



WFSD- Food standards saves lives
NRCS food regulatory framework and
Development of Compulsory Specifications
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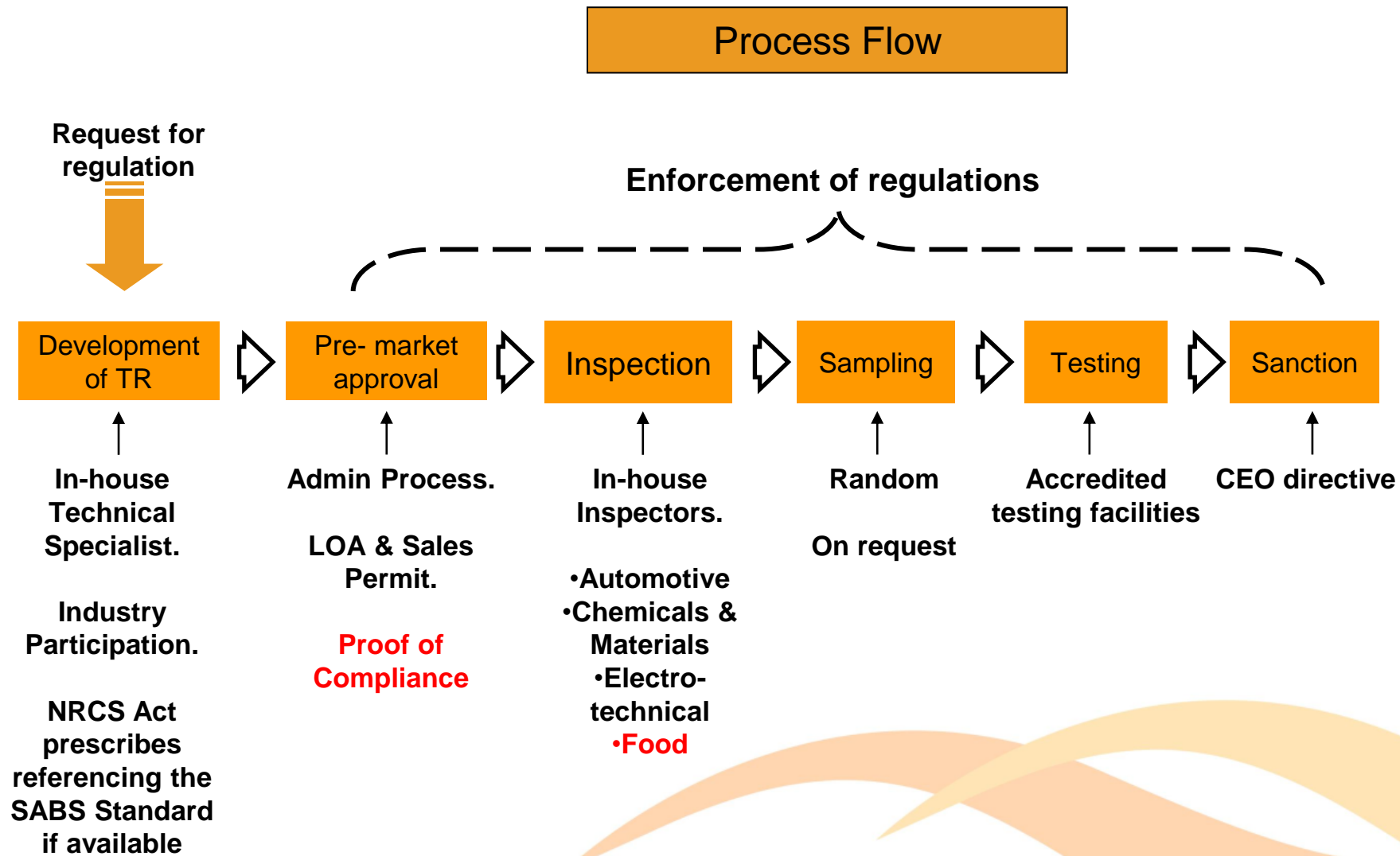
Presentation outline

- Introduction to NRCS
- NRCS regulatory process flow
- NRCS Act - Mandate
- Development of technical regulations & NRCS VCs
- Alignment with international agreements and standards
- FAI inspection program
- Aligning with WFSD key messages

The NRCS

- Public entity
- Reports to the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition
- Administration of Compulsory Specifications (technical regulations)
- Competent authority for fish and fishery products
- Value chain approach - To co-ordinate the for fish and fishery products including aquaculture, NRCS has a MOU with DFFE

NRCS regulatory process flow



NRCS Act (Act No. 5 of 2008)

- Compulsory Specifications mandate:
 - “13. (1) The Minister may, in respect of any commodity, product or service which may affect public safety, health or the environment, by notice in the Gazette (a) declare a SANS or a provision of a SANS to be a compulsory specification...”
- Applicable to products that are IMPORTED, MANUFACTURED, SOLD and/or EXPORTED - must comply with mandatory requirements if within scope of VC
- Technical regulations/ Compulsory Specifications lay down compulsory requirements for
 - Technical requirements: product or service characteristics or their related processes; production methods (may refer to SANS/international standards);
 - Administrative requirements ; and
 - Conformity assessment requirements...

...with which compliance is mandatory – NRCS inspection/enforcement.

Development and approval of technical regulations



Alignment with international agreements and standards

- WTO - SPS Harmonization (**Codex Alimentarius**, IPPC & WAOH)



- Principle: recognized international standards and/or code of practices
 - mainly Codex
 - measures which conform to international standards, guidelines or recommendations shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement.
- Harmonization drives - The NRCS represent South Africa and leads the delegation at the Codex Committee for Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP)
 - Also participates in CCFH (Hygienic practices & HACCP) & CCFICS

NRCS Foods Compulsory Specifications (VCs)

VC nr	Title	Date of gazetting
VC 8019	Compulsory specification for Canned meat products (SANS 1675:2020)	6-Sep-2019
VC 9100	Compulsory specification for processed meat products (SANS 885:2022)	8-Aug-2019
VC 9107	Compulsory specification for aquacultured live and chilled raw bivalve molluscs (SANS 2879:2016 – Reconfirmed)	10-Aug-2018
VC 8014	Compulsory specification for canned fish, canned marine molluscs and canned crustaceans and products derived therefrom (SANS 587:2022 version published)	22-Jun-2018
VC 9104	Compulsory specification for live lobsters (SANS 1680:2020- Reconfirmed)	19-Aug-2016
VC 8017	Compulsory specification for frozen fish, frozen marine molluscs and frozen products derived therefrom (SANS 585:2022)	24-Apr-2015
VC 8031	Compulsory specification for frozen shrimps (prawns), langoustines and crabs (SANS 788:2022)	24-Apr-2015
VC 9001	Compulsory specification for live aquacultured abalone (SANS 729:2018)	15-Jun-2012
VC 8020	Compulsory specification for frozen rock lobster and frozen lobster products derived therefrom (SANS 2074:2019-pending VC amendment)	4-Jul-2003
VC 8021	Compulsory specification for smoked snoek (SANS 2877:2020-pending VC amendment)	22-Mar-1974

FAI Inspection program

- Factory requirements
- Equipment for production
- Pre-requisite requirements (GMP)
- Processing/ product requirements
- Requirements for employees

- Safety and quality product evaluation
- (As per pre-determined schedules and/or sampling plans)
- Sanctioning of non-compliant product

Test methods

- Water/Ice
- Chemical evaluation (As per sampling plans)
- Microbiological evaluation (As per sampling plans)

- Traceability of products
- Legal Metrology requirements
- Labeling requirements (R146 & SANS/VC)

- Food Safety Management System (e.g. HACCP)
- Risks Management throughout the value chain

Accredited Inspection Program

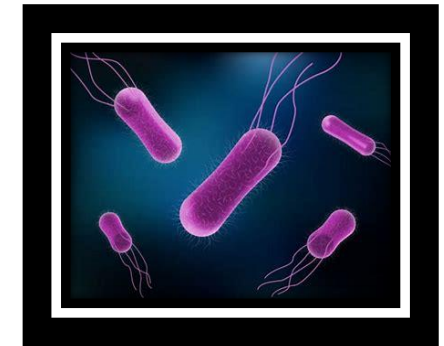
FAI Inspection program-examples

Nature of non-conformances:

- Seam defects and leaking cans, presence of cans with pinholes and other defects



- Microbiological shortcomings



- Contaminants and residue monitoring for fishery products export
 - NRCS (CA) wild species
 - DFFE farmed species
 - e.g. High mercury results
- Parasitical infestation
- Off odours

Testing labs

- NRCS uses external laboratories – mainly Microbiological tests - Check accreditation status at the SANAS Website
- SABS Commercial (Pty) Ltd and private labs
- Contaminants and residue monitoring for fishery products export
 - NRCS (CA) wild species
 - DFFE farmed species
 - additional testing requirements from importing countries



WFSD - Impact on livelihoods and economies

- In facilitating trade within the Oceans Economy, the NRCS issued 7 823 health guarantees for 10 438 products consignments that were exported by local manufacturers to various countries (2021/22 AR)



Thank You

