

Alien and Invasive Species

How much do you know?

Alien Invasive Species (AIS) 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. In South Africa, AIS are regulated through the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and its associated 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 biodiversity, human health, agriculture and economy.

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

A permit is required to carry out restricted activities with Category 2 listed invasive species.

Download permit applications from:
www.environment.gov.za – Search AIS Permit Application form

Fees to be paid when applying for a permit:

- Importing into the country - R200
- All restricted activities - R100
- Renewal of permit - R50
- Appeals - R50

For more information or to notify the department of the occurrence of listed invasive species on your land:

E-mail – AIScompliance@environment.gov.za
Tel – (012) 3999679 or (021)4412816/2789

Permit applications can be submitted by:

Hand Delivery – Issuing Authority: Biosecurity Directorate; 14 Loop Street (4th Floor); Department of Environmental Affairs; Cape Town; 8001.

Post – Issuing Authority: Biosecurity Directorate; Private Bag X 4390; Department of Environmental Affairs; Cape Town; 8000

E-mail – AISpermits@environment.gov.za

Fax – 086 604 4080

Telephone - 021 441 2812/2748/2717/2726



Burmese Python



Silver carp



Coypu



Water lettuce

Call centre: +27 86 111 2468

Website: www.environment.gov.za



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