

Sagis to report on manufacturing, import and export of **oilseeds products**

By Nico Hawkins

Market participants need information for efficient and effective functioning in the marketplace. It is also necessary to promote the viability and international competitiveness of the industry as well as the broader agricultural sector at policy level.

Statutory measures

In a bid to enable the oilseeds industry to improve market access for all market participants, and to assist in promoting the effective marketing of oilseeds products, stakeholders in the oilseeds industry have requested for statutory measures to be implemented.

On 23 September 2016, statutory measures, in the form of the *Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996* (Act 47 of 1996), were announced by the minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It became compulsory for manufacturers, as well as importers and exporters of oilseeds products, to register with the South African Grain Information Service (Sagis). On 14 October 2016, it also became compulsory for these manufacturers, importers and exporters to supply information regarding the production of oilseeds products to Sagis on a monthly basis.

Sagis was established in 1997 with the aim of registering market participants

and to gather, process and distribute various data and information on grain and oilseeds. Reporting on products in the oilseeds industry is a further extension of services the organisation renders to the agricultural market.

Sagis is proud to be recognised internationally for the release of timely reliable information. The organisation is used as a benchmark for other countries to develop similar systems. Sagis prides itself on the fact that over its 19 years of existence, no confidential information has been leaked and no legal action has had to be taken against any co-worker for failure to submit information.

Registration process

Oils obtained from coconut, palm, soya bean, groundnut, sunflower, rapeseed, canola, maize and cottonseed, blends or mixes of oils which include one of the above oils, are included in the new statutory measures. Oilcake, cottonseed, sunflower seed, coconut, palm nut and soya bean, biodiesel, flours and meals of soya bean, full-fat soya, peanut butter and paste, as well as textured vegetable protein (TCP) all have to be reported.

All processors of oilseeds (canola, soya beans, sunflower seed and groundnuts) in South Africa who are currently supplying Sagis with information regarding the processing, import and export of raw materials are obliged to reregister to

comply with the new statutory measures. All manufacturers, importers and exporters of abovementioned products currently not registered with the body, should also register.

The application form for registration is available from the Sagis website. The application can be completed electronically or in writing by an authorised person and returned to Sagis accompanied by the corroborating documentation as specified in the application form.

Once a co-worker is registered, a registration certificate will be issued. Such a certificate will only expire when it is cancelled by Sagis or when this statutory measure is revoked.

Submitting returns

Co-workers will be able to submit their returns in three ways. The first will be electronically, where each will receive his own username and password. Information can then be completed online and submitted. The second option will be completing the return on an Excel spreadsheet after which it can be sent to Sagis by email. The third option is when the return is completed by hand and then faxed or posted to the organisation.

The organisation's major challenge since the promulgation of the legislation is to get the logistics for this new extension of services in place. Further upgrades to the current system have had to be undertaken to enable the organisation to receive and process data received from co-workers.

Once the system development has been completed, Sagis will communicate further with all role-players on issues such as a commencement date for returns to be submitted, procedures of completing such return forms, training provided to co-workers on the system where necessary, etc.

The newly announced statutory measures are available on the Sagis website www.sagis.org.za. Enquiries can be directed to info@sagis.org.za or 012 941 2050. 

