



Alien and Invasive Species

How much do you know?

Alien invasive species are plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are exotic, non-indigenous or non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health. They spread aggressively, and which threaten indigenous ecosystem functioning and biodiversity. Invasive species are controlled by the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) Act 10 of 2004 – Alien and invasive Species (AIS) regulations, which were gazetted on 1 August 2014 and became law on 1 October 2014.

What is in the Regulations?

The AIS Regulations list 4 different categories of invasive species that must be managed, controlled or eradicated from areas where they may cause harm to the environment, or that are prohibited to be brought into South Africa. A total of 559 alien species are listed as invasive in four different categories of the regulations. A list of Alien Invasive Species was published and the list can be found at <http://www.invasives.org.za/legislation.html>.

Four categories of invasive species:

Category 1a: Invasive species which must be combatted and eradicated. Any form of trade or planting is strictly prohibited.

Category 1b: Invasive species which must be controlled and where possible, removed and destroyed. Any form or trade or planting is strictly prohibited.

Category 2: Invasive species, or species deemed to be potentially invasive, in which a permit is required to carry out a restricted activity. Category 2 species include commercially import species such as pine, wattle and gum trees.

Category 3: Invasive species which may remain in prescribed areas or provinces. Further planting, propagation or trade, is however prohibited.

Permits information: Category 2 invasive species

Permits are required to carry out certain restricted activities with Category 2 listed plants and animals species.

Download permit applications from:

www.environment.gov.za – Search AIS Permit Application form
www.invasive.org.za – Search Permit Application form

Cost of Permits to be paid for applications of permits:

Import into the Republic - R200. All restricted activities - R100.
Renewal of permit - R50. Appeals - R50.

Permit application can be submitted through the following methods:

By Hand Delivery - Biosecurity Services, Department of Environmental Affairs, 1st Floor, 14 Loop Street, Cape Town, 8000.

By Post - Biosecurity Services, Department of Environmental Affairs, Private Bag X4390, Cape Town, 8000

By Email - AISpermit@environment.gov.za

By Fax - 086 604 408

Category 2: Mallard duck



Category 2: Iguana iguana



Category 2: Castor-oil plant



Category 2: Leucaena



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