



Karoo Meat of Origin Programme Manual

SPECIAL DISPENSATION FOR DROUGHT STRICKEN DISTRICTS IN THE KAROO

Relaxation of certain standards for producers and abattoirs

Effective 11 October 2019

Preamble

The Karoo region of South Africa is in the midst of one of the worst droughts in decades. This crisis impacts on animals, humans and the ecology of the region in a dramatic way. To sustain provision of Karoo Lamb during these severe conditions, farmers are trying to maintain a free-range approach to their stock which may not be sustainable for veld and ecology in the long run.

As one of the founding principles of the Karoo Meat of Origin is the sustainability of human, animal and ecological interaction, a special drought dispensation needed to be introduced to prevent long run disaster for nature and farmers alike.

Dispensation

This deviation from the Karoo Lamb farm production standard only applies when the grazing conditions in the Karoo region as measured by the twelve-month standardized precipitation index (SPI) is determined to have reached a value of -1.5 or less. This must be supported by a long-term vegetation condition index" (VCI) as determined by the DALRRD where values must be between 0 and 45 over at least 50% of the designated area. As of October 2019 these vales have far been exceeded.

The relaxation of certain standards to the programme manual (Version 5) are listed below.

Changes to Producer Standard (Farm Programme) (changes in red)

The relaxation of standards will now allow supplementary feeding in the veld and allow animals to be finished-off in a feedlot for maximum of between 30 and 42 days before marketing. The relaxation is allowed subject to a secondary requirement that sheep must spend a minimum of 75% of its life with unrestricted access to the veldt. The prescriptions regarding the type of feed allowed in the current standards remain the same.

The changes to the specific clauses are listed below:

Clause 5.2: Free range

Objectives	Establish that the livestock has been produced in a free range environment.
Conformance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farms/Producers need to demonstrate that livestock is reared in a free range environment with access to natural grazing typical of Karoo Region and have access to supplementary feed and clean drinking water. Drinking troughs and watering places must be regularly inspected and maintained. They should be easily accessible to livestock without posing any risk of injury. Drinking troughs must be cleaned on a regular basis to eliminate the growth of algae and the deposit of waste feed and other contaminants.
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering places/drinking troughs are not inspected on a regular basis.
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watering places are not accessible to livestock and can cause injury. Sick or Injured livestock which has been kept in isolation is transported to the abattoir and sold as KMOO.
Critical Auto fail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following conditions will automatically not qualify as KMOO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock which has been reared or finished off in a feedlot for more than 20% of their normal lifespan. Livestock which has been reared or finished off on cultivated or planted pastures.

Clause 5.4.2: Supplementary feeding

Objectives	Supplementary feeding is controlled, recorded and meets the requirements of the programme
Conformance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineral and salt licks may be provided to livestock. The following restrictions are applicable to supplementary feeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grazing conditions have deteriorated during drought or adverse weather conditions or fires and can no longer sustain the health of the animals, provided that livestock still has access to a free range environment and clean drinking water. To improve the condition of animals during these adverse conditions livestock may be fed in the veld and may be finished off in a feed lot for a maximum of 30 days. Injured or sick animals may be provided with supplementary feeding, and must be removed from the KMOO program. Records must be kept of all supplementary feeds and quantities. The composition of home mixes must be recorded, and records must be accessible. Material data sheets/Technical Data Sheets or Labels must be retained as record.

Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated instances where records are not maintained relating to supplementary feeds. Isolated instances where Material Data Sheets, or Technical Data Sheets or Labels of feeds have not been retained.
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerous instances where records are not maintained relating to supplementary feeds. Numerous instances where Material Data Sheets, or Technical Data Sheets or Labels of feeds have not been retained.
Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementary feeding is used to replace natural grazing completely. Livestock have not spent at least 80% of their life with access to a free range environment when receiving supplementary feeding, rounding off period exceeds 30 days.

Changes to Abattoir Standard (Farm Programme) (changes in red)

In order to make these concessions to the strict Karoo producer protocol work and ensure that the integrity of the scheme is maintained, abattoirs should maintain a high degree of diligence to their supplier management and purchasing procedures prevent the concessions from abuse. It is proposed that abattoirs should require from farmers to log the date of commencement of finishing off so that the period of intensive feeding could be verified at the day of slaughter. A simple list that is used as a control sheet (date, farm, number of slaughter stock) should be kept and verified at the point of slaughter.

The concessions in respect of Clause 5.2 of the abattoir standard are the following:

Clause 5.2: Supplier management and purchasing

Objectives	Livestock is sourced from KMOO listed farms.
Conformance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organization has proof of purchase from an approved KMOO farm/produce as listed in the MOOK database and has been allocated a KMOO certification number. Declaration of health, origin and compliance has been received with each batch of livestock. Declaration of compliance must indicate if livestock has been finished-off in a feedlot for <u>not</u> more than 30 days.

Proposed and approved by:

MEAT OF ORIGIN KAROO NPO at its Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2019

J F Kirsten – Chairman
29 October 2019