- (iii) The traders must have complied with the eye-catching display of Namibian products in stores and adverts.
- (iv) Must furnish the NAB inspector with the latest good standing from the Social Security Commission and the Ministry of Finance.
- (v) Must submit a twelve (12) months growing programme with the Namibian producers, in the format prescribed by NAB.

## **2.3 Punitive measures for non-compliance**

In accordance with the Agronomic Industry Act, (Act No. 20 of 1992), Section 10 (1) (p) trading without a valid license will result in the closing down of the facility by the NAB Inspectors, until such time when there is full compliance, and no import permit shall be issued to such traders.

In case of non-compliance to the existing rules and procedures regarding the MSP rules and import permit rules, may result in revoking of the trading license for three (3) months or longer, after the third offense and until such time when there is full compliance. Products traded in a facility that is not licensed or without a valid trading license shall be confiscated and donated to a charity organization, at the discretion of the NAB.