



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE ANIMAL FEEDS ACT, 2024

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

I SIGNIFY my assent to the bill.

Museveni
.....
President

Date of assent: 14/5/2024.

Act

Animal Feeds Act

2024

THE ANIMAL FEEDS ACT, 2024

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE ANIMAL FEEDS ACT, 2024

An Act to provide for the establishment and composition of the Animal Feeds Committee; to provide for the regulation of the production, importation, storage, exportation and sale of animal feeds; to provide for the packaging and labelling of animal feeds; to provide for animal feeds inspectors and animal feeds analysts; and for related matters.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows—

DATE OF ASSENT:

Date of Commencement:

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Application of Act

(1) This Act shall apply to—

- (a) animal feeds produced or stored for commercial purposes; and
- (b) animal feeds to be imported into Uganda.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, this Act shall not apply to animal feeds produced or stored for consumption by the animals reared for subsistence purposes.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“animals” means cattle, camels, horses, donkeys, sheep, pigs, goats, rabbits, poultry, cats, dogs, guinea pigs, fish, bees, insects, reptiles, birds and any other animal as may be prescribed by the Minister by statutory instrument;

“animal feeds” means any single material or multiple materials, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, whether or not containing animal feeds additives, which are intended to be used for oral feeding to animals;

“animal feeds additive” means a substance intentionally added to animal feeds to have a desired effect on the animal feeds, animals consuming the animal feeds or animal products;

“animal feeds analyst” means a person designated as such under section 29;

“animal feeds inspector” means a person designated as such under section 24;

“Committee” means the Animal Feeds Committee established under section 3;

“body corporate” means an entity incorporated under the laws of Uganda, excluding a natural person;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in the Schedule to this Act;

“established standards” means the standards developed by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards or any other body authorised under the laws of Uganda to set such standards;

“Minister” means the Minister responsible for animal industry;

“Ministry” means the Ministry responsible for animal industry;

“person” means an individual, company, association or body corporate of persons;

“premises” includes any land, building or other place where animal feeds is produced, stored or sold;

“produce” includes formulating, manufacturing, compounding, mixing or constituting animal feeds.

PART II—ANIMAL FEEDS COMMITTEE

3. Establishment and composition of Animal Feeds Committee

(1) There is established a committee to be known as the Animal Feeds Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of the following persons—

- (a) the Commissioner responsible for animal production who shall be the Chairperson of the Committee;
- (b) the Commissioner responsible for extension services;
- (c) the Commissioner responsible for aquaculture;
- (d) the Commissioner responsible for agricultural mechanisation;
- (e) the Commissioner responsible for crop inspection and certification;
- (f) the Commissioner responsible for animal health;
- (g) three animal farmers; and
- (h) the Assistant Commissioner responsible for animal nutrition who shall be the secretary to the Committee.

(3) The members of the Committee under subsection (2) (g) shall be appointed by the Minister and shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one more term.

(4) A member of the Committee under subsection (2) (g) shall vacate office—

- (a) if he or she resigns from the committee; or
- (b) if he or she is removed from office by the Minister for inability to perform the functions of his or her office.

(5) The Committee may co-opt any person with expert knowledge concerning the functions of the Committee to give expert advice to the Committee.

(6) The Committee shall regulate the procedure of its meetings.

(7) The Department responsible for animal production in the Ministry, shall be the Secretariat of the Committee.

4. Functions of Committee

(1) The Committee shall perform the following functions—

- (a) approve premises where the production, storage or sale of animal feeds, as the case may be, is to take place;
- (b) license producers, importers, exporters, persons who store animal feeds and sellers of animal feeds;
- (c) issue sanitary certificates for exports;
- (d) issue import and export permits;
- (e) approve feed quality control laboratories;
- (f) inspect premises where the production, storage or sale, as the case may be, of animal feeds is to take place; and

- (g) perform any other function the Minister may, from time to time, assign to it.
- (2) The secretary to the Committee shall keep the following registers—
- (a) a register of producers of animal feeds;
 - (b) a register of importers of animal feeds;
 - (c) a register of exporters of animal feeds;
 - (d) a register of persons licensed to store animal feeds;
 - (e) a register of sellers of animal feeds; and
 - (f) a register of premises approved for the production, storage or sale of animal feeds.
- (3) The secretary to the Committee shall, in collaboration with local governments, ensure that animal feeds are produced, stored or sold in safe and fit premises as prescribed in this Act

PART III—REGULATION OF PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION,
EXPORTATION, STORAGE AND SALE OF ANIMAL FEEDS

Approval of premises

5. Application for approval of premises

(1) A person shall not store animal feeds in premises, or produce or sell animal feeds from premises, unless the premises are approved by the Committee.

(2) A person who intends to store, produce or sell animal feeds shall apply to the Committee for approval of the premises in which the animal feeds are to be stored or from where the animal feeds are to be sold or produced.

(3) The application under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by proof of payment of fees prescribed by the Minister, by statutory instrument.

(4) The Committee shall, within three months of receipt of the application, consider the application under subsection (2) and if satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of this Act, issue a certificate of approval of the premises.

(5) The certificate of approval of premises issued under subsection (4) shall be specific to the premises approved.

(6) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six years, or both.

6. Display of certificate of approval of premises

The certificate of approval of premises issued under section 5(4), shall be placed in a conspicuous place in the approved premises.

7. Alteration of premises

A person who intends to make alterations to the premises approved under section 5(4) shall, prior to the making of the alterations, apply to the Committee for approval of the alterations of the premises.

8. Suspension of certificate of approval of premises

The Committee may, on the recommendation of an animal feeds inspector, suspend the certificate of approval of premises if—

- (a) the premises, fixtures, equipment or any other physical attributes of the premises are no longer suitable for the purpose for which premises were approved; or
- (b) the certificate holder violates any of the terms or conditions specified in the certificate of approval of premises.

9. Revocation of certificate of approval of premises

(1) The Committee may, on the recommendation of an animal feeds inspector, revoke the certificate of approval of premises.

(2) Where the certificate of approval of premises is revoked, the holder of the certificate shall surrender the certificate to the Committee and the holder of the certificate shall cease to produce, store or sell, as the case may be, animal feeds from the premises.

(3) A person who fails to surrender the certificate of approval of premises under subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction—

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding one hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both; or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points.

*Licensing***10. Licensing production, storage and sale of animal feeds**

(1) A person who intends to produce, store or sell animal feeds shall apply to the Committee for a licence to produce, store or sell animal feeds.

(2) The application under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by proof of payment of fees prescribed by the Minister, by statutory instrument.

(3) The Minister may, by regulations, provide different categories of licences issued under this section.

(4) A person who intends to carry out two or more of the business activities in subsection (1), shall make one application for all the business activities he or she intends to carry out.

(5) The Committee shall, within three months of receipt of the application, consider the application under this section and if satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of this Act, issue a licence for the business activities applied for.

(6) A licence issued under subsection (5) shall be valid for one year, from the date of issue.

(7) A person who produces, stores or sells animal feeds without a valid licence commits an offence and is liable, on conviction—

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, or both; or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points.

11. Renewal of licence

(1) A licensee shall, at least three months before the expiry of the licence, apply for renewal of the licence.

(2) The Committee shall, within one month of receipt of the application, consider the application under subsection (1) and if satisfied that the applicant has complied with the requirements of this Act, renew the licence.

12. Revocation of licence

The Committee may revoke a licence—

- (a) where the licensee violates any of the terms or conditions specified in the licence;
- (b) where the certificate of approval of the premises under which the licensee operates is revoked;
- (c) where the licensee contravenes the requirements for the licence; or

- (d) where the licensee is convicted of any offence under this Act.

Importation and exportation of animal feeds

13. Importation of animal feeds

(1) A person shall not import animal feeds without an import permit issued by the Committee.

(2) A person who intends to import animal feeds shall apply to the Committee for an import permit.

(3) An application under subsection (2) shall—

- (a) be made in a form prescribed by the Minister, by regulations; and
- (b) be accompanied with proof of payment of the application fees prescribed by the Minister, by regulations.

(4) Where there is a change in the circumstances relating to the importation or proposed importation of the animal feeds to which the application is made under this section, the applicant shall inform the Committee of the change within three working days of becoming aware of the change.

(5) The Committee shall, within ten working days of receipt of the application, if satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of this Act, issue an import permit stating the conditions for the import of the animal feeds for which the application is made and specifying the point of entry to be used.

(6) The importer shall present the consignment and accompanying documents to the person responsible for monitoring of veterinary services under the law regulating veterinary practitioners, for inspection at the point of entry.

(7) Where animal feeds are imported from a country that is not the country where the animal feeds were produced, the consignment

shall be accompanied by a sanitary certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of import.

(8) A person who imports animal feeds contrary to this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

14. Exportation of animal feeds

(1) A person shall not export animal feeds without an export permit issued by the Committee.

(2) A person who intends to export animal feeds shall apply to the Committee for an export permit, in the form prescribed by the Minister, by regulations.

(3) The application under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by a sanitary certificate and proof of payment of the application fees prescribed by the Minister, by regulations.

(4) Where there is a change in the circumstances relating to the exportation or proposed exportation of animal feeds to which an application is made under this section, the applicant shall inform the Committee of the change within three working days of becoming aware of the change.

(5) The Committee shall, within ten days of receipt of the application, if satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of this Act, issue an export permit specifying the point of exit to be used for exporting the animal feeds specified in the permit.

(6) A person who exports animal feeds contrary to this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

*Production, packaging, labelling and transportation
of animal feeds*

15. Treatment of bones, blood and other substances derived from animals or carcasses

(1) A person may use bones, blood or other substances derived from an animal or a carcass to make animal feeds.

(2) A person who intends to use bones, blood or other substances derived from an animal or a carcass to make animal feeds shall, treat the bones, blood or other substances derived from an animal or carcass in accordance with regulations made under this Act.

16. Regulated additives

(1) A person who produces animal feeds may use animal feeds additives in the production of animal feeds.

(2) The Minister shall, by regulations, prescribe the animal feeds additives that may be used in the production of animal feeds.

17. Prohibited substances

(1) A person shall not, knowingly, produce, import, export, sell or use animal feeds that contain prohibited substances.

(2) A person shall not, knowingly, use animal feeds that contain prohibited substances.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), prohibited substances include—

- (a) gentian violet;
- (b) propylene glycol in or on cat food;
- (c) separated digestive tract content resulting from the emptying or removal of digestive tract, irrespective of any form of treatment or mixture;

- (d) hide treated with tanning substances, including waste from the hide treated with tanning substances;
- (e) seeds and other plant propagating materials which have undergone specific treatment with plant protection products or any by-products derived from such seeds and plant propagating materials;
- (f) sand, stones, wood, including saw dust, wood shavings or other materials derived from wood;
- (g) domestic and industrial waste water irrespective of any further processing of such waste water;
- (h) human drugs; and
- (i) any other product as the Minister may prescribe by regulations.

(4) A person who produces, imports, exports, sells or uses animal feeds that contain prohibited substances commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding seven hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding seven years, or both.

(5) In addition to the penalty provided under subsection (3), court may order for the destruction of the animal feeds that contain prohibited substances, at the expense of the producer, importer, exporter, seller or user of the animal feeds.

18. Use of veterinary drugs and hormones

(1) A person shall not import, produce or package animal feeds which contain veterinary drugs or hormones, without the approval of the National Drugs Authority.

(2) The Minister shall, in consultation with the National Drug Authority, prescribe by regulations, the safety measures for the

importation, production or packaging of animal feeds which contains veterinary drugs or hormones.

(3) The animal feeds that is authorised to contain veterinary drugs shall be labelled with the following—

- (a) the name of the veterinary drug;
- (b) the type and age or production group of the animal for which the animal feeds is intended;
- (c) the percentage of the veterinary drug in the animal feeds;
- (d) the directions for feeding;
- (e) a caution that the animal feeds is to be used under the direction of a licensed veterinarian;
- (f) any warning against the use of the animal feeds and situations in which use of the animal feeds may be dangerous to humans or animal health; and
- (g) the withdrawal period.

(4) A person who imports, produces or packages animal feeds which contain veterinary drugs or hormones contrary to this section commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

(5) In addition to the penalty provided under subsection (4), court may order for the destruction of the animal feeds that contains veterinary drugs or hormones, at the expense of the importer, producer or a person who packages the animal feeds.

(6) For purposes of this section—

- (i) “hormones” means chemicals synthesized and produced by the specialized glands to control and regulate the activity of certain cells and organs; and

- (ii) “veterinary drugs” means substances or compounds including medicinal products, vaccines, bio-preparations, micro-organisms and chemicals that are permitted for use in animals for prevention, treatment, diagnosis, rehabilitation, or improvement of growth and reproductive functions of animals.

19. Animal feeds quality control laboratory

- (1) A person who intends to produce animal feeds shall—
 - (a) establish and maintain a feed quality control laboratory approved by the Committee; or
 - (b) have proof of access to a feed quality control laboratory approved by the Committee.
- (2) A person referred to in subsection (1), shall—
 - (a) periodically submit samples of every batch of animal feeds produced by his or her production unit to a feed quality control laboratory approved by the Committee for testing for conformity to the established standards; and
 - (b) retain the services of an animal nutritionist who shall be responsible for adherence to established standards.
- (3) The animal nutritionist referred to in subsection (2), shall issue a certificate of analysis for each batch of animal feeds before it is released for sale.
- (4) A producer of animal feeds under this section shall keep a record of the nutrient composition of each batch of animal feeds, by category, as the Minister may prescribe by regulations.
- (5) The Minister shall publish, in the Gazette and in a newspaper of nationwide circulation, the list of the approved analytical laboratories.

20. Packaging

(1) A person who produces, imports, exports or sells animal feeds that is required to be sold in a package shall use a package that is—

- (a) strong and has a seal to withstand reasonable handling;
- (b) tamper proof;
- (c) leak proof; and
- (d) clean and was not used previously.

(2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

21. Tampering with package

(1) A person shall not tamper with a package of animal feeds.

(2) A person who tampers with a package of animal feeds commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

22. Labelling

(1) A person who intends to import, export or sell animal feeds shall import, export or sell animal feeds in a package that is labelled.

- (2) The label on a package shall indicate—
- (a) the species of animals for which the animal feeds is intended;
 - (b) the constituents and proportional percentages of the ingredients;
 - (c) the additives, if any;

- (d) the production, manufacture and expiry date; and
- (e) any other information as the Minister may prescribe by regulations.

(3) A person who imports, exports or sells animal feeds in a package without a label or with a label that is misleading, false, misrepresenting or deceptive commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

(4) In addition to the penalty prescribed in subsection (3), court may order the recall, seizure or forfeiture of the animal feeds.

(5) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, make regulations prescribing the procedure for the handling of animal feeds recalled, seized or forfeited under subsection (4).

23. Transportation

A person who transports animal feeds shall use means of transport that secures the animal feeds from exposure to damage or contamination.

PART IV—ANIMAL FEEDS INSPECTORS AND ANIMAL FEEDS ANALYSTS

24. Animal feeds inspectors

(1) For purposes of this Act, the Minister shall, in consultation with the Committee, designate qualified persons as animal feeds inspectors.

(2) The Minister shall publish in the Gazette and in a newspaper of nationwide circulation, the names of the animal feeds inspectors designated under subsection (1).

(3) A producer, importer, exporter or seller of animal feeds or animal products shall not be eligible for designation as an animal feeds inspector under subsection (1).

(4) The Minister may, by regulations, prescribe the qualification of the animal feeds inspector.

25. Functions of animal feeds inspectors

(1) An animal feeds inspector shall perform the following functions—

- (a) inspect premises approved for the production, storage or sale of animal feeds under this Act to verify compliance with the conditions of approval and standards as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act;
- (b) monitor the quality of any animal feeds produced, stored or sold; and
- (c) inspect animal feeds produced, stored, imported or sold to ascertain the compliance with the established standards.

(2) An animal feeds inspector shall inspect any vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance used to transport animal feeds and require a person in charge or in control of the means of conveyance to restrain from moving the means of conveyance until the animal feeds being transported or the vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance is inspected.

26. Powers of animal feeds inspectors

(1) An animal feeds inspector may, in the performance of his or her functions—

- (a) enter any premises where animal feeds are produced, stored or sold, as the case may be, and if satisfied that there is a contravention of this Act—
 - (i) close and seal the premises, where the animal feeds inspector determines that the animal feeds are exposed to the risk of contamination;
 - (ii) seize and retain animal feeds which appear to the animal feeds inspector to be unfit for the intended purpose;

- (iii) take a sample of animal feeds or any substance capable of being used in the preparation of animal feeds for analysis and testing to determine the conformity of the animal feeds to the established standards; or
 - (iv) seize any books, records or documents found in or upon such premises or place used in production, importation, exportation or sale of animal feeds;
 - (b) refuse the entry into Uganda or the exit from Uganda, of any animal feeds, where the importation or exportation of the animal feeds is in contravention of this Act;
 - (c) enter any vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance where the animal feeds are being transported and, if satisfied that there is a contravention of this Act—
 - (i) seize and retain the vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance, where the animal feeds are transported contrary to the requirements of this Act;
 - (ii) seize and retain any animal feeds which appears to the animal feeds inspector to be unfit for the intended purpose or which is exposed to the risk of contamination;
 - (iii) take a sample of animal feeds for analysis and testing in an approved laboratory to determine the conformity of the animal feeds to the established standards; or
 - (iv) seize any books, records or documents found in or upon the vehicle, vessel, container or any other means of conveyance;
 - (d) recommend to the Committee the recall of any animal feeds that are not fit for consumption; or

- (e) require any person to furnish any information in his or her possession as to the activities carried on, on the premises or vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance and the person by whom the activities are carried on or the purposes for which the premise or vehicle, vessel, container or any other means of conveyance is used.

(2) An animal feeds inspector shall, exercise his or her powers under subsection (1) in the presence of the owner, or person in charge, of the premises, vehicle, vessel, container or other means of conveyance and shall be accompanied by a police officer.

(3) In exercising his or her power under the Act, an animal feeds inspector shall identify himself or herself with a valid identification document issued for the purpose.

(4) Where the animal feeds inspector is satisfied that the animal feeds examined are unfit for animal consumption, the inspector shall apply to court for destruction of the animal feeds.

(5) Where the court orders for destruction of the animal feeds in subsection (4), the cost of destruction shall be borne by the producer, importer, exporter or seller, as the case may be.

27. Obstructing or misleading animal feeds inspectors

Any person who—

- (a) willfully delays, obstructs, hinders, deceives or misleads an animal feeds inspector in the exercise of his or her powers or in the performance of his or her functions under this Act;
- (b) knowingly issues or maintains any false or misleading records, statement, documents, declarations to an animal feeds inspector; or

(c) tampers with a sample,
commits an offence and is liable, on conviction to a fine not exceeding three hundred and fifty currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding seven years, or both.

28. Prohibition of sale of animal feeds that do not comply with established standards

(1) A person shall not produce, import, export or sell animal feeds which do not comply with the established standards.

(2) A person who reasonably believes that the animal feeds being sold do not comply with the established standards may file a complaint to the animal feeds inspector.

(3) A person who produces, imports, exports or sells animal feeds that do not comply with the established standards commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years, or both.

29. Animal feeds analysts

(1) The Minister may, on the advice of the Committee and by notice in the Gazette, designate an officer of the Ministry or from any other accredited institution as an animal feeds analyst.

(2) The Minister shall, by statutory instrument, prescribe the qualifications of animal feeds analysts.

30. Functions of animal feeds analysts

(1) An animal feeds analyst shall—

(a) analyse samples of any animal feeds, as he or she may be requested to do so;

(b) issue a laboratory report for the analysis, as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act; and

(c) perform any other functions as the Committee may prescribe.

(2) A person shall not tamper with the results of an analysis carried out by an animal feeds analyst.

(3) A person who tampers with the results of an analysis commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding ten years, or both.

31. Animal feeds analysis report

(1) The animal feeds analysis report issued under section 30(1) (b) shall state the methods of analysis followed and the results of the analysis and shall be signed by the animal feeds analyst and countersigned by the head of the laboratory where the analysis is carried out.

(2) An animal feeds analysis report that complies with subsection (1) shall be conclusive evidence of the quality of the animal feeds analysed.

(3) The animal feeds analysis report issued under section 30 shall not be used for advertising the animal feeds for which the report is made.

(4) A person who uses an animal feeds analysis report for advertising the animal feeds or, who alters or fraudulently uses an animal feeds analysis report commits an offence and, is liable, on conviction—

(a) in the case of an individual, to a fine not exceeding one hundred currency points or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both; or

(b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points.

PART V—MISCELLANEOUS

32. Protection from liability

A person exercising powers under this Act shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage resulting from any act or omission done in good faith in the exercise of any powers or functions or in discharging any duty under this Act.

33. Appeal

(1) A person aggrieved by the decision of the Committee made under this Act may appeal to the Minister, in writing, within thirty days from the date of the decision.

(2) The Minister shall make a decision on the matter referred to him or her, and shall communicate the decision to the person who made the appeal, within ten working days of receipt of the appeal under subsection (1).

34. Power to amend Schedule

The Minister may, with the approval of Cabinet, by statutory instrument, amend the Schedule to this Act.

35. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, by statutory instrument, make regulations for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) Without limiting the general effect of subsection (1), the Minister may make regulations prescribing—

- (a) the requirements for application for approval of premises or licences under this Act;
- (b) the requirements for application of import and export permits;
- (c) the requirements for application of sanitary certificate;