



Implementing Regulations of the Agriculture Law



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Part 1: Definitions

Article 1

For the purposes of implementing these Regulations, the words and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise:

Law: Agriculture Law.

Kingdom: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Ministry: Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

Minister: Minister of Environment, Water, and Agriculture.

SFDA: Saudi Food and Drug Authority.

Regulations: Implementing Regulations of the Law.

Review Committee: A committee, or more, to consider and decide on any violations of the provisions of the Law, its Regulations and the license, as provided for in Article 26(2) of the Law.

Agricultural Sector: The sector concerned with plant, animal, and living aquatic resources.

Agricultural Activity: Agricultural sector activities, including farming, breeding, production, or fishing.

Agricultural Facility: Any facility related to the agricultural sector, including farms, nurseries, apiaries, product safety certification agencies, shops, warehouses, production projects, fishing ports, public markets, slaughterhouses, quarries, and any other facility specified in these Regulations.

Veterinary Facility: Any veterinary-related facility, including hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, laboratories, artificial insemination centers, animal supplies warehouses, and any other facility specified in these Regulations.

Wildlife Organisms: Any living or dead organism that is scientifically classified as an animal or plant, with the exception of humans and domesticated and tame organisms.

Plant Resources: All types of plants, fruits, crops, agricultural products, and the like, excluding those classified as wildlife organisms.

Animal Resources: All types of domesticated and tame animals, such as camels, horses, cows, sheep, birds, bees, and the like, excluding animals classified as wildlife organisms.

Abandoned Animal Resources: Animal resources with a known owner roaming freely outside a facility without restriction, supervision, care or attention by their owner, probably due to negligence or on purpose.

Poultry: Domesticated birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons, quails, and the like.

Living Aquatic Resources: All types of animals and plants that live in water, excluding plants and animals classified as wildlife organisms.

Agricultural Sector Products: Raw products of plant resources, excluding feed ready for consumption, as well as raw products of animal resources and living aquatic resources, including wildlife organisms.

Production Inputs: Fertilizers, soil conditioners, pesticides, and the like.

Agricultural Services: Services related to the agricultural sector, including extension services; marketing; organizing exhibitions, competitions, and events; certifying the safety of agricultural products and practices; quarantine; prevention and treatment; care and sheltering; transportation; and any other related services specified in the Regulations.

Agricultural Practitioner: A natural or legal person who engages in any agricultural activity or service.

Agricultural Registration: An official document issued by the Ministry that contains data and information related to the agricultural practitioner, the activity or service he engages in, and the location and area of said activity as well as any other relevant data and information.

Initial Permit: An initial approval by the Ministry to obtain official approvals and

documents required for issuing a license.

Endorsement: A paper or electronic document issued by the Ministry for an agricultural sector transaction to support the request of a beneficiary of any of the Ministry's services provided by another agency.

Approval: A paper or electronic document the Ministry issues to approve a specific activity not requiring a license, or in preparation for license issuance.

Permit: A one-time authorization issued by the Ministry for temporary operations related to specific types of agricultural activity.

License: An authorization issued by the Ministry for engaging in an agricultural activity or for providing an agricultural service or certification.

Construction License: An authorization issued by the Ministry to enable a service provider/agricultural practitioner to start implementing the activities of an agricultural or veterinary facility and provide necessary equipment for operation, but not start operating the project or veterinary facility.

Operational License: An authorization issued by the Ministry to enable a service provider/agricultural practitioner to operate an agricultural or veterinary facility, or to start actual production or operation; the term of such license shall be determined pursuant to the life span of the activity offered by the project or facility, or at the discretion of the Ministry, as the case may be.

Clearance: Issuing a decision to approve or not approve the entry or exit of consignments through customs ports upon satisfying importation or exportation requirements, in accordance with the Ministry's requirements, laws and regulations.

Veterinary Preparations: Vaccines; serums; medicines; viruses; or live, weakened, or killed microbes that are used in the treatment and protection of animals.

Clubs: Entities concerned with any of the agricultural sector resources, such as animal and bird clubs, as well as any other entity specified in these Regulations.

Public Markets: Sites where agricultural practitioners are permitted to wholesale agricultural sector products by auction or direct sale; this shall not include retail sales.

Product Label: An identification label that includes data and information relating to the source of the agricultural product and number of the agricultural registration or

license, and the like.

Service Provider: Companies, institutions, societies, or individuals licensed by the Ministry to provide an agricultural service in accordance with the Law and its Regulations.

Agricultural Certification: An activity carried out by the Ministry or by an agricultural certification agency to certify that the agricultural sector products or practices conform to the requirements and standards set by the Ministry.

Agricultural Certification Agency: An agency licensed by the Ministry that specializes in agricultural certification.

Certificate: A document issued by the Ministry, service provider, or agricultural certification agency indicating the extent to which good agricultural practices, as well as agricultural activities, services, and products conform to the requirements and standards set by the Ministry.

Good Agricultural Practices: Product quality standards which include pre-sowing processes up to off-farm delivery of products.

Biosecurity: A set of preventive measures to be taken in agricultural facilities to limit the transmission of pathogens to or from such facilities.

Organic Farming: An agricultural technique that uses natural materials for food production.

Organic Farming Activity: The process of producing, manufacturing, marketing, importing, or exporting organic inputs or products.

Organic Product: A fresh or processed organic plant or animal product.

Facility Owner: An owner of a facility, or any person who disposes of or holds the same whether on a temporary or permanent basis, pursuant to a license issued by the Ministry.

Agricultural Cooperatives: Any cooperative society formed by individuals in accordance with the Cooperative Societies Law, to improve the socioeconomic status of its members who are agricultural sector farmers whether in production, consumption, marketing or services, by integrating members' efforts based on cooperative principles; these shall not include non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Agricultural NGOs: Any non-profit group that is legally established for a definite or indefinite period pursuant to the Law of Civil Society Associations and Organizations, composed of natural or legal persons, or both, and operates in the agricultural sector; this shall not include cooperative societies.

Marketing Service Centers: Facilities licensed by the Ministry or the service provider to carry out sorting, grading, classification, and packaging of fresh agricultural products intended for local marketing or exportation purposes.

National Classification of Economic Activities: A standard guide describing economic activities for each economic sector and activity in all countries, within a unified classification and code, derived from the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC).

Beekeeper: A person who breeds and takes care of a collection of bee colonies.

Beekeeping: Engaging in the activity of taking care of bee colonies and using them for producing bee products, bee propagation, and swarming, or for crop pollination.

Beekeeping Tools: Tools used by a beekeeper inside or outside beehives to help carry out various beekeeping operations.

Natural Reserves: A state-owned area of land or sea that enjoys special protection for wildlife therein.

Feed: Materials prepared for feeding animals, whether they are a single substance; mixed, manufactured, semi-manufactured, or raw materials; or any substance used in manufacturing, preparing, or processing feed, whether derived from authorized plant or animal sources, or from aquatic life.

Inland Marine Waters: The waters lying between the Kingdom's mainland and the baseline from which the breadth of territorial sea is measured.

Territorial Sea: A belt of coastal waters extending 12 nautical miles seaward from the baseline.

Contiguous Zone: The area extending for 12 nautical miles from the outer boundary of the territorial sea.

Exclusive Economic Zone: The area directly located beyond the Kingdom's territorial sea and the contiguous zone, and extending to the maritime borders with neighboring

and opposite countries to the Kingdom.

Coastal Zone: The strip (area) along which the land meets the water body adjacent thereto.

High Seas: The areas of oceans outside the jurisdiction of any country that generally begin 200 nautical miles from the coastline of contiguous countries.

Fishing Tools: Tools used to catch, collect, and extract living aquatic resources.

Fishing Vessel: Any floating facility used for the purposes of extracting aquatic life, regardless of its purpose or how it is propelled.

Excursion Vessel: Any vessel used for the purposes of a private excursion, rental, or investment.

Vessel Owner: Any person who equips a marine vessel for his own account whether as an owner, charterer, or investor thereof.

Vessel Captain: Any licensed person in charge of operating and commanding a marine vessel and the safety thereof.

Vessel: Any floating craft in the sea that is used in accordance with the international laws in force, and that is subject to the Vessels Registration Law.

Harbor: A place prepared for the berthing of marine and fishing vessels for shelter and landing of fish, including repair and maintenance operations for fishing vessels. It also includes entry channels, lanes, docks, anchorages, seamarks, and the designated land area connected to the harbor and all its facilities.

Harbor Facilities: Supplies and equipment associated with harbor activities.

Harbor Master: An employee in charge of supervising day-to-day harbor management.

Catches: Quantities of living aquatic resources extracted by way of fishing.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU Fishing): Engaging in any illegal fishing activity in a manner that is inconsistent with the provisions of these Regulations, and of the International Fisheries Conservation and Management laws and regulations.

Living Aquatic Resources Products: Types of marine life, including products and

processed items thereof, as well as products of the different stages of their life cycle, such as eggs, larvae, and fingerlings.

Abandoned Marine Vessel: Any marine vessel that is not used in an activity, is out of work, or abandoned (left) at the harbor by its owner, Chandler, or Captain.

Non-fishing Vessels: Any transport vessel and floating unit used to engage in and practice marine activities other than fishing.

Fishing or Aquaculture Sector Investor: Any natural or legal person who invests in fishing living aquatic resources or aquaculture upon obtaining a license from the Ministry.

Artisanal Fisherman: A person who fishes for living aquatic resources on his own fishing vessel.

Angler: A person who fishes for living aquatic resources, using a fish hook or line, whether on foot, or on board a cruise vessel, for a non-commercial purpose.

Sailor: Any person authorized by the Ministry or the service provider to engage in fishing for living aquatic resources on fishing vessels owned by others.

Fishing Worker: Any person authorized by the Ministry or the service provider to engage in fishing for living aquatic resources on fishing vessels.

Fisherman: Any person authorized by the Ministry or the service provider to catch fish or other types of marine life in marine waters, as a profession or hobby, be he an artisanal or investor fisherman, angler, sailor, fishing worker or others.

Fishing License: An official document issued by the Ministry to any person who intends to work as an investor or artisanal fisherman, angler, sailor or fishing worker, provided that he meets the requirements for issuance thereof; said license shall indicate his category.

Fisherman's Record: An official document issued by the Ministry or the service provider to an investor and artisanal fisherman, in order to list his fishing vessels, number of fishing workers thereon, fishing equipment and tools in use, and violations imposed on him.

Aquaculture: A set of practices aimed at breeding and propagating living aquatic organisms in a specific water space that can be controlled, pursuant to the controls and

standards set by the Ministry.

Quality Control Certificate: A certificate given by the Ministry to any licensee who implements the provisions of these Regulations.

Inland Aquaculture: Practices relating to the propagation, care and breeding of marine life on inland agricultural holdings.

Environmental Impact of Aquaculture Project: The process of assessing the potential biological impacts of an aquaculture project on its surroundings.

Closed Aquaculture Systems: A system that relies on the closed containment of water in a recycling manner after mechanical and biological treatment thereof.

Open Aquaculture Systems: A system that relies on open ponds in which water is partially changed as per the water quality standards.

Floating Cages (for Aquaculture): A production aquaculture system consisting of a net structure, anchors and buoys in a round or square shape, and can be installed in the sea or any water area of suitable depth.

Committee for Deciding on Applications for Aquaculture Projects: A specialized committee at the Ministry to decide on applications for aquaculture projects in the Kingdom.

Contaminant: Any solid, liquid, or gaseous substance, smokes, vapors, emissions, noise, light, or any other natural or human influence that leads, directly or indirectly, to environmental pollution or degradation.

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP): A system composed of a series of technical steps to identify and evaluate contamination risks in order to ensure product safety and quality.

Disinfection: Discarding harmful substances and pathogens in agricultural and veterinary facilities, and avoiding any impact on the health and safety of living organisms therein.

Poultry Farmer: A traditional breeder of any type of poultry.

Animal Owner: A person who owns or controls an animal.

Animal Wildlife Organisms: Any living or dead organism that is scientifically classified as an animal, with the exception of humans and animal resources.

Tame Animals: Types of animal resources which are acquired in private holdings such as, dogs and cats, which are permitted to be sold and acquired by the competent agencies.

Genetic Resources of Local Animal Breeds: Local breeds included within agricultural sector resources that historically and scientifically belong to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Animal Resources Products: Any raw product from an animal source such as meat, milk, eggs, honey, hair, wool, leather, fur, feathers, and the like.

Animal Waste: All inedible animal parts, including blood, horns, hooves, feathers, dung, bones and their powder, fish fins, dead animals, aborted fetuses, and the like.

Feed Additives: Components intentionally added to feed for technical purposes, to improve taste, increase nutritional value, or improve animal productivity, whether or not they contain nutritional value.

Agricultural Facility Life Span: The maximum period of time for licensing agricultural facilities of various types, which is approved by the Ministry upon licensing the same.

Parties Concerned with Animal Resources: All practitioners operating in fields related to animal resources, such as veterinarians, owners, supervisors, caretakers, traders, butchers, laboratory staff, research centers, institutes, universities, civil and cooperative societies, relevant government sectors, and the like.

Circulation: All transactions of sale, purchase, donation, transfer, import, export, re-export, display, disposition or any other form of circulation.

Pests: Any type, strain or biotype of plant or animal organisms or any pathogen for plants or animals.

Animal Diseases: Clinical or pathological symptoms, or both, of a disease, including any deviation or change in natural or vital functions of animal body.

Communicable Diseases: Diseases resulting from a pathogen that is transmissible from one organism to another, whether directly or indirectly.

Zoonotic Diseases: Communicable or epidemic diseases that could be transmitted from animals to humans or vice versa under normal circumstances.

Epidemic Diseases: Diseases that affect one or more types of animal resources and cause a sudden or rapid rise in infections considered to be higher than normal rates in a specific location or several locations.

Epidemiological Situation: A description of the occurrence and spread of a disease locally, regionally or internationally.

Endemic Area: A geographical area wherein a specific communicable or epidemic animal disease or its cause has been established to exist.

Health Square: A geographical area consisting of several projects that are free from any epidemic disease(s) due to health and biosecurity procedures adopted by the Ministry.

National Programs for Combating Animal Diseases and their Vectors: Procedures and measures taken by the Ministry or its designee, in cooperation with other relevant government or private agencies, to combat or control an endemic animal disease or limit the spread of an imported animal disease.

Veterinarian: Any person holding a bachelor's degree in veterinary sciences or its equivalent from a recognized local or international university, as well as a practice license.

Veterinary Practitioner: Any person holding an academic degree that qualifies him to work in the veterinary field as per the provisions of the Guide to Veterinary Careers and Facilities issued by the Ministry.

Private Veterinary Laboratories: A place authorized by the Ministry to examine and test samples of animal and living aquatic resources, whether it is fixed, mobile, annexed to an agricultural or veterinary facility, or affiliated with another agency.

Risks of Animal Resources: Any threat to public health, animal health, or food security in the Kingdom that is related to animal resources.

Vaccination: The regular process of vaccinating some or all types of animal resources or animal wildlife organisms to prevent diseases or limit their spread, be it compulsory or optional depending on the vaccination programs determined by the Ministry or its designee.

Vaccination Programs: Programs initiated by the Ministry or its designee, in relation to vaccinations approved by the Ministry for animal diseases.

Microbes: Microorganisms or biological agents that can reproduce in humans, animals, or the environment, including bacteria, viruses, protozoa, fungi, and prions.

Antimicrobials: Natural, manufactured or semi-synthetic chemicals that can kill or limit the development of pathogenic microbes in humans, animals and the environment.

Antibiotic-Resistant Microbes: A microbe so changed that it becomes resistant to the effect of an antimicrobial veterinary preparation or more, thus increasing the risk of spreading diseases, severe illnesses, and deaths.

Growth Promoters: Adding natural, manufactured or semi-synthetic substances to feed, over a period of time, for growing animals to improve their physiological performance such as weight increase.

Withdrawal Period: The necessary time period starting from administering a veterinary preparation to living animal or aquatic resources intended for human consumption until the clearing of its residues from the animal's body or products, or keeping the same within safe levels.

Safe Euthanasia: The process of ending an animal's life in a rapid manner and with the least possible pain or suffering.

Electronic Chip: A small electronic chip that is installed on an animal for identification, using specified electronically readable numbers and codes, pursuant to the technical standards approved by the Ministry or its designee.

Rural Breeding of Animal Resources: Possessing animal resources on a small scale for commercial or non-commercial purposes, in accordance with the controls set out by the Ministry in the Guide to Rural Breeding of Animal Resources.

Slaughterhouse: A licensed agricultural facility that is supplied with technical equipment, devices, machines and instruments to slaughter and prepare animal resources and decide on the safety of their meat for human consumption.

Residues of Veterinary Preparations: Substances existing in food products of animal origin as a result of the use of veterinary preparations; these depend on the original compounds and/or their metabolites within the body as well as the impure residues of veterinary preparations.

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) of Veterinary and Other Preparations: The maximum permissible limit for the residues of a veterinary product resulting from

animal and veterinary care as per approved standards in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Pesticide Safety Period: The pre-harvest interval, namely the minimum time period to be observed between applying a pesticide and harvesting a crop, as recommended by the manufacturer to ensure disposal of pesticide effects or to minimize pesticide residue to such permissible limits that consumers would not be harmed.

Animal Slaughtering according to Islamic Rules: Complying with the provisions of *Sharia* in slaughtering animals as per the Animal Slaughtering Requirements according to Islamic Rules, as approved by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO) under Standard no. GSO993/2015.

On-farm Emergency Slaughter: The immediate slaughter of an animal for reasons related to animal health or animal welfare, or to prevent the spread of a disease.

Fit for Human Consumption: An item which is produced in accordance with the relevant standards, is suitable for intended use thereof, and meets the results-based requirements for specific diseases or defects, as decided by the relevant food agencies.

Unfit for Human Consumption: An item which is not suitable for human consumption; it shall be tested and decided as such by the Ministry or its designee.

Standards and Control Points for Good Agricultural Practices: These include the controls and methods to be implemented by a production unit to obtain a Good Agricultural Practices Certificate in the Kingdom (Saudi GAP).

Site: A space which is owned or rented by a person or more, a company or an establishment, and in which the same production factors are used. A single site may contain more than one separate area and may produce more than one crop or product.

Hazards: Substances or conditions that can cause food contamination, environmental pollution or work-related accidents.

Conformity to Standards: A document set by general agreement and issued by SASO, to be submitted for general and repeated use, and including general rules, guidelines, or characteristics related to activities or their results to achieve an optimal degree of regulation and order within a specific context.

Trading in Agricultural Machinery and Equipment: To sell, rent, request clearance of, or import agricultural machinery or equipment by a natural or legal person or his agent, or by any professional who sells agricultural machinery, whether directly or

through mediation, with the intention of making a profit.

Agricultural Land: Land cultivated or used for farming or any arable land.

Agricultural Machinery and Equipment: All tools and other items used for farming purposes, in order to accelerate work, improve production, and save effort and time.

Agricultural Machinery: Mechanical, electrical, or electronic devices used in the operation process, and having a direct impact on the production process, such as pumps, machines, and submersibles.

Agricultural Equipment: Heavy equipment used in the operation process, and having a direct impact on the production process, such as agricultural tractors, harvesters, large plows, seeders, milk coolers, and the like.

Commercial or Final Invoice (CI): An important document in international trade and maritime shipping, namely a legal document between a supplier and a customer that clearly describes the goods sold and the amount owed by the customer. It is also a major document used by customs to determine customs duties.

Bill of Lading (BOL): A document or contract made between two parties to transfer goods from the port of departure to the port of destination between a shipper (exporter) and a carrier; it is a legally binding document that provides the shipper (exporter) and the carrier with all the details necessary to properly process and invoice the freight shipment.

Packing List (PL): A document used in international trade; it is prepared by an exporter and includes details about the product, shipment weight, number of units, quantity, space, contents of packages, packing method of loaded goods inside bags, sacks, boxes, and the like, in addition to data pertaining to the exporter, importer and shipping agent.

Certificate of Origin (CO): A certificate issued by the competent agency of the exporting country, indicating the manufacture or production place of the goods to be exported.

SASO CoC for Agricultural Machinery and Equipment: A SASO-certified document indicating that the supplied commodity or service conforms to the required standards.

Agro-Processing Industries: Converting agricultural sector products into other forms.

Seeds and Seed Tubers: Any plant part used for plant propagation, including seeds, tubers, bulbs, vines, rhizomes, roots, branches, leaves, cuttings, stems, grafts, buds, scions, offshoots, and all other items produced for species propagation and set out in the Accreditation Law, whether they are seed-based, vegetative, root-based, or using plant tissue culture of field crops, vegetable crops, fruit and ornamental plants, medicinal and aromatic plants, and other plants subject to the implementation of the provisions of their accreditation decision.

Seedlings: Annual or permanent and perennial plants grown in a nursery and propagated for the purpose of trading or circulation and sale in agricultural activity.

Fertilizers: Any chemical compounds manufactured in whole or in part that are administered to a plant, whether in the soil, irrigation water, or leaves, to secure its nutritional needs, increase its growth and improve its production, including macro-, secondary, and microelements in simple and compound forms.

Soil Conditioners: Manufactured or natural materials added to soil in order to improve its physical, chemical and biological properties, and divided into two types: organic and non-organic conditioners.

Agricultural Inputs: Agricultural equipment, supplies, and materials used for agricultural production, including agricultural machinery and equipment; fertilizers and soil conditioners; pesticides; seeds, seed tubers, and seedlings; animal breeding, veterinary preparations and fishing.

Seller: A person who obtains a circulation or sale authorization for an agricultural sector variety or type in accordance with the stipulated conditions.

Shop: A place or store that sells any authorized agricultural variety or type, in accordance with the stipulated conditions.

Pesticide: An organic, non-organic, or synthetic chemical, or natural product, or biological agent that includes micro-organic elements and is used in pest control (also comprising attractants and repellents), or as plant growth regulators, leaf droppers, general desiccants, or transpiration regulators.

Package Label: All written, printed, and drawn information or information attached to a package or to any agricultural sector resources, indicating its composition, characteristics, uses, use precautions, producing company, importing company, and any

other required information.

Importation: Admitting any agricultural resource into the country for a public or private agency, whether by parcel post, independent shipping, or through importers.

Exportation: Taking agricultural resources out of the Kingdom.

Review Committee on Agricultural Sector Applications: A committee that studies any applications submitted to the Ministry, such as employment, licensing or any other applications in general. This committee shall study and submit its opinion on these applications to the competent person at the Ministry to take the appropriate decision thereon.

Part 2: Agricultural Sector Activities

Chapter 1: Agricultural Registration

Article 2

1. The Ministry shall, in accordance with the conditions and controls specified thereby, issue agricultural registration at the request of a service provider/agricultural practitioner.
2. Agricultural registration shall be issued after verifying the data of an agricultural holding. Such registration shall be valid for three years, and may be extended by the Ministry for another period or periods, as it deems appropriate.

Article 3

Agricultural registration shall be issued for animal breeders and fishermen in accordance with the controls, requirements, and procedures specified in the Guide to Agricultural Registration for Animal Breeders and Artisanal Fishermen issued by the Ministry.

Article 4

The Ministry shall, upon drafting and issuing the agricultural registration, record the data of agricultural activity sites, and may, for this purpose, carry out the following:

1. Recording the location data of an agricultural facility and its supporting services.
2. Recording the data of a landowner or tenant of an agricultural facility site.
3. Recording activity data for an agricultural facility site.
4. Organizing and supervising the process of data and information recording of an agricultural facility site.

Article 5

The Ministry shall be entitled to cancel or suspend the agricultural registration in the following cases:

1. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Law or its Regulations.
2. Causing irreparable environmental damage.
3. Violating any requirement of agricultural registration.

Article 6

In the event that a service provider/agricultural practitioner applies for cancellation of the agricultural registration, the Ministry shall complete the necessary procedures, and shall verify the following:

1. No agricultural labor is recorded in the agricultural registration.
2. The service provider/agricultural practitioner does not owe any financial dues to the Agricultural Development Fund.
3. No agricultural license was issued for the registration, in which case it shall be required to cancel the license prior to cancellation of the registration.

Article 7

The Ministry or its designee shall establish special registers for agricultural and veterinary facilities, owners of these facilities whatever their types, and their licensed practitioners as per the data provided, as well as agricultural certification data carried out by the Ministry or the agricultural certification agency.

Chapter 2: Licenses and Permits

Article 8

The Ministry shall issue the licenses and permits necessary for engaging in any agricultural activity and other activities related to the agricultural sector, and it may, for this purpose, undertake the following:

1. Naming, classifying, and regulating facilities, agricultural sector activities and services in the National Classification of Economic Activities in cooperation with the relevant agency and in accordance with the relevant objectives and controls;
2. Setting the requirements, conditions, and controls for regulating licenses and permits for agricultural activities.
3. Issuing, amending, renewing, expanding, transferring ownership, canceling, or changing activity of agricultural licenses, or any other relevant procedure, in accordance with the relevant regulatory provisions, requirements, and controls.
4. Issuing licenses to support agricultural activities classified under agricultural activities and professions in accordance with the controls and conditions issued by the Ministry.
5. Issuing licenses to agricultural certification agencies in accordance with agricultural sector controls.
6. Issuing licenses related to veterinary professions and facilities in accordance with the controls, conditions, and procedures provided for in the Guide to Veterinary Careers and Facilities issued by the Ministry.
7. Issuing the necessary permits to conduct agricultural studies, research, and experiments, and supervising the same, in coordination with the relevant agencies.
8. Issuing the necessary permits for temporary operations related to certain agricultural activities.
9. Organizing and supervising services, and monitoring and inspecting agricultural and veterinary facilities and the like.

Article 9

Licenses and permits issued by the Ministry may only be used for the purpose for which they were issued.

Article 10

Licenses shall be issued for agricultural activities practiced in lands owned pursuant to a legal deed, lease contract from the Ministry, or lease contract authenticated by the accredited certification agencies located in the sites that meet legal requirements for engaging in these activities, as well as activities for which land possession is not required such as livestock breeding, beekeeping and the like.

Article 11

Agricultural licenses shall be issued in accordance with the controls, requirements, and procedures specified by the Ministry and the objectives of the National Strategy for Agriculture, taking the following into consideration:

1. The validity period of a construction license shall not exceed two years as of the issuance date thereof; the Ministry may extend the term of said license for another period or periods as it deems appropriate. The license shall be deemed canceled upon the expiry of its term without completing the construction of the facility. The Ministry shall, for this purpose, issue an initial permit authorizing the license applicant to complete the legal procedures with other relevant agencies in preparation for issuing the construction license, provided that the validity period of said permit does not exceed one year from the issuance date thereof.
2. The Ministry shall determine the operational license term depending on the life span of the facility, provided that it does not exceed 30 years. The Ministry may extend said term when necessary, taking into account that the construction license requirements are satisfied.
3. The Ministry shall grant a grace period to animal facilities that are requested to transfer their components to another site by renewing their license for a period of five years.
4. An agricultural license shall not exempt the owner of an agricultural or veterinary facility from obtaining the necessary licensing or other approvals undertaken by agencies other than the Ministry.

Article 12

The Ministry shall issue an initial permit to authorize a service provider/agricultural practitioner to complete the legal procedures with other relevant agencies, in

preparation for issuing a construction license followed by an operational license. This permit shall not authorize the grantee to initiate construction or operation work, and shall, in the event of its expiry, be deemed canceled. The Ministry may extend this permit for an additional period.

Article 13

The Ministry shall issue a permit for cutting and/or selling trees within agricultural holdings. Said permit shall authorize an agricultural practitioner to cut and/or sell trees within his agricultural holding as per the controls and conditions issued by the Ministry.

Article 14

Agricultural licenses shall be classified as follows:

1. Construction license, authorizing a service provider/agricultural practitioner to engage in the activities of the agricultural or veterinary facility and have the equipment necessary for operation, but not to operate. In the event that this license expires without implementing the activities of the agricultural or veterinary facility, it shall be deemed canceled. The Ministry may extend this license for a one-year period as a final deadline, or as it deems appropriate, pursuant to the regulatory conditions and controls in this regard;
2. Operational license, authorizing a service provider/agricultural practitioner to operate an agricultural or veterinary facility, and to start actual production or operation;
3. Practice license, authorizing a natural person to engage in work at an agricultural or veterinary facility;
4. Activity practice license, authorizing a facility to practice an agricultural activity for a one-year period upon obtaining agricultural registration in which the type of activity, crop, and water duty shall be determined. This license shall be renewed upon updating facility data via electronic services specified by the Ministry, in accordance with controls to be determined as per the type and volume of activity and in line with the Ministry's objectives and strategies;
5. License to grow restricted crops, authorizing an agricultural practitioner to grow said crops pursuant to controls specifying areas, crops and method of implementation thereof;

6. License to export or re-export prohibited fresh or processed agricultural products, pursuant to controls and methods specified by the Ministry;
7. Veterinary laboratory license, authorizing a person to open a private veterinary laboratory in accordance with the controls and requirements set out in the Guide to Licensing Conditions for Private Veterinary Laboratories issued by the Ministry. The Ministry may issue an immediate initial laboratory license, or an initial laboratory license, for completing the necessary procedures for a final license. The laboratory may not start operation prior to obtaining a final license;
8. License for laboratories of agro-processing industries, namely laboratories that convert original agricultural products into another form, such as oil extraction laboratories, laboratories for extracting solutions from agricultural products, laboratories for making molasses and pastes from agricultural products, laboratories for manufacturing spices and beverages, laboratories for leather manufacturing, and the like. These laboratories shall be licensed pursuant to the controls and requirements issued by the Ministry;
9. License for agricultural consultation activities practiced by a professional natural person or legal entity, based on accumulated practical experience and academic degrees in the agricultural sector which qualify their holder to provide the service to third parties in the fields of plant resources; animal resources, including animal production or health and veterinary control; living aquatic resources; supporting agricultural and administrative services; environmental agricultural systems; and financial and economic agricultural fields. Said license shall be issued pursuant to the controls and requirements issued by the Ministry;
10. License for sorting, grading, packing and packaging agricultural products, namely projects related to the agricultural sector's supporting services which are located inside or outside a farm; and
11. License for rural tourism farms, namely existing farms which are restricted by controls and requirements issued by the Ministry and which receive tourists and picnickers to enjoy a number of activities related to agriculture and rural life.

Article 15

Temporary agricultural licenses shall be issued for a period of one year only in the following cases:

1. Amending the status of an existing unlicensed agricultural facility once it meets the biosecurity or other requirements set by the Ministry;
2. Changing the legal procedures to amend the status of a licensed agricultural facility; and
3. If the agricultural activity is new and unclassified within the types of agricultural activities and professions, until this activity obtains licensing once it meets the minimum criteria, as determined by the Ministry.

Article 16

The Ministry's approval shall be obtained for any disposition of the licenses of agricultural and veterinary facilities such as, renewal, expansion, modification of production capacity, transfer of ownership, leasing, change of activity or location, cancelation, transfer of license ownership and privileges or any act leading to said transfer, such as sale, donation, mortgage, lending, leasing, or any form of disposition), subject to the following conditions:

1. No violations are recorded against the practitioner of the licensed activity, nor he owes any financial dues to the Ministry.
2. Expansion shall not result in a reduction of the approved legal distances, and shall be an integral part of the original facility, on the same land and without separators such as roads or the like.
3. The new license shall be issued for the remaining period of the previous license term in the event of transfer of ownership of agricultural and veterinary facilities.

Article 17

The Ministry shall have the right to revoke the license of an agricultural facility issued to a service provider/agricultural practitioner in the following cases:

1. Failure to implement the activities of the facility within the legal license term;
2. Failure to obtain the approvals of the relevant agencies during the specified life span of the facility;
3. Existence of irreparable environmental damage;
4. Occurrence of any crisis, emergency, disaster or imminent danger related to the agricultural sector, which could cause damage to the sector, environment, human beings or public health;

5. The facility's proximity to residential communities, expiry of its life span, and filing objections by its neighbors simultaneously;
6. Upon the expiry of the life span of the facility set by the Ministry and the non-approval of the Ministry or the relevant agencies to extend or renew its license.

Article 18

The Ministry shall have the right to suspend the license of an agricultural facility for a service provider/agricultural practitioner in the following cases:

1. Violation of the provisions of the Law or its Regulations, the licenses, or the controls and conditions issued by the Ministry that require such suspension;
2. Failure to update agricultural activity data via the means specified by the Ministry;
3. Failure to apply for license renewal two months prior to its expiration date; and
4. Non-compliance with the controls, requirements and procedures approved by the Ministry in relation to biosecurity or animal welfare.

Article 19

The Ministry shall consider an application for an initial permit for an agricultural facility pursuant to the conditions and controls determined thereby.

Article 20

In order to consider an application for a construction license of an agricultural facility, the following documents shall be attached:

1. A copy of the initial permit for the agricultural facility;
2. Approval of the relevant agencies as per the activity and location of the facility;
3. A technical and economic feasibility study of the facility or filling out the form approved by the Ministry; and
4. A cadastral survey report from a certified engineering office, indicating the components of the facility and the distances therebetween as per the nature of the activity.

Article 21

In order to consider an application for an operational license of an agricultural facility,

the following documents shall be attached:

1. A copy of the construction license of the agricultural facility; and
2. A technical report from the Ministry or its designee, including the implementation rates in the facility, or an aerial photograph indicating the same.

Article 22

To consider an application for renewal of an operational license of an agricultural facility, the following documents shall be required:

1. A copy of the operational license of the agricultural facility; and
2. A technical report from the Ministry or its designee, or an aerial photograph indicating location of the facility.

In the event that the life span of the agricultural facility has expired, the approvals of relevant agencies shall be obtained.

Article 23

The expansion of an agricultural facility and its activities shall not entail any reduction of the approved legal distances therein. Said expansion shall be deemed as an integral part of the original facility, and shall be equally treated. It shall also be constructed on the same land and without separators such as roads or the like. To consider an application for expansion, the following documents shall be attached:

1. A valid license of the facility;
2. Two technical reports on the original facility and the expansion, using the forms approved by the Ministry, and including the coordinates and the title deed of the land or lease contract of the expansion;
3. A cadastral survey report from a certified engineering office, indicating the components of the original facility and of the expansion and the distances therebetween as per the nature of the activity;
4. A technical and economic feasibility study of the facility or filling out the form approved by the Ministry; and
5. Approval of the relevant agencies as per the activity and location of the facility.

Article 24

In order to consider an application for transfer of ownership of an agricultural facility, the following documents shall be attached:

1. A technical report, using the form approved by the Ministry for transfer of ownership and licensing of a facility, or an aerial photograph of the facility; and
2. Transfer of ownership documents;

The new license shall be issued for the remaining period of the previous license.

Article 25

To consider an application for change of activity of an agricultural facility, the following documents shall be attached:

1. A technical report, using the form approved by the Ministry for change of license activity;
2. A cadastral survey report from a certified engineering office, indicating the components of the facility and the distances therebetween as per the nature of the activity;
3. A technical and economic feasibility study of the facility or filling out the form approved by the Ministry; and
4. Approval of the relevant agencies as per the activity and location of the facility.

This application for change of activity shall be considered in the event that the land is leased from an entity other than the Ministry or is owned pursuant to a legal deed, as determined by the Ministry. If, however, the land is leased from the Ministry, the change of activity in the various agricultural facilities shall be subject to the discretion of the Ministry, in line with the National Strategy for Agriculture.

Article 26

To apply for the cancelation of license of an agricultural facility, a technical report shall be attached, using the form approved by the Ministry, along with an aerial photograph.

Article 27

A service provider/agricultural practitioner licensed by the Ministry shall comply with the following conditions and controls:

1. Conducting facility activities as per the location, activity type, production and operational capacity, and technical specifications set out in the license;
2. Avoiding any modification of facility components set out in the license except unless the Ministry's prior approval is obtained;
3. Recording the data and information specified by the Ministry or its designee;
4. Complying with the technical requirements set forth in the technical and economic study submitted to the Ministry pursuant to which the license was issued;
5. Complying with the principles of animal welfare as per the instructions issued by the Ministry in this regard;
6. Abiding by the conditions and procedures of government agencies in relation to the environment, and the environmentally safe disposal of animal waste;
7. Abiding by the occupational health and safety procedures for workers issued by the Ministry or the competent agencies;
8. Implementing the instructions and requirements set out in the health procedures issued by the competent health agencies vis-à-vis animal and zoonotic diseases;
9. Complying with the emergency and fire safety procedures issued by the competent agencies;
10. Complying with the procedures of biosecurity, infection control and total quality issued by the Ministry;
11. Providing all types of assistance to the Ministry's controllers or its designee to monitor and inspect the facility, making available any information and data they request, and allowing them to visit any utility therein;
12. Refraining from keeping or using expired preparations, products, diagnostic substances, or materials inside the facility, and destroying the same using safe and appropriate ways through specialized companies, provided that the destruction process is documented and destruction records are kept;
13. Immediate reporting of any suspicion or infection with any communicable or epidemic disease or any mass mortality cases in animal resources or animal wildlife organisms;
14. The heirs of an agricultural or veterinary facility owner shall appoint an authorized officer within a period not exceeding one year from the death of their legator, to ensure that said facility complies with the Ministry's operational requirements.

Article 28

The requirements and controls for licensing shops renting or selling agricultural inputs (pesticides, fertilizers, soil conditioners, seeds, seedlings, agricultural machinery, equipment and spare parts thereof) shall be as follows:

1. The license application shall be submitted to the Ministry together with the approval of the relevant agencies and a copy of the real estate title deed or a valid lease contract.
2. A shop intended for circulation shall meet the applicable conditions for commercial shops and licensing thereof in the Kingdom.
3. A commercial register shall be available in which the activity to be practiced (fertilizers and soil conditioners, pesticides, seeds and seedlings , agricultural machinery and equipment) shall be recorded.
4. Sale operations shall be carried out by an agricultural sector specialist with sufficient experience, and his name and ID number shall be placed on the license issued by the Ministry, and his academic degree shall be indicated in a conspicuous place in the shop.
5. The shop shall be located in a place protected from rain, wind, moisture and water leakage.
6. The floor shall be suitable, easy to clean and leak-proof.
7. The shop shall have good lighting, air conditioning, and first aid kits.
8. The pesticide seller at the shop shall have a valid license as per the required conditions. He shall be present at the shop on a permanent basis, and the shop shall be closed in his absence.
9. The shop owner shall comply with the GCC Law of Pesticides, Fertilizers, Soil Conditioners, Seeds, Seed Tubers and Seedlings, and its Implementing Regulations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the Law and its Regulations.

Article 29

License fees shall be determined in coordination with the service provider.

Chapter 3: Endorsements, Approvals and Certificates

Article 30

The Ministry shall issue the necessary endorsements and approvals for agricultural sector activities and practitioners thereof (plant resources, animal resources, living aquatic resources, veterinary facilities, organic farming, agricultural supporting and marketing services, transportation, agro-processing industries, agricultural certification agencies, agricultural consulting offices, rural tourism services), and the like. It may, for this purpose, undertake the following:

1. Issuing the necessary endorsements and approvals for agricultural sector activities, supporting and marketing facilities and services, and agro-processing industries, in accordance with the regulatory technical conditions and controls, and in coordination with the relevant agencies;
2. Issuing endorsements for licensing agricultural tourism activities and country cottages pursuant to the provisions of the Law and its Regulations, provided that they have obtained an agricultural activity license and a quality certificate in agricultural production or good agricultural practices;
3. Issuing an endorsement for an agricultural labor application, in coordination with the relevant agency;
4. Granting an endorsement for adding, amending or canceling any activity in the commercial register of a service provider/agricultural practitioner as per the applicable procedures. The Ministry shall be entitled to refuse to endorse cancellation of a commercial register in the event that financial dues are not settled by service providers/agricultural practitioners are owed thereto;
5. Coordinating with the relevant agencies to endorse a service provider/agricultural practitioner's application for agricultural labor as per the provisions of the Law and its Regulations, and the Guide to Controls and Requirements for Granting Agricultural Labor Endorsement issued by the Ministry, provided that an agricultural register is obtained from the Ministry;
6. Coordinating with the relevant agencies to endorse a service provider/agricultural practitioner's application for a financing loan for individuals and investors, provided that an agricultural license is obtained from the Ministry;
7. Granting a license endorsement for electronic applications relating to the marketing

- of agricultural sector products, in accordance with the applicable procedures; and
8. Cooperating with the relevant agencies to ensure the compliance of service providers/agricultural practitioners with the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 31

The Ministry or its designee shall issue health certificates for agricultural sector consignments and unprocessed products of agricultural facilities designated for exportation purposes outside the Kingdom, upon completing the necessary laboratory procedures and in accordance with the requirements of the importing countries.

Article 32

1. The Ministry or its designee shall issue health certificates for licensed facilities and projects complying with licensing controls, biosecurity conditions, and other requirements announced by the Ministry.
2. A health certificate shall be granted only to living aquatic resources originating in the Kingdom and to fish products obtained from an aquaculture project inside the Kingdom. The Ministry shall issue regulatory controls in this regard.

Chapter 4: Agricultural Marketing

Article 33

The Ministry shall regulate and license agricultural marketing facilities, pursuant to the following provisions:

1. No agricultural facility may market agricultural sector products without obtaining a license from the Ministry.
2. The Ministry shall regularly oversee and monitor these facilities to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the Law, its Regulations, and the controls and instructions set by the Ministry.
3. The licensee shall provide the data and reports required by the Ministry pursuant to the licensed activity.
4. Agricultural marketing facilities shall comply with the technical conditions and health controls issued by SFDA and the competent agencies.

Article 34

The Ministry shall regulate, license, monitor, and oversee public markets pursuant to the following:

1. Coordinating with the relevant government agencies in the establishment and technical and administrative supervision of public markets for agricultural sector products;
2. Specifying appropriate sites for establishing permanent and seasonal public markets for agricultural sector products, in coordination with the relevant agencies, pursuant to the controls, requirements and procedures specified by the Ministry;
3. Setting the necessary rules to regulate purchases, sales and auctions in public markets;
4. Specifying working days and hours in the market and taking the necessary measures for proper management thereof, taking into account the differences between various markets and seasons;
5. Recording quantity and price data in the Ministry's system and issuing statistical market reports;
6. Enacting biosecurity measures in public markets to preserve public health and ensure the safety of agricultural sector resources;
7. Obligating all market dealers (agricultural practitioners, sellers, agents, merchants, service providers/investors, associations, and others) to obtain the necessary permits to engage in business in these markets, pursuant to the controls and standards set by the Ministry; and
8. Detecting violations and imposing penalties on violators of the market's operating rules.

Article 35

Subject to the provisions for regulating and licensing public markets, individuals and facilities operating in fish markets shall comply with the requirements, controls and conditions set out in the Fish Market Guide issued by the Ministry.

Article 36

Agricultural products circulated in the market shall fulfill the following conditions:

1. They shall conform to the standards and/or technical rules for each product; in the event that no Saudi or GCC standard and/or technical rule is available, the licensing standard for the product shall be approved, in coordination with the competent agencies.
2. The packing and packaging materials shall conform to the standards and/or rules for each product.
3. The packages shall bear the product label.

Article 37

1. When transferring and circulating agricultural products, the transport containers shall conform to the approved standards, and shall observe the requirements and controls of transportation means prior to, during and after loading.
2. Animal resources and their products shall be transferred in accordance with the provisions of the Guide to Transfer of Animal Resources and Products, issued by the Ministry.

Article 38

The Ministry shall regulate the activities of service providers in public markets pursuant to the controls set thereby.

Article 39

The labor conditions and controls within public markets shall be as follows:

1. The service provider in public markets shall ensure that labor is legally employed and licensed by the competent agencies as per the profession of each laborer.
2. All laborers at the market shall obtain a health certificate establishing that they are disease-free.
3. Only laborers sponsored by the service provider shall be employed.
4. A specified uniform shall be set for each labor category.
5. Laborers shall maintain a high level of personal hygiene.
6. The service provider shall comply with any other requirements that the Ministry deems appropriate.

Part 3: Plant Resources

Chapter 1: Quality Control of Agricultural Products

Article 40

Subject to the provisions of decisions, instructions and requirements issued by the Ministry or the competent agencies, local or imported agricultural products and their packaging shall conform to the approved standards for each product. In the absence of such standards, the reference standard for the product shall be approved.

The Ministry shall collect and test samples pursuant to the approved standards, or the technical rules for those samples.

Article 41

A “product label” shall be subject to the following provisions:

1. An agricultural practitioner shall not market agricultural products without a product label from the Ministry or its designee.
2. A “product label” shall be placed on each package of agricultural sector products, and shall include the following data:
 - a) Name of the agricultural facility and number of its registration and agricultural license;
 - b) Product origin (local/imported);
 - c) Restrictions on consumption;
 - d) Types and quantities produced in the package; and
 - e) Data related to other specifications approved by SFDA for these products.

Article 42

The Ministry shall regulate and oversee the importation and exportation of agricultural sector products and inputs, and shall issue the necessary approvals, in coordination with the relevant agencies.

Article 43

The Ministry shall issue importation licenses for fresh vegetables and fruits, indicating the importer's basic data and the license validity period.

Article 44

Importers shall be divided into two groups, pursuant to the following:

1. A class (A) importer for whom a 10-year renewable license shall be issued, provided that he proves his ownership of the real properties containing the warehouses and refrigerators where shipments of imported fresh vegetables and fruits are to be unloaded, or commercial centers to market the shipment, as well as proof of his ownership of refrigerated means of transport; and
2. A class (B) importer for whom a 3-year renewable license shall be issued.

Article 45

Without prejudice to the requirements for importing plant products set forth in the GCC Agricultural Quarantine Law and its implementing regulations, and the decisions issued by the Ministry, an importer intending to bring fresh vegetables or fruits into the Kingdom shall apply to the Ministry electronically for an importation license, in accordance with the following conditions:

1. An importer shall meet one of the following requirements:
 - a) Be a Saudi legal person licensed to engage in said activity; or
 - b) Be a foreign investor licensed to engage in said activity, pursuant to the Foreign Investment Law.
2. The following general requirements shall be met for license issuance:
 - a) The following information shall be attached to the application: importer's address, date of importation and exporting country. A class (A) importer shall attach to his application the coordinates of the warehouses and refrigerators in which he intends to unload the imported shipments of vegetables and fruits, so that the Ministry's inspectors can inspect the same in person to ensure their safety and suitability for storage. A class (B) importer shall attach to his application certified contracts with commercial centers or distributors to deliver shipments thereto directly, and a list of the refrigerated means of transport; and

- b) Importer's financial solvency.
- 3. A license shall be issued pursuant to the following procedures:
 - a) The Ministry shall receive a license application upon verifying completion of the conditions set forth in clauses (1) and (2) of this Article, and shall issue the license electronically within a period not exceeding three working days from the application date.
 - b) If the license application is rejected, the applicant shall be notified electronically within a period not exceeding three working days from the application date.
 - c) Importation licenses shall be issued by the Ministry, and shall include the importer's basic details and the license validity period.

Article 46

1. Violating consignments shall be placed under quarantine until a decision is made whether to have the consignment cleared, rejected and consequently destroyed, returned to its country of origin, re-exported to a third party, or its use status changed, in accordance with the decisions, instructions and requirements issued by the Ministry or the relevant agencies.
2. Defective agricultural products shall be destroyed in accordance with the procedures set out in these Regulations.

Article 47

Plant resources shall not be circulated, cultivated or transferred in any of the following cases:

1. Plants causing harm to the agricultural system and biodiversity in the Kingdom;
2. Plants causing disease or carrying pests, diseases or insects that cause damage to the agricultural system;
3. Invasive plants that could colonize the local environment and compete with local native plants; and
4. Plants that are toxic, narcotic, or harmful to humans, or unsuitable for the agricultural system.

The Ministry shall draw up and regularly update a list of the plant varieties or types prohibited from being circulated, cultivated or transferred.

Article 48

Agricultural facility products shall be harvested and circulated in accordance with the following methods:

1. They shall be suitable for the product type, and the equipment, containers, and receptacles in use shall be clean in order to avoid product contamination or damage.
2. The packages, tools and equipment in use shall be manufactured pursuant to the standards specified therefor.

Chapter 2: Good Agricultural Practices

Article 49

The Ministry shall, in relation to good agricultural practices, carry out the following:

1. Overseeing good agricultural practices and issuing the necessary licenses in this regard, in accordance with the standards set out in the Guide to Standards and Control Points for Good Agricultural Practices issued by the Ministry;
2. Implementing good agricultural practices in all agricultural sector activities, and setting up an appropriate implementation method;
3. Monitoring the activities of good agricultural practices; the Ministry may conduct field inspection visits to all agricultural facilities to ensure their compliance with the necessary requirements and standards;
4. Determining the requirements for stickers and label data for products that have obtained a Good Agricultural Practices Certificate;
5. Issuing the necessary licenses for certification agencies, in accordance with the requirements and standards set by the Ministry. Licensed certification agencies shall assume certification duties for the farmer's good agricultural practices; and
6. Setting up requirements for accrediting qualified staff and inspectors to work at certification agencies licensed to carry out all types of activities related to good agricultural practices.

Article 50

A Good Agricultural Practices Certificate shall be obtained pursuant to the following:

1. The production unit's owner or his deputy shall apply to the Ministry or its designee, and shall provide the necessary documents, fulfill the data set out in the application, and apply all standards of good agricultural practices.
2. The Ministry shall consider the application and ensure that all required data are completed. A non-conforming application shall be rejected. Once the application is accepted, the production unit shall be visited by specialists to apply the standards and control points. The unit owner shall, during the period following the qualification visit, carry out all basic criteria and control points.
3. The production unit shall be granted a Good Agricultural Practices logo upon ensuring its compliance with the required standards; said logo shall be valid for one renewable year.

Article 51

The following procedures shall be carried out in relation to the Good Agricultural Practices Certificate:

1. Agricultural certification agencies shall submit the Certificate for any product that is subject to their controls in all types of activities set out in these Regulations; this Certificate shall at least provide a description of the product and shall specify the type and quantity of products as well as their validity period.
2. The product shall be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Ministry or certification agencies in the country of origin, indicating that the product meets the conditions stipulated in these Regulations.

Article 52

The Ministry shall issue licenses for an agricultural certification agency in accordance with the following controls:

1. The certification agency shall provide sufficient guarantees of its objectivity and integrity, and shall provide qualified personnel and resources necessary to carry out its duties.
2. The certification agency shall have permanent headquarters or a resident representative in the Kingdom.
3. The certification agency shall submit documents establishing that it has the required oversight expertise, supplies and infrastructure.

4. The certification agency shall be accredited, in accordance with the ISO Guide 17065 for the general requirements for bodies operating product certification systems or equivalent systems.
5. The certification agency shall provide a detailed description of the oversight procedures and measures to be carried out against producers, and the procedures to be implemented upon detecting violations.
6. The certification agency shall implement oversight procedures against producers subject to its control.

Article 53

The Ministry shall set requirements for accrediting qualified staff and inspectors to work at certification agencies licensed to carry out all types of activities related to good agricultural practices.

Article 54

An agricultural certification agency shall:

1. Maintain an updated list of the names and addresses of producers registered therewith; this list shall be made accessible to relevant parties;
2. Inform the Ministry of the results of the oversight operations that it carries out on a regular basis or as requested by the Ministry. If such results indicate actual or potential non-compliance, the certification agency shall immediately report the same to the Ministry. The Ministry may, when necessary, set or specify procedural rules to be implemented in providing the required detailed information to be included in the report;
3. Provide the Ministry, no later than the end of February of each year, with a list of producers who were under its control until the end of December of the previous year, along with a summary report of all types of oversight activities carried out during the same year; and
4. Enable Ministry inspectors to enter its facilities, provide all necessary information and assistance to ensure that the certification agency has fulfilled its obligations, and implement legal procedures upon detecting any violations or abuses.

In the event that the certification agency fails to carry out the duties delegated thereto, the Ministry shall be entitled to revoke its license and suspend its activities.

Article 55

An inspector affiliated with a certification agency shall attend the necessary courses specified by the Ministry to obtain a valid business card, and shall implement farm certification standards and requirements.

Article 56

A certification agency shall submit a certificate for any product, including a description of the production unit, cultivated areas, type of certified products, and production quantity.

Article 57

The Ministry shall coordinate with the certification agency to inspect production units over an appropriate period or periods of time to ensure that all requirements for obtaining the Good Agricultural Practices Certificate are met.

Chapter 3: Control of Desert Locusts and Red Palm Weevil

Article 58

1. To control desert locusts, the following procedures shall be carried out:
 - a) The Ministry or its designee shall, when combating desert locusts by spraying pesticides, announce the same at least one week in advance through available means of communication, unlike emergency operations that require urgent control of certain pests, including desert locusts, to ensure that farms and vegetation are not damaged and that pests are not able to multiply.
 - b) Any agency, other than the Ministry and its affiliated centers, executing the spraying shall officially inform the Ministry branch in the region of the spraying dates and locations at least two weeks prior to the first operation. Should spraying continue at the same location, a schedule shall be set, so that beekeepers can avoid poisoning their bees during such period.
 - c) Beekeepers shall contact the Ministry branches in regions, offices in governorates, or units in districts to learn about the expected annual pesticide

spraying periods, obtain the relevant schedules and times, and take the necessary precautions to protect their apiaries. These precautions shall comprise placing distinctive signs (colored flags) closely around apiaries to avoid direct spraying on bees, and coordinating and communicating with the owners of adjacent farms to be informed about any expected spraying operation.

- d) The Ministry and the spraying bodies shall take all necessary precautions to minimize poisoning of bee colonies and shall obligate the spraying teams to follow these precautions. These shall include using less toxic pesticides, spraying at times when bee foraging is limited as much as possible, and placing warning signs, such as written boards or signs of a specific color at the areas and places expected to be sprayed.
2. As far as control of red palm weevil is concerned, the conditions, controls, instructions, procedures, measures and precautions set out in the Procedural Guide to Combating Red Palm Weevil issued by the Ministry shall be implemented.

Chapter 4: Agricultural Machinery and Equipment

Article 59

1. Agricultural machinery and equipment shall be traded only if they conform to standards. In the event that no Saudi or GCC standard and/or technical rule is available, the licensing standard for the product shall be approved, in coordination with the competent agencies.
2. Agricultural machinery and equipment may only be imported with the approval of the Ministry or its designee, and shall only be cleared upon the approval of the Ministry or its designee.

Article 60

Agricultural machinery and equipment shall be imported in accordance with the following controls:

1. Importers of agricultural machinery and equipment shall apply for approval of importation, including proof of their conformity with the approved standards.

2. An importer and his agent shall:
 - a) Provide the necessary spare parts for said machinery and equipment, as well as trained technical staff and supporting services;
 - b) Ensure that the machinery and equipment are technically compatible with each other;
 - c) Ensure that, upon selling agricultural pumps, they request the latest testing reports on water quality and well drilling from the buyer to ensure that these pumps are suitable for well condition. The buyer shall provide these reports to the seller and each of them shall sign before the other to the effect that he has implemented his obligation; the party who declines implementation shall bear the resulting consequences; and
 - d) Provide the buyer with the standard operation and maintenance manual in the Arabic language, along with appropriate technical support.

Article 61

Importers of agricultural machinery and equipment shall apply for importation at least 30 days prior to the arrival date of the shipment, and shall attach the following documents with their application:

1. Commercial invoice certified by the Chamber of Commerce;
2. Bill of Lading;
3. Packing list;
4. Certificate of origin;
5. SASO CoC for Agricultural Machinery and Equipment; and
6. A copy of a valid commercial register for agricultural companies, institutions and associations which includes the activity of trading in agricultural machinery and equipment.

The Ministry or its designee shall include in the importation approval document its duration and method of renewal and cancelation.

Article 62

The requirements for clearing agricultural machinery and equipment shall be determined as follows:

1. An application for clearance submitted by a beneficiary to the competent agency or service provider, including the number, types, and specifications of machines and equipment, and specifying the port of entry;
2. A copy of the final purchase invoice, in conformity with the clearance application;
3. A copy of the bill of lading;
4. A copy of the certificate of origin;
5. A copy of SASO CoC for the machinery and equipment to be cleared;
6. A copy of a valid commercial register for agricultural institutions, companies and associations, and if intended for private use, the farmer shall provide proof of the same;
7. A copy of a valid national ID card for individuals.

The Ministry or its designee shall include in the clearance approval document its duration and its renewal and cancelation method.

Article 63

The Ministry or its designee shall seize any violating consignments until a decision is made whether to have the consignment cleared, rejected and consequently destroyed, returned to its country of origin, or re-exported to a third party at the expense of the importer, in accordance with the decisions, instructions and requirements issued by the Ministry.

Article 64

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, set the necessary controls for the temporary entry of agricultural machinery and equipment for display and participation purposes if the exhibitions are held inside the Kingdom.

Article 65

The Ministry or its designee or the service provider shall be entitled to inspect agricultural machinery and equipment in the country of origin to verify technical requirements.

Article 66

Manufacturers and importers of agricultural machinery and equipment shall comply

with the conditions, controls and instructions set by the Ministry.

Article 67

Rental of agricultural machinery and equipment shall be regulated as follows:

1. Agricultural machinery and equipment shall be owned by the lessor pursuant to a valid form establishing such ownership.
2. Agricultural machines and equipment that are more than ten years old shall be operational pursuant to a certificate from their authorized agent; the Ministry shall be entitled to check their operability as required.

Article 68

The recruitment of laborers for agricultural machinery and equipment shall be endorsed pursuant to the provisions set out in the Guide to Controls and Requirements for Granting Agricultural Labor Endorsement issued by the Ministry.

Article 69

A service provider/agricultural practitioner shall abide by the safety precautions in using agricultural machinery and equipment, in accordance with the decisions made by the relevant agencies in this regard.

Part 4: Agricultural Cooperatives and NGOs

Article 70

As far as agricultural cooperatives and NGOs are concerned, the Ministry shall:

1. Encourage the establishment of agricultural cooperatives and NGOs and the like, and explain to sector personnel their importance and the returns to be obtained therefrom;
2. Consider applications for the establishment of agricultural cooperatives and NGOs and the like, facilitate the relevant procedures upon completing said applications and their required documents, and give its approval or rejection within 15 days of the application date, in accordance with the agricultural sector objectives;

3. Oversee, monitor and inspect agricultural cooperatives and NGOs and the like, follow-up on their activities, and prepare technical reports thereon;
4. Encourage the participation of the cooperative sector in agricultural activities and services;
5. Enter into agreements, partnerships and memorandums of understanding with agricultural cooperatives and NGOs, and the like, to provide agricultural services; and
6. Provide support and benefits to good-performing agricultural cooperatives and NGOs and the like.

Part 5: Agricultural Research and Extension

Article 71

1. Scientific research shall be regulated pursuant to the following controls:
 - a) The Ministry shall, as it deems appropriate, issue a temporary permit for any person intending to conduct agricultural research on agricultural inputs.
 - b) No research on any plant pest, or animal or marine life disease in the Kingdom shall be published unless proof of its existence is submitted to and accepted by the Ministry.
 - c) The Ministry's approval shall be obtained prior to conducting any research correspondence, field experiments, or research in agricultural areas.
 - d) A new product or modern technology relating to the improvement and development of agricultural sector systems in the Kingdom shall be approved by the Ministry upon taking the necessary measures.
2. Agricultural facilities may seek assistance from the Ministry to conduct research, studies and laboratory tests in relation to agricultural activities, in return for a fee set by the Ministry, as it deems appropriate.

Article 72

Agricultural extension shall be regulated as follows:

1. No extension publications related to the agricultural sector shall be published except

- through the Ministry or its designee.
2. Any farmer in whose farm or holding the Ministry has established an extension field shall allow farmers seeking guidance and knowledge to have access to the applied technologies therein pursuant to the controls specified by the Ministry.
 3. No activity, campaigns, extension convoys, or agricultural events shall be held unless the approval of the Ministry or its designee is obtained.

Article 73

The Ministry may provide, organize and manage services of distributing seedlings, seeds, seed tubers, fertilizers, soil conditioners, veterinary preparations, pesticides, equipment, machinery, agricultural and veterinary supplies, bees, apiary requirements, aquatic larvae and fingerlings, equipment and machinery for fishing and aquaculture, improved animal breeds and the like, as it deems appropriate.

Part 6: Animal Resources

Chapter 1: Animal Resources Production Facilities and Veterinary Facilities

Article 74

Animal production facilities shall comply with the following rules:

1. New animal production facilities shall be established outside the urban boundaries of cities, governorates, villages and districts, pursuant to the decisions of the competent agencies in charge of setting these boundaries.
2. Agricultural animal facilities shall have an incinerator conforming to environmental specifications for disposing of dead animals.
3. Veterinary preparations shall be appropriately stored and used, and the withdrawal period for animal products shall be observed, in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements.
4. Animal production shall comply with good health practices.

Article 75

The Ministry or its designee shall classify agricultural animal facilities and shall determine their legal distances within an agricultural facility, between an animal facility and another, between an agricultural facility and another, between an agricultural facility and the boundaries of urban and population development, or between an agricultural facility and industrial and tourist projects, natural complexes and areas of a special character. The Ministry or its designee may, at its own discretion, permit agricultural facilities using modern technologies and causing no harm to other agricultural facilities, projects, populations, or urban development to operate without observing the legal distances prescribed for traditional agricultural facilities.

Article 76

The agency in charge of licensing zoos and wildlife breeding centers shall obtain prior approval of the relevant site from the Ministry or its designee.

Article 77

1. A license shall be obtained from the Ministry prior to establishing or operating any agricultural or veterinary facility or providing a service related to animal resources.
2. The Ministry or its designee shall ensure that the necessary conditions for establishing and operating an animal or veterinary facility are met prior to issuing said license. It may inspect and express its remarks on the site, place and buildings designated for such purpose and draw attention to completing the missing requirements.

Article 78

The owner of an agricultural animal facility or a veterinary facility that has not been licensed by the Ministry shall immediately register his data with the Ministry or its designee and shall adjust its status within the time period set thereby. As an exception, this provision shall not apply to owners against whom an enforceable removal or relocation decision was made prior to the issuance of the Law.

Article 79

1. The owner of an animal or veterinary facility shall apply for renewal of his license

- at least two months prior to its expiry.
2. The Ministry may decide not to renew or amend a facility's license in the event that said facility is owed due to its violation of the Law or its Regulations.
 3. The license of an animal or veterinary facility shall be canceled following the transfer of its ownership to another owner, or change of its activity or the place wherein it is licensed to operate without the prior approval of the Ministry. The Ministry may take immediate action to close the veterinary facility and impose legal penalties.
 4. A licensed facility owner may request cancelation of license if his facility is not owed to the Ministry or to public agencies associated therewith.

Article 80

An animal facility shall not provide any animal production facility with its needs of production or marketing inputs unless it operates pursuant to a valid license from the Ministry.

Article 81

1. The Ministry may issue a decision to close or relocate an animal facility upon the expiry of its life span or due to harm resulting from its proximity to housing areas, in accordance with the conditions and procedures specified by the Ministry. It may also cancel the license pursuant to a decision of the Minister based on a decision of the Review Committee.
2. The owner of an animal facility may object to the Ministry's decision to close or relocate his facility or its refusal to renew his license and may provide justifications supporting his objection within 30 days of the issuing date of the decision. Said objection shall be made in accordance with the applicable legal procedures determined by the Ministry.

Article 82

The provisions related to the rural breeding of animal resources shall be regulated pursuant to the contents of the Guide to Rural Breeding of Animal Resources issued by the Ministry.

Article 83

Without prejudice to the relevant laws, including particularly the Law of Practicing Veterinary Medical Professions of the GCC States, approved by Royal Decree no. M/33, dated 5/6/1434H and its implementing regulations, veterinary facilities shall meet the following requirements:

1. The building of a private veterinary facility shall meet sanitary conditions, engineering specifications, and appropriate distribution, in accordance with the provisions of the Saudi Building Code Application Law, and shall contain the necessary furniture, equipment, and medical and non-medical devices.
2. Veterinary facilities shall obtain an environmental license that includes methods for treating hazardous waste generated by those facilities, as determined by the Ministry.
3. The leased building of a veterinary facility shall be recorded in a leasing network.
4. Dual-use (human and veterinary) in vitro diagnostic devices shall meet the standards approved by SFDA.

Article 84

Non-therapeutic veterinary facilities – with the exception of veterinary pharmacies – shall not sell veterinary preparations, nor provide any therapeutic services, except for those excluded by the Ministry.

Article 85

The license for a private veterinary facility shall be issued by the Ministry for a renewable two-year period.

Article 86

1. All veterinary practitioners and other facility workers shall – during their working hours – indicate their job ID cards in a conspicuous manner showing their names and specializations pursuant to the practice license issued by the Ministry. A private facility shall provide an updated monthly list of all veterinary practitioners therein.
2. All workers of veterinary facilities shall obtain health certificates establishing that they are free from communicable diseases.
3. A facility owner shall put his license in a conspicuous place inside the facility.

Article 87

The branches of a private veterinary facility shall be subject to the same provisions applicable to the main facility.

Chapter 2: Protecting and Developing Local Animal Resources

Article 88

The Ministry or its designee may, in the context of preserving local animal breeds, carry out any of the following procedures:

1. Imposing restrictions on sale, purchase, donation, transfer, slaughter, circulation, or disposition in any manner whatsoever of any type of animal resources and products or waste, as required by the Ministry;
2. Prohibiting the importing or exporting of any living or dead animal, its products or waste in the event that its exportation, importation, circulation or transfer could endanger animal resources in the Kingdom;
3. Laying down the necessary controls to regulate the transfer of animal resources within and into the Kingdom; it may, in this respect, cooperate with the relevant government and private agencies;
4. Regulating the importing or exporting of semen, fertilized eggs, frozen embryos or genetic material of any type of animal resources;
5. Conducting tests to determine the lineage and genetic code of animal species; preserving, registering, documenting, mainstreaming, improving and developing genetic resources of local animal breeds; and setting controls therefor;
6. Communicating with the relevant agencies inside and outside the Ministry to direct and support research on animal production and animal health and to improve production systems in the Kingdom;
7. Setting principles and controls for organizing and licensing public exhibitions, competitions, or animal shows for commercial or any other purposes;
8. Setting conditions and standards for mandatory animal welfare practices for all types of animals, as per their nature and types, and enabling NGOs operating in the same field to contribute to this issue; and
9. Drawing up a list of animal diseases to be reported to the Ministry and methods of

dealing therewith and updating the same pursuant to the epidemiological situation of animal diseases in the Kingdom.

Article 89

1. Female cattle shall not be exported without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.
2. Parties concerned with animal resources shall not slaughter female cattle except with an authorization issued and approved by the Ministry or its designee in the following cases: females that are sterile, unfit for breeding, unproductive, or suffering from fractures or tumors; elderly females aged five years in sheep and goats, eight years in cows, and 15 years in camels; females and herds that the Ministry has decided to dispose of.

Chapter 3: Registration and Numbering of Animal Resources

Article 90

The Ministry or its designee shall register, number and vaccinate the different animal resources, including animal wildlife organisms, in accordance with the following provisions:

1. Preparing and distributing a database of their numbers throughout the Kingdom, in coordination with the relevant agencies; and
2. Specifying techniques for registration and tracking thereof.

Article 91

The Minister or his designee may:

1. Obligate owners to register and number their animal resources or animal wildlife organisms, as determined by the Ministry;
2. Prohibit the circulation or transfer of animal resources or animal wildlife organisms that have not been registered or numbered; and
3. Obligate importers to number imported animal resources and animal wildlife organisms.

Article 92

Owners shall number and register their animal resources or animal wildlife organisms with the Ministry within a period of 3 months from the date of their birth and shall remove the same from the Ministry database in the event of slaughter or death thereof. They shall also notify the Ministry in the following cases:

1. Infection or suspected infection of an animal with a communicable or epidemic disease;
2. Animal loss or death;
3. Transfer of animal ownership;
4. An individual's injury or death as a result of an assault by animal resources;
5. Fall, damage or loss of electronic chip.

Chapter 4: Animal Resources Welfare

Article 93

The following measures shall be taken when dealing with animal resources:

1. Sheltering animal resources as per the appropriate conditions for each type; the Ministry shall lay down the necessary requirements in this regard;
2. Using feed that is suitable for their type and weight, and safe for their health, in healthy feeders and drinkers that can be cleaned and disinfected, and in sufficient quantities throughout the day, especially in commercial facilities;
3. Immediately treating any animal showing any symptoms of disease, and consulting a specialized veterinarian;
4. Avoiding stressing animals at work, in races, or otherwise, taking into account their age and health, and giving them an adequate amount of rest in competitions;
5. Avoiding the use of animal resources in a contrary way to their nature in performing artistic or entertainment shows.

Article 94

1. The parties concerned with animal resources shall take adequate precautions to avoid harm or death, such as negligence in storing hazardous materials inside animal

- homes, or in covering openings or high-risk structures therein, or failing to take adequate precautions against their escape, predation by other animals, or exposure to traffic accidents.
2. Animal resources shall not be disposed of in a merciless manner, such as using slow-death methods, or any other method causing terror, panic, or severe pain thereto without any justification, or through intentional administration of poison.
 3. Animal resources shall not be abused, harmed, neglected, tampered with, strayed, exposed to malnutrition, or left without adequate food and necessary treatment while still alive.
 4. Animal resources shall not be given any veterinary preparations, feed, food, feed additives, or cosmetics that are not authorized by the relevant agencies for any purpose whatsoever. Nor shall they be given any growth-promoting preparations, hormones, steroids, or any food, materials, or anabolic steroids for non-medical reasons, including stimulants given to animals for participating in any type of competition, such as speed and endurance competitions, and beauty contests.
 5. Animals shall not be disposed of except in cases of extreme necessity such as epidemics or any disability that prevents an animal from continuing its normal life; the Ministry shall lay down the necessary procedures and controls in this regard.
 6. Animals that are unable to stand up shall be gently treated and shall not be pulled in a painful way that could cause wounds, bruises, fractures or dislocations.
 7. Any practice carried out to change the shape of an animal without medical reasons shall be deemed as an abuse of animal resources; this shall include the following:
 - a) Performing surgeries for cosmetic or marketing purposes, including cutting off ears, tails, lips, or any part of a living animal's body;
 - b) Injecting any local or general medicinal preparations to change an animal's shape for marketing purposes;
 - c) Burning an animal's face with fire (branding);
 - d) Dyeing animals with any materials unlicensed by the Ministry;
 - e) Removing an animal's organs or performing surgeries thereon without medical reasons and without the supervision of a veterinarian licensed by the Ministry;
and
 - f) Chemical castration.

8. Animal resources shall not be abused, including intentionally taking same as a target for shooting, hunting, drowning, burning, dragging, torture, pulling, severe beating, hitting, running over, or strangling while alive, poisoning, sexual assault, or starvation with intent to harm, or instigating fights thereamong, or harmful tampering therewith to change their shapes, such as stretching, face lifting, and cutting) and any similar type of harm.
9. Tame animals may not be offered for adoption with a requirement that they be purchased from the licensed agricultural or veterinary facility for a certain amount or that a certain amount be paid therefor, except for costs of vaccination or medical treatment that the animal received prior to being offered, provided that proof thereof be submitted, along with a book of immunizations showing the dates of vaccinations received by the animal, and issued by an agency licensed by the Ministry to exercise the animal adoption activity.

Article 95

Animals shall be induced to move using the following methods:

1. Plastic sticks, flags and short whips with leather or fabric tongues may be used without stressing the animal.
2. The following means shall not be used to induce animals to move:
 - a) Electrocutation, including electric whips, except in cases of self-defense. These methods shall never be used in pricking sensitive areas of an animal's body, and shall not be repeated in the event that the animal refuses to respond or move forward;
 - b) Large sticks with a sharp or metal head;
 - c) Any painful means such as tail twisting and nose pliers or pressure on eyes, ears and external genitalia.

Article 96

1. Animal welfare shall be observed in slaughterhouses, such as adhering to Islamic teachings; allowing animals to have access to drinking water prior to slaughter; resting animals upon slaughter; and avoiding letting animals see the means of slaughter, spilled blood, or other animals being slaughtered, by placing barriers.

2. The following methods shall not be used in slaughterhouses:
 - a) Electrocution before, during or after slaughter;
 - b) Pushing animals intended to be slaughtered to move faster than usual, thus exposing them to risk of injury;
 - c) Restraining animals at slaughter;
 - d) Breaking an animal's legs, cutting leg tendons, blinding eyes, severing the spinal cord, hitting the head, tearing joint ligaments, or eye-gouging; and/or
 - e) Suspending animals, other than poultry, by the feet or legs prior to slaughtering.

The Ministry shall issue the necessary rules and instructions to implement the provisions referred to hereabove.

Article 97

1. Animal resources shall not be abandoned without the direct supervision of their owners or any other person assigned by them. Owners shall bear the consequences of any incidents involving their animals, such as traffic accidents, assaults on people, public utilities, natural reserves or other properties, including destruction of crops and the like.
2. The Ministry or its designee may seize any local animal resources that are abandoned, stray, endangered, or abused in a special place for a period not exceeding five days. If the owner of such animals fails during that period to communicate with the Ministry or the seizing agency to receive the same, the Ministry shall dispose thereof as it deems appropriate without prejudice to the relevant provisions. Said owner shall bear the feeding and treatment costs for the seizure period, in addition to any other costs, including transfer to and from his site, and financial penalties resulting therefrom.
3. The Ministry or its designee shall be entitled to keep imported or exported animals that are abandoned, endangered, or abused for a period of three days from the date of their arrival at the port, in coordination with the relevant agencies, each in its own capacity. In the event that the owner of said animals fails to respond, legal action shall be taken to dispose of the animals depending on their health condition and at the expense of their owner.

Chapter 5: Trading in and Sale of Animal Resources and Products

Article 98

1. The Ministry or its designee shall determine the appropriate sites for setting up seasonal and permanent markets to circulate and sell types of animal resources. Circulation shall be permitted only in places licensed by the Ministry.
2. Animal resources markets established after the issuance of these Regulations shall be located outside the urban boundaries of cities, governorates and villages, and shall have a veterinary clinic for medical supervision of the animals offered for sale.
3. Animal resources shall not be offered for sale unless they have completed the vaccination programs approved by the Ministry; vaccination shall be administered by a person or agency that is licensed by the Ministry.
4. An animal showing any sign of fatigue, stress or symptoms of disease shall not be offered for sale, and shall be immediately isolated in a place away from other healthy animals.

Article 99

Facilities operating in the field of animal resources trade – including livestock markets, pet shops selling food and supplies, and pet showrooms – shall comply with the requirements and controls set out in the Guide to Transfer of Animal Resources and Products, issued by the Ministry.

Chapter 6: Animal Health

Article 100

The Minister or his designee may obligate owners of animal resources or animal wildlife organisms to immunize all or some of their animals against any disease determined by the Ministry at a specified time or times.

Article 101

The Ministry or its designee shall conduct veterinary health tests or epidemiological

surveys for specific types of animal resources, products or waste, to diagnose animal diseases or detect any microbial, chemical or radioactive contamination or residues of veterinary preparations, on specific or regular times, or as the need arises.

Article 102

Animal and veterinary facilities shall apply all procedures of biosecurity, infection control and vaccination programs, as decided by the Ministry, and the provisions of the Guide to Animal Health and the Guide to Biosecurity in Animal Facilities issued by the Ministry.

Article 103

1. An animal owner shall notify the Ministry or its designee of any detected or suspected (epidemic or communicable) animal disease and shall promptly have said animal examined by a veterinarian.
2. The Ministry or its designee shall immediately visit the reported site, establish the correctness of the report, and implement the necessary procedures.
3. The health status of animals shall not be announced in the media unless the Ministry's approval is obtained.

Article 104

Animal resources infected with epidemic diseases shall be safely disposed of in accordance with the Guide to Animal Health issued by the Ministry.

Article 105

The Ministry or its designee shall establish epidemiological and risk units to control and oversee animal diseases inside the Kingdom, and to carry out the tasks related to maintaining animal health; these tasks shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Monitoring local, regional and international animal diseases and their latest developments, and determining preventive measures to address the same and eliminate their impacts on animal resources and products in the Kingdom;
2. Monitoring endemic and transboundary diseases;
3. Evaluating the health and economic effects of diseases and setting control priorities therefor;

4. Receiving and supervising relevant emergency reports, and evaluating the situation until the report is finalized;
5. Collecting and analyzing data on animal resources;
6. Preparing periodic reports on the epidemiological situation;
7. Managing the implementation of emergency and crisis management plans and preparing daily follow-up reports in cases of emergencies and health crises related to animal resources;
8. Evaluating the gravity of animal diseases based on their internal and external data, such as recorded numbers, geographical spread, and reported or potential economic impacts, including their effects on public health;
9. Overseeing and following up national programs in controlling animal diseases and their vectors;
10. Conducting epidemiological surveys and investigation of diseases related to animal resources;
11. Evaluating the service level of animal resources service providers licensed by the Ministry;
12. Carrying out inspection tours of service providers, slaughterhouses and public markets, and ensuring their compliance with the necessary requirements and standards; and
13. Detecting and assessing risks associated with animal resources, epidemic outbreaks, and antibiotic-resistant microbes, and determining ways to deal therewith and reduce their risks pursuant to the provisions and procedures set out in the Guide to Animal Health issued by the Ministry.

Article 106

The Ministry or its designee shall announce and identify endemic areas to prevent the spread of animal epidemics, and it may, for this purpose, undertake the following:

1. Restricting the movement of relevant persons or means of transport from, to, or across the affected area or sites;
2. Preventing circulation of any living animal resources, wildlife organisms, products, or tools used in care thereof in all or some of the restricted areas;
3. Coordinating with the security agencies to implement said restriction throughout the time period required by the disease control and restriction measures; and

4. Monitoring the implementation of the restriction, announcing that the area is free of disease pursuant to the approved technical procedures, lifting the restriction imposed on the endemic area or sites, and informing the relevant agencies of the same.

Article 107

Animal diseases occurring in slaughterhouses shall be handled pursuant to the provisions of the Guide to Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection and Transfer issued by the Ministry.

Article 108

The Ministry may accredit animal production facilities with distinguished health status (independent veterinary health compartments), pursuant to the controls set out in the Guide to Independent Veterinary Health Compartments issued by the Ministry.

Chapter 7: Veterinary Facilities

Article 109

Without prejudice to the relevant laws, particularly including the Law of Practicing Veterinary Medical Professions of the GCC States, approved by Royal Decree no. M/33, dated 5/6/1434H and its implementing regulations, the veterinary profession shall be regulated in accordance with the provisions set out in these Regulations and in the Guide to Veterinary Careers and Facilities issued by the Ministry.

Article 110

The Ministry shall set quality rules and standards for veterinary care, monitor their implementation in governmental and private veterinary facilities, and ensure correct practice of veterinary professions, and workers' compliance with professional rules and ethics.

Article 111

The Ministry shall notify the competent agencies in the event that the certificates and documents pursuant to which a veterinarian or veterinary practitioner was contracted

by a veterinary facility are found to be invalid, and shall include him in the Do-Not Contract and Do-Not-License List. The veterinary facility shall exclude and deport said veterinarian if he is non-Saudi. Any claim for private right shall be referred to the competent agency.

Article 112

The Ministry or its designee shall create records for registering veterinary practitioners licensed to practice veterinary medicine and allied veterinary medical professions. Said record shall be divided pursuant to the classification of veterinary facilities set out in the Guide to Veterinary Careers and Facilities issued by the Ministry, and shall also include workers in the following fields:

1. Study and research centers, universities and institutes;
2. Public health; and
3. Veterinary pharmaceutical warehouses or veterinary preparations companies and production and circulation facilities, as well as workers in advertising and promoting veterinary preparations.

Each record shall indicate the veterinary practitioner's registration number and date, his academic degree and its issuing date and agency, his address and residence and workplace, and his employer's name.

Article 113

A veterinarian's practice license shall be deemed canceled in the following cases:

1. Lapse of six months from the issuing date thereof without practicing work;
2. Cancellation of the license of the private facility where he is employed, expiration of the operation contract of his recruiting company unless he has moved to a licensed facility, or termination of the period during which a visiting veterinarian is licensed to work;
3. Veterinary practitioner's change of his specialization without the Ministry's authorization;
4. Issuance of a decision by the competent agency to suspend or cancel the license; or
5. Licensee's death.

Article 114

If a facility owner has no veterinarian under his sponsorship, he may, in coordination with the relevant agencies, apply for transfer of, or temporary contracting with, a licensed veterinarian until he recruits a new one or until his own veterinarian returns in the event that the latter has taken his leave in accordance with the applicable labor and residence laws in the Kingdom, subject to the following controls:

1. An official request shall be submitted to the Ministry, explaining the reasons for such need.
2. The transfer or contracting shall be carried out with the approval of the employer licensed by the Ministry.
3. A copy of a valid practice license shall be provided.
4. The Ministry shall consider the application and approve the transfer or issue a temporary license for a maximum period of six months for the contractor in case the application is approved.

Article 115

A veterinary facility owner shall be permitted to obtain approval for the recruitment of a visiting expert (consultant or specialist) in any major veterinary specialization, pursuant to the following controls:

1. He shall submit an official request to the Ministry, explaining the reasons for such need.
2. The visiting period shall not exceed three months at a time, and may be extended pursuant to an official request submitted by the facility owner to the competent government agency.
3. A copy of the academic and expertise certificates of said consultant shall be attached.
4. The Ministry shall consider the application and endorse the issuance of a visitor's visa to the recruitment office.
5. The consultant or specialist shall be granted a practice license under the title "visiting consultant or specialist license" for a renewable period of three months.

Article 116

Veterinary staff may be assigned to veterinary facilities in accordance with the

following controls:

1. Both veterinary facilities shall be operating pursuant to a valid license.
2. The assigned veterinarian shall hold a valid practice license.
3. The assignment shall be carried out as part of a cooperation agreement between the two facilities.
4. The assigned veterinarian shall operate only in his area of specialization.
5. The assignment period shall be specified pursuant to the approval of the facility requesting the assignment, and shall not exceed six months, but it may be extended for other periods not exceeding another six months.
6. A veterinarian may not be simultaneously assigned to more than one agency.

Article 117

A veterinary practitioner shall not:

1. Employ unlicensed veterinary professionals, or provide assistance to any illegal practitioner of a veterinary profession;
2. Keep medicines or vaccines at the workplace, in contravention of the Ministry's instructions, with the exception of veterinary pharmacies;
3. Sell medicines, except in veterinary pharmacies;
4. Use prohibited or unlicensed devices for examination or treatment;
5. Give any confirmed diagnosis in criminal cases, unless he is so qualified by the Ministry; or
6. Obtain any benefit in exchange for promoting or prescribing medications or devices, or directing beneficiaries to a specific pharmacy, hospital, laboratory, or the like.

Article 118

A private veterinary facility shall enable veterinary practitioners to attend continuing veterinary education programs in their field of specialization, as determined by the Ministry.

Article 119

A veterinarian shall observe the ethics of his profession, including:

1. Developing his knowledge, and keeping updated with the latest scientific

- developments and discoveries in his field of specialization; the management of veterinary facilities shall enable veterinarians to attend seminars and courses, in accordance with the controls set by the Ministry;
2. Avoiding any form of propaganda and advertisement;
 3. Informing the Ministry or its designee of any diagnosis or detection of a disease that endangers animal resources or public health;
 4. Indicate to the owner of an animal the following information:
 - a) Expected medical results of any veterinary practices to be carried out; said owner shall be entitled to accept or reject the same unless the animal is infected with a communicable or epidemic disease;
 - b) Expected costs of treatment in writing;
 - c) In the event of surgery, the veterinarian shall obtain the animal owner's written consent.

Article 120

A veterinary practitioner shall be held accountable for any harm that a sick animal sustains due to a medical error. The person who made the error shall incur compensation therefor. Medical errors shall, *inter alia*, comprise the following:

1. Negligence, such as an error in treatment or absence of follow-up;
2. Ignorance of scientific and technical information that a person with a similar specialization is assumed to be informed about;
3. Performing experimental and unprecedented surgeries, in contravention of the rules governing the same;
4. Conducting experiments or research not approved by the competent agency;
5. Dispensing medicines on a trial basis;
6. Using medicines not registered with the competent agency, or in a way other than that stated in the package leaflet;
7. Using medical machines or devices without sufficient knowledge of their method of use, or without taking the necessary precautions to avoid damage;
8. Absence of control and oversight; and
9. Failure to consult a person whose assistance is required due to the condition of a sick animal.

Article 121

A therapeutic veterinary facility shall, prior to operation, provide the following:

1. A veterinarian licensed by the Ministry to practice veterinary medicine;
2. License of a private veterinary facility; and
3. Records created in the same form used by the competent agency to enter the data of the veterinary facility's activities.

Chapter 8: Meat

Article 122

Subject to the provisions relating to slaughterhouses and meat inspection and transfer set out in the Guide to Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection and Transfer issued by the Ministry, the Ministry shall supervise and regulate slaughterhouses as follows:

1. Slaughterhouses shall be supervised and their data updated by removing slaughtered animals from the database, pursuant to the rules prepared by the Ministry and the requirements and standards related to animal health;
2. Animal resources shall not be slaughtered outside licensed slaughterhouses except in emergency cases, and in accordance with the controls specified by the technical regulations for meat inspection issued by the Ministry;
3. The Ministry may specify particular slaughterhouses for one type of animal resources or more, in line with the public interest.
4. Slaughter shall be carried out as per Islamic rules; slaughterhouse workers shall be fully aware of the requirements and methods of slaughter pursuant to *Sharia*, including animal welfare, as provided for in these Regulations.
5. A slaughterer shall hold a professional certificate authorizing him to work in animal slaughter, as well as a valid health certificate establishing that he is disease-free.
6. The conditions and controls issued by the Ministry for establishing and operating private slaughterhouses shall be enforced.
7. The Ministry shall be informed of any suspected epidemic or communicable disease inside a slaughterhouse.
8. The necessary measures shall be taken to ensure that pathogens are not transmitted

- to slaughterhouse workers or to meat.
9. Slaughterhouse waste, especially killings and meat unfit for human consumption, shall be discarded in proper healthy and scientific ways.

Article 123

Slaughterhouse workers shall be examined by the official competent health agencies prior to their appointment. Each worker shall hold a valid health certificate establishing that he is free from wounds, suppurations, and communicable diseases such as parasites, salmonella, and respiratory and digestive diseases. He shall be appropriately and regularly re-examined, and his safety observed on a constant basis.

Article 124

The Ministry or its designee shall monitor slaughtering places and methods in its slaughterhouses by way of specialized employees, as it deems appropriate.

Article 125

Animal resources shall be slaughtered in designated places under the supervision and control of the Ministry or its designee. The Ministry or its designee shall monitor the slaughtered animals offered for sale, in coordination with the relevant agencies, and shall ensure that an official seal is placed on slaughtered animals to establish their shelf life and quality.

Article 126

Animals shall not be slaughtered for commercial purposes by any person or agency that does not hold a practice license and a health certificate proving that he is free from dangerous diseases.

Article 127

Meat samples shall be regularly collected and tested to ensure that they are free from residues of veterinary preparations and pesticides, or that these residues are kept within the permissible limits stipulated in the relevant standards.

Article 128

Laying hens shall not be slaughtered following the end of their laying cycle except in slaughterhouses so authorized by the Ministry or its designee, provided that the following rules are observed:

1. Laying hens facilities shall submit a written report indicating how to dispose of hens after the end of the laying cycle of each chicken flock, and comprising the number and type of hens and the date of disposal.
2. Slaughterhouses authorized to slaughter laying hens shall submit monthly reports indicating details of slaughtered flocks (name of supplying facility, number, type, date, and other relevant information) and marketing method, and shall send the same to the Ministry.

Article 129

In the event that laying hens are slaughtered and buried inside a facility, the persons in charge of this procedure shall coordinate with the Ministry branch or office in charge of the facility to arrange for the presence of a Ministry controller, and shall draft a report thereon. Laying hens shall not be handed over or sold to individuals, institutions, slaughterhouses, or others without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.

Article 130

The controls of animal resources transfer shall be observed upon transporting laying hens; every poultry transport vehicle shall carry a copy of the Ministry's authorization for the transfer of laying hens for slaughtering purposes.

Article 131

Vehicles seized transporting laying hens without the Ministry's authorization shall be dealt with as follows:

1. Investigating the vehicle driver by the competent agencies or Ministry controller to find out his basic data (ID card number, driver's license, vehicle license) as well as details of the cargo, source facility, and slaughterhouse or destination, as the case may be;
2. Disposal of hens by sanitary means at the expense of the truck owner or source

- facility, in coordination with the municipal authorities of the governorate or secretariats of the regions;
3. Issuing a ticket for violation of the Law and its Regulations, using the approved seizure form entitled “poultry transport without Ministry’s authorization,” against the truck driver, source facility, destination facility, or recipient;
 4. If the source or destination facility is located in a governorate or region other than the one where the cargo is seized, the relevant Ministry branch in charge of the facility shall be addressed to issue the violation.

Chapter 9: Veterinary Preparations and Residues

Article 132

The Ministry or its designee shall coordinate with SFDA regarding the following issues:

1. Determining the conditions, controls and standards for using veterinary preparations and pesticides with animal and living aquatic resources, and continuously evaluating their effects on human and animal health and on the environment pursuant to the One Health approach;
2. Regulating, monitoring, and inspecting the circulation of veterinary preparations in agricultural and veterinary facilities;
3. Regulating, monitoring, and inspecting the circulation of agricultural pesticides in agricultural facilities and agricultural sector sales outlets;
4. Issuing the necessary approvals prior to the registration of veterinary preparations relating to animal and living aquatic resources, in accordance with the Ministry's plans to preserve such resources in the Kingdom, and in accordance with the investigation, control, and surveillance programs and control plans carried out by the Ministry;
5. Regulating the pharmacovigilance activity of veterinary preparations in animal health at the facilities affiliated with or supervised by the Ministry;
6. Rationalizing the use of antimicrobials, especially those with a severe impact on human health, and considering banning their use, importation, local manufacture, or circulation; and
7. Developing plans to limit the use of antibiotics, in coordination with the relevant

agencies.

Article 133

1. No veterinary preparations shall be used in agricultural facilities, except those licensed by SFDA, in accordance with the controls specified by the Ministry.
2. The Ministry shall coordinate with any agency inside or outside the Kingdom to produce veterinary preparations to cover local needs.
3. The residues of veterinary preparations and other residues in agricultural facility products shall not exceed the MRLs specified in the Kingdom's approved standards.
4. Veterinary preparations shall only be used in agricultural facilities for the treatment and protection of animal and living aquatic resources, and shall only be dispensed under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Prescriptions shall specify the type, dose, and administration period of the preparation as well as its withdrawal period.
5. Veterinary preparations shall only be sold in agricultural facilities for the treatment and protection of their animal and living aquatic resources, and shall not be dispensed except under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
6. Diseased animal and living aquatic resources under treatment shall be isolated, and shall not be offered or marketed for human or animal consumption prior to the expiration of the withdrawal period. The necessary tests shall be conducted to ensure that the residues of preparations in these organisms do not exceed the permissible limits.

Article 134

A service provider/agricultural practitioner shall:

1. Record the data of each production lot being bred, and the results of the tests conducted during the breeding stages, in addition to the following data:
 - a) Type of animal and living aquatic resources under treatment;
 - b) Type, quantity and administration method of veterinary preparations in use;
 - c) Start and end dates of treatment; and
 - d) Withdrawal period of preparations in use.
2. Issue a written certificate for each batch of agricultural facility products, listing the veterinary preparations in use and withdrawal period thereof, and indicating that the

residues do not exceed the permissible limits.

Chapter 10: Importation, Exportation, Transit and Quarantine

Article 135

Living animal resources and animal wildlife organisms shall be imported or exported through quarantines approved by the Ministry.

Article 136

The Ministry or its designee shall, in coordination with the relevant agency, grant approvals for the importation, exportation or transit of any agricultural sector resources and products and wild organisms. It may prohibit the importation of any type thereof to achieve public interest and animal welfare, and shall set the necessary health procedures and conditions in this respect.

Article 137

The Ministry or its designee shall examine animal consignments entering the Kingdom. This shall include conducting laboratory and visual testing, verifying the correctness of accompanying health certificates, and taking adequate measures to ensure the integrity and safety of incoming consignments, and the carrier's observance of animal welfare requirements.

Article 138

The Ministry or its designee shall issue import and export authorizations for animal wildlife organisms upon the approval of the National Center for Wildlife. The Ministry shall set the necessary health procedures and requirements to regulate the same.

Article 139

The Ministry may prohibit the importation of any animal or animal product from countries established to have been exposed to epidemic animal diseases, or radioactive or chemical pollution, conduct laboratory tests on products imported therefrom, and take the necessary measures in this regard to protect consumers, including destroying

these products before, during or after circulation thereof in markets, or re-exporting same if the need arises. It shall coordinate in this respect with other relevant agencies.

Article 140

The approval of the Ministry or its designee shall be obtained to import reagents and veterinary laboratory devices pursuant to the following:

1. Filling out an electronic clearance request form by the importing agency, including the basic data to be specified, such as the name of the manufacturer, country of origin, shipping country, name of beneficiary, description of shipment (name of each item), and quantity of each item in the shipment;
2. A copy of the commercial register and Zakat certificate;
3. A copy of the purchase invoice, if any, including basic data to be specified, such as, shipment description, quantity of each item, product batch number, production date, and expiry date;
4. Attaching an approval letter from the beneficiary, or an undertaking from the importer to provide the Ministry with information on beneficiaries in the event of importation for the benefit of company or facility warehouses, along with proof of the license of said warehouses, and enabling Ministry personnel to visit the same;
5. Providing and activating a temperature recorder in each shipment package as of the time of shipping;
6. Attaching proof that the distributor is approved by the manufacturer if the purchase invoice is issued by an agent or distributor of said manufacturer; and
7. Attaching a copy of the scientific brochures for the products to be cleared;

All previous documents shall be uploaded via the Ministry's electronic portal designated for this purpose.

Article 141

The Ministry or its designee, as the case may be, shall implement the procedures for imposing or lifting quarantine on countries, depending on the animal resources risk assessments carried out by the Ministry.

Article 142

The Ministry or its designee, as the case may be, shall assess the level of importation risks, visit the country of origin to check the general health situation and efficiency of veterinary services, and review and approve quarantines for exportation to the Kingdom.

Article 143

The Ministry shall be entitled to administer any type of vaccination to imported animals prior to their exportation to the Kingdom or upon their arrival to its territory.

Article 144

The Ministry may accredit facilities for exporting animal resources or products to the Kingdom in the exporting countries as per the standards issued by the Ministry.

Article 145

Animal products and waste shall not be exported outside the Kingdom without a veterinary health certificate from the competent agency proving that they are free from pathogens.

Article 146

The Ministry may approve independent veterinary health compartments as accredited national facilities for exporting animal products abroad once agricultural facilities requesting accreditation meet the required standards, and submit the necessary documents and papers, in accordance with the animal health provisions set out in these Regulations.

Article 147

Animal resources importers and exporters shall:

1. Comply with the health conditions approved by the Ministry for animal consignments in the exporting country;
2. Comply with the average weights for imported animal consignments to the Kingdom, pursuant to the conditions announced by the Ministry.

3. Use means of transport that observe animal welfare in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, and in coordination with the relevant government agencies;
4. Provide, at their own expense, the costs of feeding and treating their own living animals from the moment they arrive at the quarantine until they are cleared or re-exported; and
5. Obtain permits for sea and land means of transport and their carrying capacity, as per the conditions published by the Ministry.

Article 148

All incoming and outgoing consignments to and from the Kingdom shall be subject to the technical controls, conditions, and procedures for agricultural and veterinary quarantine, pursuant to the Guide to the Procedures of Agricultural and Veterinary Quarantine issued by the Ministry.

Article 149

Subject to the provisions of the Guide to the Procedures of Agricultural and Veterinary Quarantine, issued by the Ministry, the measures, precautions and procedures for protecting agricultural sector resources, and preventing entry and spread of communicable diseases, pests and epidemics, and the provisions relating to quarantine centers and operation thereof, shall be as follows:

1. The Ministry shall explore new and emerging diseases of agricultural sector resources, monitor their development, and define preventive measures for early resistance thereto, in accordance with the developments in the global health situation of transboundary epidemic diseases of agricultural sector resources.
2. The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, regulate quarantine procedures for agricultural sector resources to prevent the entry or spread of diseases or epidemics.
3. No agency or individual shall import agricultural sector resources from any country or a specified territory thereof that is banned by the Ministry due to its infection with any epidemic disease or contamination that could endanger the agricultural sector or public health in the Kingdom.
4. Service providers/Agricultural practitioners and all parties concerned with the

agricultural sector shall immediately notify the Ministry or its designee of any suspected plant pest, communicable disease, epidemic, or unusual deaths of animal or living aquatic resources within a period not exceeding 24 hours of the actual or suspected infection.

5. The Ministry or its designee shall designate quarantine areas to prevent the spread of diseases, pests, or epidemics, and may, for this purpose, prohibit the movement of persons, agricultural sector resources or products, or means of transport from or to the quarantine areas.
6. Agricultural sector resources or products that are infected or suspected of being infected by any disease, pest, or epidemic shall not be transferred, circulated, or disposed of without obtaining authorization from the Ministry or its designee.
7. Non-endemic living aquatic resources shall not be admitted into the Kingdom's waters without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.
8. Marine life such as, fish, shrimp, and the like, caught during the off season shall not be held, circulated or transferred.
9. The Ministry shall be entitled to safely dispose of any agricultural consignment that is illegally received, exported, or transited into the Kingdom through unapproved ports or borders, as issued by the Minister or his designee. The bearer or carrier of said consignment shall be punished pursuant to the provisions of these Regulations and in accordance with other laws and provisions issued in this regard.

Article 150

Service providers/agricultural practitioners shall:

1. Comply with the sampling program determined by the Ministry; and
2. Abide by the applications and controls of biosecurity programs, and follow up on the periodical updates of the Ministry in this regard.

Article 151

With regard to quarantine centers and operation thereof, the Ministry or its designee shall:

1. Determine specific areas for the mobility of agricultural sector resources within the Kingdom for any purpose whatsoever;
2. Designate and operate quarantine centers in the regions or governorates of the

- Kingdom, as needed, whether directly or through a service provider;
3. Prohibit the transfer of agricultural sector resources pursuant to studies of the health situation of each region of the Kingdom;
 4. Issue mobility authorizations between regions for living agricultural sector resources, depending on the health situation in emergencies as well as in transit;
 5. Set up checkpoints between and within regions to implement the internal quarantine systems, in coordination with the relevant agencies; and
 6. Coordinate with the relevant agencies in cases of crises and emergencies to detect violators of the provisions of internal quarantine in accordance with the Law and its Regulations.

Chapter 11: Beekeeping

Article 152

1. The Ministry shall issue beekeeping practice licenses (beekeeper's license) and licenses for establishing modern individual apiaries (modern hives) or traditional apiaries (local hives), including (permanent or mobile apiaries), and shall supervise the same in coordination with the relevant agencies pursuant to the following:
 - a) Only Saudis shall be entitled to engage in beekeeping.
 - b) All beekeepers shall register their data on the Ministry's electronic portal and shall apply for the necessary licenses.
 - c) Offices in cities or governorates, or units in districts, depending on the administrative area where an investor's apiary is located, shall undertake the initial procedures for license issuance and field inspections of apiaries.
 - d) An apiary shall be located at a suitable place for beekeeping that is abundant with bee pastures.
 - e) An apiary shall be located away from populated areas.
 - f) An apiary shall be located away from contaminants, such as fertilizer and pesticide storage areas, and from sources of repulsive odors to honey bee colonies, such as livestock barns and poultry farms.
 - g) The distance between apiaries shall be determined by the Ministry.

- h) For a permanent apiary owned by an individual, a legitimate or legal deed of the site shall be attached.
 - i) A beekeeper shall number his hives and place an identification board on the apiary, indicating its basic information.
 - j) The license of an individually owned apiary shall be valid for a renewable term of three years.
2. Subject to meeting the relevant requirements set out in paragraph (1) of this Article, the Ministry shall license and supervise beekeeping and honey production facilities, in coordination with the relevant agencies, as follows:
- a) A facility license shall be issued to individual and private sector investors.
 - b) Investors shall record their data on the Ministry's electronic portal and shall apply for a license.
 - c) The land on which the facility is established shall be suitable for the activity, and shall be located outside the urban planning boundaries of cities, villages, governorates, and districts; the approval of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Housing shall be attached.
 - d) A legitimate or legal deed shall be attached for the land on which the permanent beekeeping and honey production facility is to be built.
 - e) A technical and economic feasibility study of the facility shall be submitted, as well as any other study required by the Ministry.

Article 153

Beekeeping and feeding shall be subject to the following measures, precautions, procedures and controls:

1. Beekeepers and owners of apiaries and bee facilities shall provide correct data as required by the employees of the Ministry or the relevant agency and shall allow them to inspect their colonies and collect samples of bees, tools, products, or therapeutic and nutritional materials when necessary.
2. If bee colonies are endangered by a disease or pest, or if bee materials or tools become a source of pathogen infection that may lead to economic loss, one or more of the following measures shall be taken:

- a) A beekeeper shall report the disease or pests to the nearest branch, directorate, or general agricultural administration, and shall fill out the relevant form.
 - b) A beekeeper shall take the necessary measures to treat the disease or pest by using the registered materials for control measures, and shall follow the instructions on the package label. Should he be unacquainted with the methods of treatment, he shall contact the nearest branch, directorate, or general agricultural administration so that a bee technician can conduct the necessary inspection and adequately recommend the treatment and the administration method and timing.
 - c) Bees and/or tools that pose a source of infection with the disease or pest shall be placed under internal agricultural quarantine for a period to be determined by the Ministry, and shall never be transferred from the quarantine place.
 - d) The Ministry shall issue a circular to implement control measures by beekeepers to limit the spread of the disease and pest in the area.
 - e) The Ministry shall designate and close infected areas and shall prevent the entry or exit of any bees or products thereof, in coordination with the relevant agencies; said quarantine shall be lifted pursuant to a decision of the Ministry.
 - f) A Ministry employee may, pursuant to a Ministry technician's report, and in the presence of a bee owner or his representative, exterminate bee colonies and/or tools should this procedure be the only effective method to eradicate the disease or pest.
3. Chemical pesticides or antibiotics shall not be used to control bee diseases or pests during the plant flowering seasons and storage of bee honey. As an exception, authorized natural materials or pesticides not of a chemical origin may be used for treatment.
 4. Therapeutic materials used to control bee pests and diseases shall be officially registered with the Ministry or with a relevant government agency. No pesticide or substance of unknown origin or not intended for bees, or the package of which does not contain full and clear information about its composition and application method, shall be used.
 5. No unlicensed substance shall be used or added to bee feeding for the purpose of treatment inside or outside beehives such as, veterinary medicines, including antibiotics, vitamins, or livestock or poultry proteins).

6. The Ministry shall, in emergencies that greatly endanger beekeeping as a profession, provide and distribute to beekeepers pesticides and bee tools free of charge.
7. Bee feeding using carbohydrates (sugars) and/or proteins (pollen grains, supplements, or substitutes thereof) shall be permitted in the following cases:
 - a) If natural food sources for bees are unavailable or lacking during summer or dry periods; the aim in this case shall be to preserve bee life;
 - b) Strengthening bee colonies for the production of queen bees or bee packages during breeding seasons; and
 - c) Strengthening newly-hived bee swarms or those emerging from partitioning.
8. Materials not intended for use in bee colonies or not registered for bee feeding shall not be used or added with the aim of stimulation or treatment, whether inside or outside hives.
9. Materials registered for bee feeding shall not be used during the flowering and honey sorting period.

Article 154

The Ministry shall regulate the importation of live bees, and shall grant importation authorizations pursuant to the following conditions:

1. An importer shall be an association, company, or institution with a commercial register including the agricultural activity of importing and exporting live bees.
2. An authorization for importing live bees shall be obtained from the Ministry for each consignment.
3. An importer shall have available a site or more, by means of ownership or leasing, with an area of not less than five dunams each to accommodate bee swarms or sell bee packages. Said site shall be located away from residential areas, schools, parks, bee pastures of local breeders, poultry facilities and livestock barns, and shall be furnished with cold rooms and refrigerated vehicles.
4. A license shall be obtained from the Ministry for said site, and the importer shall prepare the same by establishing sheds, a permanent water source, annexed rooms, and a warehouse, and shall make available feeding and treatment materials and bee boxes (Langstroth hives) on a regular basis.
5. A technical team specialized in bee housing and strengthening shall be employed

- and supervised by an engineer or technician specialized in beekeeping, along with beekeeping workers.
6. An importer shall conclude an annual contract with one station or more for queen rearing and package production in the country of origin, and shall complete the procedures for accrediting the same as an exporter of queens and bee packages with the quarantine agency in the Kingdom.
 7. Bee packages or the waste of dead and infected bees shall be destroyed at the port using healthy methods (environmentally friendly incinerators). An importer shall provide a safe way to dispose of waste and damaged and infected bees in bee houses.
 8. An importer's record shall not entail any violations of the provisions of the Law and its Regulations with regard to beekeeping for the last five years.
 9. An importer shall abide by the Ministry's instructions upon taking and testing random samples. He shall then transfer the same immediately to bee houses, and shall instantly inform the person who issued the importation approval so that his representative may attend.
 10. Importers shall comply with the annual quantity specified by the Ministry for each importer.
 11. Beekeepers and suppliers shall abide by the terms and guarantees therebetween to guarantee the rights of both parties.
 12. The Ministry shall determine the time periods for importing bees, and it may suspend importation whenever interest so requires.
 13. Only bee packages (worker bees with a queen without combs) shall be imported in cages made of wood and wire, or in any other form as approved by the Ministry pursuant to standard packaging methods.
 14. Single queen bees shall be imported in special cages, along with attending worker bees.
 15. A certificate of origin and a health certificate indicating that imported bees and/or queens are free from any diseases or pests shall be attached, provided that the health certificate be issued not more than two weeks from the bee arrival date.
 16. Samples of adult bees taken from bee packages or worker bees attending on queens shall be inspected at the port to ensure that they are free from diseases or pests, especially dangerous pests such as Varroa mites, small hive beetles, *Nosema ceranae*, or any other diseases specified by the Ministry.
 17. The species of Asian bees (*Apis cerana*) and Indian giant bees (*Apis dorsata*) shall

not be imported except for scientific research purposes by scientific agencies and research centers and with the Ministry's approval. Nor shall queen bees or bee packages of African descent, namely *Apis mellifera capensis* and *Apis mellifera scutellata*, be imported.

18. The country of origin shall be free of Asian, African, and European-African hybrid honey bees.
19. The global health situation of bees shall be constantly monitored through reports made by international organizations such as the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in order to take appropriate action against any infected country to prevent the disease from entering the Kingdom.

Article 155

The Ministry shall issue authorizations for exporting live bees pursuant to the following conditions:

1. An exporting agricultural facility shall have a commercial register including the activity of importing and exporting of live honey bee packages.
2. Bee packages and beehives shall be exported on condition that they be accompanied by a certificate of origin and a veterinary health certificate issued by the Ministry indicating that they are free from the pests and diseases listed by OIE, as well as the pests and diseases listed by the Ministry.
3. The exporting agency shall comply with the conditions of the importing country.
4. The Ministry shall be entitled to suspend exportation of bee packages and queens whenever interest so requires in order to preserve the local bee breeds.

Article 156

The Ministry shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, issue licenses for importing and exporting bee tools and materials pursuant to the following:

1. The activity shall be added to the facility's commercial register.
2. Beekeeping tools and supplies shall only be imported and exported if they conform to internationally recognized specifications and standards if no Saudi standard is available.
3. Beehive materials, as well as bee treatments, nutrients and stimulants, shall not be imported and exported unless they are registered with the Ministry or other relevant

government agencies.

Article 157

In addition to the aforementioned provisions regarding beekeeping, other conditions and controls stipulated in the Technical Guide for Beekeeping Activity issued by the Ministry shall be adhered to.

Part 7: Living Aquatic Resources

Chapter 1: Fishing for Living Aquatic Resources

Article 158

Any activity related to fish, fishing of all kinds (traditional, commercial, tourist, high seas), and aquaculture of all types (open systems, closed systems, semi-closed systems, floating cages, integrated systems, ornamental fish) shall be deemed as associated with living aquatic resources, and shall be subject to the standards and procedures of quality control, marketing, biosecurity, and exportation and importation for living aquatic resources products.

Article 159

1. The Ministry shall specify areas of economic importance for living aquatic resources that require special administrative and operational plans for localization of the profession, whether in marine or coastal areas or in the Kingdom's islands, in coordination with the relevant agencies.
2. In the event that it is necessary to establish an agricultural facility in a coastal area, a study shall be conducted and submitted to explain its impact on living aquatic resources, and to ensure that it has the least negative effects thereon. Methods shall be provided for treating return water and for addressing the negative effects of the agricultural facility's waste on the different types of living aquatic resources, along with removing damage.
3. Fishing for all types of living aquatic resources in the inland marine waters, territorial sea, contiguous (adjacent) zone, and exclusive economic zone may not be

- practiced unless a license is obtained from the Ministry in accordance with the requirements determined thereby.
4. No illegal, unreported or unregulated fishing activity shall be practiced in the Kingdom's waters. This shall include fishing in natural reserves, fishing without a permit, fishing during ban seasons, genocidal fishing using prohibited means or materials such as electrocution or use of explosives, pesticides, chemicals or toxic substances, or any similar new method.
 5. The Ministry shall determine the types of marine life banned from harvesting, fishing ban seasons and zones, and minimum landing size of economically important fish species. All fishermen and others shall comply with these rules, and shall not market (buy or sell) prohibited living aquatic resources during ban seasons.
 6. The Ministry shall coordinate with the relevant agencies regarding the exportation of catches of living aquatic resources to serve sustainable development.
 7. All owners of investment fishing vessels, high seas fishing vessels and aquaculture projects shall regularly provide the Ministry with data and statistics on their living aquatic resources products, using the forms prepared therefor.

Article 160

1. The power to own a fishing vessel shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of the Transport General Authority.
2. The Ministry shall issue a temporary three-month fishing license for the children, families, and workers of fishermen, and it may, at its own discretion, issue the same for any citizen, pursuant to Ministry controls.
3. The Ministry shall issue a temporary (seasonal) license for fishing for particular types of marine life, pursuant to Ministry controls.

Article 161

A person intending to import or export living aquatic resources shall obtain the Ministry's approval, in accordance with the regulatory controls in this regard.

Article 162

The Ministry shall prepare extension and awareness-raising programs for fishermen to engage in the establishment of agricultural cooperatives and the like, in relation to

fishing and aquaculture in coastal regions, cities, villages and governorates, in coordination with the relevant agencies, and shall provide technical support to these cooperatives.

Article 163

Picnickers may fish for living aquatic resources for personal consumption only, using a fish line or hook (single hook), provided that their catch does not exceed 20 kilograms for every two persons, or 30 kilograms for more than two persons per trip.

Article 164

1. Illegally caught aquatic organisms, including small fish subject to the controls of minimum landing size, shall not be traded or marketed in commercial markets, fish selling centers, and the like.
2. Marine life such as, fish, shrimp, and the like shall not be held, traded, or transferred during ban seasons near beaches, in markets, or otherwise. Companies, institutions, and individuals holding quantities of marine life banned from harvesting during fishing ban seasons shall announce and register these quantities with the Ministry within 15 days from the end of each season. Registered quantities shall be handled pursuant to licenses issued by the Ministry to interested parties.
3. Ornamental fish, mollusks, or echinoderms shall not be caught, nor shells, sea snails, sponges, or starfish, and all living aquatic resources be extracted or traded except after obtaining authorization and license from the Ministry.
4. Fishermen, fishing workers and captains of fishing vessels shall immediately return young fish to the sea, if found among their catches, pursuant to the minimum landing size specified by the Ministry.
5. Sea cucumbers shall not be collected or caught from the Kingdom's territorial waters.
6. Fishing for living aquatic resources shall be banned during the breeding season and at the times specified by the Ministry, and fishermen shall immediately return their catches to the sea.
7. Fishing tools such as nets and pots shall not be used on coral reefs.

Article 165

Fishing by way of industrial vessels and vessels with inboard motors shall not be permitted within a distance of three nautical miles from the coastline or islands. Shrimp bottom trawling and fishing by traditional vessels with outboard motors shall be prohibited within a distance of about two nautical miles from the coastline or islands.

Article 166

The following fishing nets or equipment shall not be used:

1. Bottom trawls for fish;
2. Trammel (three-layered) nets;
3. Drifting gill nets (locally named *Hiali*);
4. All types of monofilament or multifilament nylon nets;
5. Encircling gill nets (locally named *Mekbar*) for catching fish schools; and
6. Fish pots (locally named *Sakhawi*) made of plastic, galvanized iron, wrought iron, or any other metal, and the like.

Article 167

1. No prohibited fishing means or methods, fishing nets, equipment, tools or materials shall be used on a fishing vessel. Nor shall they be held in coastal and non-coastal sites, nor in shops selling fishing equipment and tools.
2. Illegal baits, such as flour, shall not be used in fishing.
3. Nylon bags, plastic drinking bottles, and the like shall not be brought into the sea.
4. Damaged and dilapidated fishing equipment, plastic and wooden containers, oil cans, plastic materials and the like shall not be discarded in coastal or marine areas or in fishing ports. In case they are damaged at sea, they shall be brought out on board the fishing vessel.
5. Fishing tools or equipment shall not be installed over coral reefs by using any means to provoke fish and other aquatic organisms.
6. Marine vessels shall not drop their anchors in coral reef areas.

Article 168

1. Fishing shall be prohibited using nets with a mesh size less than the following:

- a) Shrimp bottom trawls (3.8 cm or 1.5 inches in the collection bag).
 - b) Gillnets (5.0 cm or 2.0 inches).
 - c) Purse seine nets (locally named *chinchola*) for catching mackerel and sardines: with a wing opening of (5.0 cm or 2.0 inches); shoulder opening, if any, of (3.8 cm or 1.5 inches); and bunt opening of (3.2 cm or 1.25 inches).
 - d) (Locally named) *Mikhdaja*, *Saliya*, and *Balmiya* fishing nets (1.5 cm or 0.6 inches).
 - e) Traps (*Sakhawi* and pots) (5.0 cm or 2.0 inches).
 - f) Kingfish traps (10 cm or 4 inches); the maximum length of the net shall be 2,400 meters, and its height shall not exceed 3 meters, and the thickness of the line shall not be less than 1 mm.
2. Fishing pots (*Sakhawi*) shall not be used without obtaining the Ministry's authorization and pursuant to the legal numbers. A fisherman shall not be compensated with new pots until after recovering at least 80% of the consumed pots.
 3. The Ministry shall determine the quantities of by-catch for all fishing methods, including shrimp bottom trawls, purse seine nets (*chinchola*) or others.
 4. The Ministry shall determine the conditions and specifications for authorized or prohibited fishing equipment and tools, such as nets, pots, and lines, to be used in the Kingdom's waters.

Article 169

Authorized fishing equipment shall be used pursuant to the following rules:

1. They shall not be placed in areas of navigation and movement of ships and boats, nor in natural coral reef areas or near seamarks (buoys) and used or abandoned marine facilities.
2. Prominent marks shall be placed to indicate purse seine nets.
3. Distinct and clear marks shall be placed to indicate and locate fishing pots by means of GPS devices.

Article 170

1. Spearguns of whatever type, harpoons, and the like shall not be used or held by

- fishermen, divers or picnickers.
2. Divers shall not take or fish for marine life without obtaining a license from the Ministry.
 3. Fishermen, divers or picnickers shall not use air generators in fishing.
 4. No fishing nets or equipment not included in these Regulations shall be used unless after obtaining the Ministry's authorization.

Article 171

1. No fishing equipment, nets or tools shall be imported via border crossings, without obtaining the Ministry's authorization
2. Sales shops shall not keep illegal fishing tools and equipment.

Article 172

1. The Ministry may make any amendment related to the specifications and mesh sizes of fishing nets and equipment.
2. The Ministry may suspend issuing licenses for fishing activities or new agricultural facilities.
3. The Ministry may reduce fishing efforts in places and times as it deems appropriate, and as per the species it determines.

Article 173

Living aquatic resources and products of local origin, whether from the fisheries of the Red Sea or the Arabian Gulf, or locally cultured aquatic organisms shall be exported pursuant to a license from the Ministry.

Article 174

The Ministry shall determine the number of Saudi or foreign labor for each fishing vessel in relation to fishing or aquaculture, pursuant to the controls it specifies.

Article 175

The Ministry shall issue and renew licenses for an artisanal and investor fisherman pursuant to the following requirements:

1. Requirements for an artisanal fisherman's license:
 - a) Holding a valid sailor's license issued at least one year before;
 - b) Obtaining an authorization from the Ministry to own a fishing vessel as per the specifications set thereby;
 - c) Changing his profession to an artisanal fisherman once he obtains the Ministry's approval, provided that he provides proof thereof from the competent agency;
 - d) The applicant shall be granted an initial authorization for a one-year period to provide the Ministry with a title deed of his vessel, failing which, said license shall be revoked.
2. Requirements for an investor fisherman's license:
 - a) The applicant shall be a Saudi, and shall pass a medical examination.
 - b) He shall not be a government employee.
 - c) He shall submit three hard copies and one electronic copy in the Arabic language of the technical and economic feasibility study of the proposed project conducted by an office recognized by the Ministry, provided that said study includes the main elements specified by the Ministry.
 - d) He shall specify the fishing tools and equipment to be used.

3. License Renewal:

The license of an artisanal and investor fisherman shall be renewed pursuant to the following conditions:

- a) His fishing vessel shall have a valid license.
- b) He shall not owe any fines to the Ministry or be subject to enforceable penalties.
- c) An investor fisherman shall provide the Ministry with his fishing statistics.

Article 176

1. The Ministry shall issue or renew a sailor's license pursuant to the following requirements:
 - a) The applicant shall be a Saudi, and shall not be less than 18 years.
 - b) He shall pass a medical examination.

- c) He shall pass a swimming test.
 - d) He shall not owe any fines to the Ministry or be subject to enforceable penalties.
 - e) He shall satisfy the requirements of other relevant agencies.
2. He shall change his profession to a fisherman once he obtains approval, and shall provide proof thereof from the competent agency.
 3. Registration of a specified fishing vessel shall not be a prerequisite for license issuance or renewal.

Article 177

1. The Ministry shall issue or renew an escort sailor's license pursuant to the following requirements:
 2. The applicant shall be a Saudi, and shall not be less than 18 years.
 3. He shall be registered to work on a specified fishing vessel.
 4. He shall provide his employer's approval.
 5. He shall pass a medical examination.
 6. He shall pass a swimming test.
 7. He shall not owe any fines to the Ministry or be subject to enforceable penalties.

Article 178

1. The Ministry shall issue or renew a foreign fishing worker's license pursuant to the following requirements:
 - a) The applicant shall have a valid legal residence permit and shall be sponsored by the vessel owner.
 - b) He shall pass a medical examination.
 - c) The occupation recorded in his passport shall be that of a fisherman or any other fishing-related occupation.
 - d) He shall not owe any fines to the Ministry or be subject to enforceable penalties.
2. No license may be issued or renewed for a foreign fishing worker unless the licenses of his sponsor and fishing vessels are valid, and unless the sponsor or his legal deputy so requests.

Article 179

1. A sailor's license shall be valid for two renewable years, and shall expire with the end of its statutory period, its revocation by the Ministry, or upon his death.
2. An escort sailor's license shall be valid for one renewable year, and shall expire with the end of its statutory period, its revocation by the Ministry, or upon his death.
3. A foreign fishing worker's license shall be valid for two renewable years, and shall expire with the end of its statutory period, its revocation by the Ministry, expiration of his legal residence permit, or his death.
4. An artisanal fisherman's license shall be valid for three renewable years, and shall expire with the end of its statutory period, its revocation by the Ministry, or his death.
5. An investor fisherman's license shall be valid for three renewable years, and shall expire with the end of its statutory period, its revocation by the Ministry, or his death.

Article 180

1. An escort sailor's license shall be issued to Saudi nationals and government or private sector employees.
2. The holder of an escort sailor's license may not engage in fishing individually or with foreign workers, but solely in the company of a licensed Saudi fisherman, and in the area covered by the license.
3. The holder of an escort sailor's license shall not be entitled to register a fishing vessel in his name, or to obtain any subsidy provided to fishermen.
4. An escort sailor's license shall be permanently revoked if he commits three violations of the fishing provisions set out in the Law and its Regulations.
5. The owner of a fishing vessel shall not have the right to register more than two escorts holding an escort sailor's license.

Article 181

1. In all cases, the owner of a fishing vessel shall be held accountable for his labor before government agencies and third parties.
2. The owner of a fishing vessel shall not employ any foreign workers who are not under his sponsorship. As an exception, he may, to a minimum, employ foreign labor not under his sponsorship pursuant to the following conditions:
 - a) He shall obtain a prior authorization from the Ministry and other relevant

government agencies.

- b) He shall provide a legal employment contract between the related parties that is certified by the relevant agencies;
- c) The foreign worker's occupation recorded in his passport shall be that of a fisherman or any other occupation related to fishing.
- d) The foreign worker shall be under the sponsorship of another fisherman.

Article 182

1. The Ministry shall determine the number of non-Saudi labor for each fishing vessel pursuant to the Guide to Controls and Requirements for Granting Agricultural Labor Endorsement issued by the Ministry.
2. A foreign fishing worker may not transfer his sponsorship from one fisherman to another unless he obtains the Ministry's authorization. Fishermen shall not be compensated for such workers, and shall make an undertaking to this effect.
3. The Ministry may, in coordination with the relevant government agencies, compensate the owner of a fishing vessel for his fishing workers if he returns their licenses to the Ministry, and establishes his non-use of the visas granted to him or the final departure of his workers.
4. An artisanal and investor fisherman shall have the right to assign his fishing workers to any fishing vessel he owns.

Article 183

The Ministry shall issue licenses for fishing vessels in territorial waters to "individual" citizens, and shall also determine the number of new fishing vessels as per the results of its studies and research.

Article 184

Fishing vessels operating in the Kingdom's territorial waters shall satisfy the following technical specifications:

1. Specifications of an industrial fishing vessel:
 - a) Its length shall be commensurate with fishing areas and methods, and shall not exceed 20 meters.

- b) It shall contain a suitable refrigerator or freezer as a preservation means, and an ice-crushing machine.
 - c) It shall be supplied, depending on its type and fishing method, with state-of-the-art search and fishing equipment.
 - d) It shall be made of wood, iron, fiberglass, aluminum or any other suitable material approved by the Ministry.
 - e) It shall contain a GPS tracker and other necessary navigation devices.
 - f) It shall contain all safety and warning equipment and devices pursuant to the instructions of the Transport General Authority and the Border Guard.
2. Specifications of a traditional fishing vessel:
- a) Its length shall be commensurate with fishing areas and methods, and shall not exceed 20 meters.
 - b) It shall contain a suitable refrigerator or freezer as a preservation means, and an ice-crushing machine.
 - c) It shall be made of wood, iron, fiberglass, aluminum or any other suitable material approved by the Ministry.

Article 185

The Ministry shall be responsible for increasing the number of fishing vessels operating in territorial waters pursuant to the following conditions:

- 1. For an artisanal fisherman:
 - a) He shall not be subject to enforceable penalties.
 - b) He shall obtain the Ministry's approval of the fishing vessels to be added.
 - c) He shall have a professional record containing no penalties resulting from violating the provisions of the Law and its Regulations.
- 2. For an investor fisherman:
 - a) He shall not be subject to enforceable penalties.
 - b) He shall obtain the Ministry's approval of the technical and economic feasibility study of the fishing vessels to be added.

Article 186

The owner of an industrial fishing vessel may provide a supporting vessel no more than six meters in length. This vessel shall not count in the number of his fishing vessels and shall not engage in fishing, and the owner shall not be granted workers therefor, taking into account the Ministry's instructions and the security and safety requirements of the General Directorate of Border Guard and the Transport General Authority.

Article 187

1. A licensed vessel shall only be used for the purposes for which it was licensed.
2. Fishing vessels may not be purchased or sold, nor their licenses renewed, or switched to another activity unless they meet the required conditions, pay their financial obligations, and obtain the Ministry's approval.
3. A fishing vessel's license shall not be renewed after the lapse of three years from its expiration date.

Article 188

1. The specifications of a fishing vessel shall not be modified, nor equipment or supplies be added, replaced or developed without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.
2. Fishing vessels shall not be increased in length to more than 10 meters, and shall adhere to the motor operation specifications (outboard motor).
3. In all cases, fishing vessels shall not be combined to increase their length.
4. A fishing license issued for the Red Sea shall not be transferred to the Arabian Gulf, and vice versa.

Article 189

Excursion vessels, boats or ships shall not be converted into fishing vessels unless these boats and their owners meet the required conditions and obtain the Ministry's approval.

Article 190

A fisherman shall be entitled to replace his vessel that was permanently written off from the Transport General Authority's records with the same specifications upon the Ministry's approval.

Article 191

New licenses may not be issued for traditional and industrial fishing vessels hiring foreign workers in the Kingdom's territorial waters. Nor may authorizations be issued to renew or assign vessel licenses after the lapse of more than 3 years from the end of the last renewal unless the owner undertakes to Saudize all fishing workers.

Article 192

An artisanal fisherman may own two traditional and two industrial fishing vessels, with a maximum limit of four vessels. An investor fisherman may not own more than two industrial vessels, but shall not be entitled to own any traditional vessels.

Article 193

In the event of an (artisanal or investor) fisherman's death, his heirs or their legal agent shall be given the Ministry's authorization to operate the fishing vessels registered in his name for a one-year period, during which the heirs shall be required to transfer the ownership of the fishing vessels if they meet the requirements stipulated in these Regulations.

Article 194

1. Fishing shall not be permitted near petroleum, military and security installations, in mangrove environments, or in any other areas determined by the competent and relevant government agencies. These agencies shall indicate the coordinates of the prohibited sites, and shall place guiding signs and boards to refer thereto, in coordination with the Ministry.
2. Fishing equipment, tools and nets may only be manufactured or sold with the Ministry's authorization, in coordination with the relevant agencies.
3. New fishing tools or methods shall not be admitted into the Kingdom unless after obtaining a license from the Ministry, and in coordination with the relevant agencies.
4. No videos or photos shall be published through any means, including social media, of types of marine life banned from harvesting, or during the ban period, or that have been captured using illegal fishing tools, for the purpose of sale or showing off.

Article 195

The General Directorate of Border Guard shall, in collaboration with the Ministry, monitor fishermen, divers and picnickers; record the numbers of sailing and production licenses, fishing and diving vessels, equipment and methods; implement the regulations and instructions issued by the Ministry and relevant agencies; and regularly provide each other with the names of fishermen, divers and picnickers banned from sailing due to their violation of the provisions of the Law or its Regulations.

Article 196

The Ministry may, at any time, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, monitor and inspect fishing, diving, and excursion vessels and equipment, means of preserving living aquatic resources and products used by artisanal and investor fishermen, institutions, companies and shops specialized in this field, fishermen's cooperatives, aquaculture projects and the like, to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the relevant laws and regulations.

Chapter 2: Aquaculture Licensing Controls

Article 197

The Ministry shall issue the necessary licenses for aquaculture projects upon completing the necessary procedures and requirements.

Article 198

Aquaculture projects in inland waters shall be set up within an existing agricultural facility and their production shall be economically feasible, in line with the available water potentials therein. Projects not established within an existing agricultural facility shall use modern technologies to rationalize water use.

Article 199

Any person intending to establish an aquaculture project (on Ministry-owned lands) shall apply to the Ministry for an initial approval, and shall observe the following procedures:

1. Filling out the relevant form; indicating the types and source of living aquatic resources to be cultured, expected size of annual production, and breeding system; and recording the investor's data, contact means, detailed project plan, expected commencement date, and project duration;
2. Locating the proposed site for the project and its area, indicating the region, governorate, and site coordinates;
3. Submitting an agricultural or commercial registration document (Saudi or foreign investor);
4. Establishing the investor's financial ability and technical expertise to implement the project;
5. Submitting a certified declaration from the investor to allow the competent agency to monitor the implementation stages of the project and to ensure his compliance with all technical directives and instructions;
6. Avoiding any harm to the interests of fishermen, natural reserves, mangrove trees and coral reefs;
7. Locating the canals admitting water into the project away from exit channels to prevent contamination of the water source if the project is established on land;
8. Locating the project away from shipping routes;
9. Satisfying marine safety conditions vis-à-vis the materials in use and the warning and light signs in the project;
10. Submitting a blueprint of project components and production stages;
11. Determining the type of water to be used in the project, its quantities, source, and procedures for dealing therewith after its use in the aquaculture project; and
12. Complying with the provisions of the Guide to National Aquaculture Policies and Practices issued by the Ministry.

Article 200

The Ministry shall, after giving initial approval to establish an aquaculture project, address the relevant government agencies to obtain their approval of the project. If any agency thereof declines, the initial approval shall be deemed canceled.

Article 201

An aquaculture project shall obtain a license only if it meets the following requirements:

1. Fulfilling the initial approval requirements;
2. Providing an environmental impact assessment study for the project;
3. Providing a technical and economic study for the project; and
4. Approval of the Committee for Deciding on Applications for Aquaculture Projects to issue the license.

Article 202

An aquaculture project established in inland waters shall obtain a license only if it meets the following requirements:

1. Filling out the relevant form; indicating the types and source of living aquatic resources to be cultured, expected size of annual production, and breeding system; and recording the investor's data, contact means, detailed plan of the project, expected commencement date, and project duration;
2. Providing the following legal documents: national ID card for individuals, commercial register or Memorandum of Association for institutions, companies, agricultural cooperatives and the like;
3. Providing a copy of the title deeds for the plot of land on which the project shall be established, along with the original for conformity, or a notarized lease contract for a minimum period of ten years;
4. Providing an analysis certificate of water quality standards for the site on which the project shall be built to show its suitability for aquaculture purposes; and
5. Preparing a report by the Ministry on the appropriateness of the project, and obtaining the approval of the "Technical Committee for Living Aquatic Resources" to issue the license.

Article 203

An aquaculture project license issued by the Ministry shall include the following data:

1. Name and address of aquaculture licensee;
2. Project location and area;
3. Type and quantities of living aquatic resources to be cultured;
4. Issuing date, duration, and type of license;
5. Project capital;
6. Quality control number of the project to be added to the license thereafter.

Article 204

An investor shall implement the project phases within the period specified in the approved feasibility study; otherwise, the license shall be deemed canceled, unless he provides an acceptable excuse to the Ministry.

Article 205

An aquaculture licensee may not modify any component of the project unless he notifies the Ministry thereof.

Article 206

Coastal facilities directly located on the sea shall not obstruct the security patrol routes of the General Directorate of Border Guard, nor block the view of the sea.

Article 207

The operations of manufacturing or exporting the products of aquaculture projects shall be implemented by companies or institutions licensed by the competent agencies. These companies and institutions shall:

1. Refrain from accepting any batch of aquaculture products given unlicensed veterinary preparations;
2. Ensure termination of the withdrawal period for product batches of aquaculture farms treated with licensed veterinary preparations, and that the MRL of veterinary preparations is kept within permissible limits;
3. Each batch shall be accompanied by a quality control certificate issued by the competent agency.

Article 208

Individuals, institutions, companies, agricultural cooperatives, and the like, intending to establish aquaculture projects, shall obtain a license from the Ministry. Foreign investors intending to engage in this activity shall obtain said license in coordination with the Ministry of Investment.

Article 209

The Ministry may cancel the license and lease contract of a coastal land if the investor is established to lack seriousness after the lapse of two years from the issuing date of the license.

Article 210

1. Any person licensed to engage in aquaculture shall permit the competent employees of the Ministry or its designee to enter aquaculture sites for inspection and evaluation, collection of samples of water and cultured aquatic resources for testing to ensure that they are safe and free from diseases and residues, and accessing the relevant records at any time.
2. An aquaculture licensee shall not engage in culturing non-native (imported) aquatic resources in the Kingdom's marine environment unless he obtains a relevant permit from the Ministry.
3. Natural water sources such as groundwater, dams and any water bodies or lands adjacent thereto, may not be used for aquaculture purposes without obtaining the Ministry's authorization.

Article 211

A service provider/agricultural practitioner shall comply with the practices, procedures, conditions, controls, and specifications set out in the guides issued by the Ministry, such as the Biosecurity Guide for Shrimp Culture in the Kingdom, the Biosecurity Guide for Fish Culture, the National Guide for Exporting Aquatic Products, the Detailed Guide for Importing Aquatic Organisms for Aquaculture Purposes into the Kingdom, the Guide to Aquaculture Controls, the Requirements for the Quality of Farmed Fish Products (SAMAQ), and the Guide to National Aquaculture Policies and Practices issued by the Ministry.

Chapter 3: Regulating, Managing and Investing in Fishing Ports

Article 212

The Ministry shall, through fishing ports, provide the necessary means for safe berthing

of marine vessels, and shall provide other assistance and services related to fishing and excursion activities.

Article 213

The Ministry shall regulate fish circulation inside the port, pursuant to the necessary conditions and procedures, including the following:

1. Landing fish as per the applicable marketing systems inside the port;
2. Implementing fish quality control standards and the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System (HACCP);
3. Implementing the approved conditions for fish preservation, transfer and circulation;
and
4. Keeping and making accessible fish circulation records to specialists upon request.

Article 214

The following measures shall be implemented to protect fishing ports:

1. Fishing equipment and tools shall not be placed in locations other than those designated therefor inside the port. The Ministry shall be entitled to remove any violation at the owner's expense.
2. Swimming, water sports and fishing shall not be practiced in harbors, canals, sea lanes, basins and marinas. The Ministry shall be entitled to take the necessary measures to monitor this restriction. As an exception, the events related to holding sports or cultural festivals shall be excluded from this restriction if the necessary permit is obtained from the Ministry.
3. Any person who causes damage to a fishing port shall repair such damage within a period not exceeding two months under the supervision of the Ministry, failing which, the Ministry shall be entitled to fix the damage at his own expense.
4. An owner of an investment or service activity in the port shall obtain a port entry card for himself and his staff. A cardholder shall not assign or let others use his card. Said card shall be issued by the Ministry or the relevant agency, and shall be renewed annually. In the event of non-compliance or expiration of the license, the cardholder shall be prevented from entering the port.
5. Vehicles and individuals shall only enter or leave the port at the designated times and through permissible outlets.

6. All workers and individuals authorized to enter the port shall abide by the instructions and guidelines issued by the Ministry or the relevant agency. The Ministry may take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of these instructions.
7. Marine vessels may not berth at fishing ports except after obtaining a written authorization from the Ministry.
8. Violations shall be prohibited inside fishing ports, including the following:
 - a) Lighting fires at any location inside the port for any purpose whatsoever, except with the written approval of the harbor master, who determines the precautions and measures to be taken when necessary;
 - b) Keeping hazardous or flammable materials on board marine vessels or inside the port, except for SOS materials, and fuels required to operate marine vessels;
 - c) Throwing contaminated water, fuels, or hazardous or harmful materials causing damage to the safety of the environment, or dust and waste, inside the port;
 - d) Cleaning fishing nets from plankton, disposing of fish and waste thereof in the port, and discarding waste of marine vessels in other than the designated containers, and as determined by the Ministry;
 - e) Storing molds or materials that endanger public health in the port or on board a marine vessel inside the port;
 - f) Placing or constructing fixed structures inside the port, such as concrete pillars used as mooring dolphins for marine vessels;
 - g) Carrying out any activity emitting air-contaminating gases;
 - h) Using port water to wash vehicles;
 - i) Parking in other than the places designated for vehicles;
 - j) Admitting tugboats, equipment, marine vessels and other floating water installations, without obtaining a permit from the Ministry;
 - k) Modifying or changing port facilities and equipment; and
 - l) Tying a marine vessel to any navigation signals or floating or fixed objects other than those designated for such purpose.

Article 215

Subject to the relevant laws and regulations, a vessel captain shall, upon landing fish, clean the pier area in use and collect fish waste in bags and dispose thereof in designated places.

Article 216

Subject to the relevant laws and regulations, fish transport and marketing vehicles shall dispose of the water in transport boxes and clean the same in designated places.

Article 217

Marine vessels shall not load or disembark passengers and picnickers in other than the designated places.

Article 218

The following measures shall be carried out to regulate the berthing of marine vessels in the port:

1. To enter and berth at the port, a marine vessel shall meet the following requirements:
 - a) Submitting official documents to the competent Ministry employees;
 - b) Holding a valid transport license, indicating the vessel's name, registration number, type, dimensions, operating area, port of registration, owner's name and address, number of persons to be carried on board thereof, and cargo;
 - c) Workers on board shall hold valid fishing licenses issued by the Ministry;
 - d) Its registration plates approved by the Transport General Authority shall be fixed in a prominent place on both sides of the vessel;
 - e) It shall be in good condition in terms of maintenance, security and safety precautions, and operability in accordance with the regulatory provisions in this regard; and
 - f) Marine safety tools and equipment shall be available on board thereof.
2. A marine vessel shall enter and exit the port through the specified, and at the speed determined by the General Directorate of Border Guard.
3. Marine vessels moored for fish landing shall leave the pier as immediately as

possible. The harbor master may intervene to achieve the same pursuant to the controls specified by the Ministry.

4. Maintenance work for marine vessels or any components thereof, such as engines, shall only be carried out in the designated places inside the port, and shall obtain a permit from the harbor master to do so.
5. A marine vessel shall not carry out fishing operations or drop anchor in the port basin or in sea lanes designated for the entry or exit of marine vessels, in the port channel, or in any place that could obstruct or affect navigation. As an exception, a vessel may, in emergency cases, drop anchor therein, provided that its captain uses the appropriate warning signals, informs the Ministry and the General Directorate of Border Guard, and lifts the anchor as soon as the emergency situation is over.
6. A vessel captain shall, upon maneuvering to enter or exit the port, take the necessary precautions in accordance with the relevant security and navigation laws.
7. Fishing and excursion vessels shall, upon berthing and waiting at the port, only use the mooring dolphins designated therefor and shall be correctly tied thereto.
8. Marine vessels shall not be tied to the supporting pillars of floating piers.

Article 219

The following measures shall be implemented with regard to non-fishing vessels:

1. Non-fishing vessels may not use fishing ports unless they obtain an authorization or permit to that effect by way of a written application to be filed with the Ministry, comprising the following data:
 - a) Name, address, and contact means of vessel owner and captain;
 - b) Purpose of using the fishing port;
 - c) Vessel specifications;
 - d) Name, address, and contact means of the person assigned to guard the vessel;
 - e) Date of entry into the port and expected date of departure;
 - f) Berthing at the designated place, not elsewhere; and
 - g) Submitting a copy of the vessel's documents to the Ministry.
2. A marine vessel authorized to enter or use the port shall be subject to the provisions of the Law, its Regulations and the instructions issued by the Ministry and the

- relevant agencies.
3. A marine vessel authorized to enter or use the port shall leave the port immediately after the expiration of the period specified in the permit or upon the lapse of the reason.

Article 220

The Ministry shall undertake the following procedures to regulate and manage fishing ports:

1. Managing the port by organizing the entry and exit of marine vessels; it may refuse the entry or stay of marine vessels that endanger the safety of the port or impair its proper use;
2. Coordinating with the competent agencies to take the necessary measures in the event of any marine pollution inside the port;
3. Taking statistical data from fishermen pursuant to the statistical programs prepared for this purpose by way of specialists in counting living aquatic resources. All fishing workers shall cooperate and provide the required statistical data;
4. In the event that a marine vessel is abandoned or sunken inside the port, the Ministry shall instruct its owner or captain in writing or by announcing through appropriate media to recover and move said vessel outside the port within the period specified by the Ministry. Should the owner fail to respond, the Ministry shall take the necessary measures at his expense.

Article 221

A harbor master shall assume the following duties and tasks:

1. Monitoring all operations related to the berthing of marine vessels;
2. Organizing and controlling the entry and movement of people and vehicles inside the port;
3. Implementing the rules of maritime safety at the port and determining berthing places;
4. Coordinating directly with the General Directorate of Border Guard in the event of any remarks or violations related to the Law or its Regulations;
5. In emergency cases, as determined by the Ministry or other relevant agencies, a harbor master may decide to prevent entry to or exit from the port until the

emergency situation is over, and he may coordinate with the Ministry if necessary.

Article 222

Fishing port controllers designated by the Ministry shall monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Law and its Regulations, and any decisions issued by the Ministry.

They may particularly have the following powers and tasks:

1. Reviewing fishing and marine vessel licenses to ensure their renewal and validity;
2. Ensuring that number plates are located on both sides of the marine vessel;
3. Inspecting marine vessels, fishing tools, and excursion vessels to ensure that no prohibited fishing equipment or nets are used, nor any other violations committed, and taking the necessary measures as per the established procedures;
4. Monitoring marine vessels to ensure that they do not hire unauthorized labor;
5. Reviewing licenses of fish transport and marketing vehicles to ensure their validity;
6. Ensuring the usability of the preservation boxes in fish transport and marketing vehicles;
7. Inspecting fish transport vehicles and cold stores to ensure that they are free from prohibited fish at the time of inspection;
8. Attaching an entry and exit record of engine oil; and
9. Informing the Ministry of any detected violations in order to address the same, pursuant to the established statutory procedures.

Article 223

1. All fishermen and picnickers shall obtain a sailing permit from the General Directorate of Border Guard at the port, indicating their sailing time, expected fishing location, fishing equipment in use, expected time of return, number of passengers and crew, and verification of their data.
2. Picnickers, fishermen, seagoers and any other person entering the port shall maintain cleanliness, good behavior, and public morals in force in the Kingdom.
3. No person shall enter the port unless he provides proof of his entry permission, using one of the following documents:
 - a) A valid fishing license;
 - b) A valid license for owners of fish transport and marketing vehicles;

- c) A valid port entry card for other workers associated with port activities. Vehicles and people affiliated with government agencies whose job nature requires entering the port shall be excluded; or
- d) A valid national ID card or residence permit.

Article 224

The owner of an investment activity in the port shall:

1. Provide the required and registered commodities in his investment activity to all persons at the port at all times and pursuant to the prescribed prices;
2. Ensure cleanliness of the investment site, provide safety measures against risks, and protect the environment; and
3. Discard waste in the designated places and containers inside the port.

Part 8: Monitoring, Inspection and Control of Violations

Chapter 1: Controls for Immediate Closure of Veterinary Facilities Operating without a Valid License

Article 225

The Ministry's inspectors shall be entitled to immediately close any veterinary facility operating without a valid license, in accordance with the following procedures:

1. The competent inspector shall visit said facility in person and shall verify license validity.
2. In the event that no operation licenses are found prior to issuing the final license, a closure report shall be drafted including the data of the violating facility, its location, business activity, names of violators, any pictures or documents proving its veterinary operations, an inventory of veterinary tools and preparations, and existing devices, and shall be signed by the facility owner or his deputy. Should the owner refuse to sign the report, his refusal shall be recorded, and a copy thereof shall be delivered to him.
3. All supplies used in veterinary operation, such as tools, preparations, devices, and

- the like, shall be seized at the facility site.
4. Any animals found in a violating facility shall be seized and handed over to their owners prior to initiating the immediate closure measures.
 5. A violating facility shall be closed partially or completely, depending on its veterinary activity, by closing the facility or the violating part thereof, whether with a chain or a hard-to-remove sticker by the controller authorized to detect violations of the Law.
 6. A report shall be drafted and submitted to the Review Committee to decide the appropriate penalty.
 7. A veterinary facility may resume operation after obtaining the necessary licenses from the Ministry, and the means used for closure shall be removed by the competent controller.

Chapter 2: Seizure of Agricultural Sector Resources or Products (Unsafe Resources or Products)

Article 226

The Ministry or service provider may seize any unsafe agricultural sector resources or products that are infected or suspected of being infected with diseases, epidemics or pests.

Article 227

Unsafe agricultural sector resources or products shall be seized in the following cases:

1. If they are infected with a disease, pest, chemical or nuclear pollution, or any contaminant which, if consumed, would endanger the health of humans, animals or the environment;
2. If they are established or suspected to contain higher than permissible residues of pesticides, veterinary preparations, chemicals, or microbial limits for agricultural products;
3. If the external appearance of the products is spoiled, putrefied, decomposed or changed;
4. If the products are handled in an unhealthy environment that renders the same unfit

- for consumption or harmful to health;
5. If the products are taken from a sick animal or an animal carrying a disease that could endanger human health, or from an animal that had died before it was slaughtered, or an animal that was slaughtered by a person without a valid health certificate, or if the slaughtered animal came into contact with sick animals in the event of communicable or epidemic diseases;
 6. If the products are of unknown origin or do not bear a product label approved by the competent agencies; and
 7. If the resources or products are brought from a prohibited area pursuant to the disease and pest eradication plans approved by the Ministry.

Article 228

Unsafe agricultural sector resources or products shall be seized in accordance with the following:

1. A report shall be drafted stating the type of violation or suspicion, and the type, number or quantity of resources or products. Said report shall be signed by the inspector and agricultural facility officer or the distributor, seller, or his deputy. In the event of his absence or refusal to sign, this shall be recorded in the report, and a copy thereof shall be delivered to the facility.
2. An undertaking shall be made by the officer in charge or his deputy to avoid any disposition of the agricultural sector resources and products under seizure except after obtaining the approval of the Ministry or its designee.
3. Samples of agricultural sector resources and products shall be collected, if the need arises.
4. The competent person shall grant his approval of the seizure for a period not exceeding seven days at the violator's expense. Said seizure may be extended for a period not exceeding 10 days from the date of detection pursuant to a decision of the Review Committee upon providing supporting documents, in the following cases:
 - a) Conducting additional confirmatory tests or procedures;
 - b) Tracing product chain; and
 - c) Identifying violators.

Article 229

The Ministry or its designee may, in the event that agricultural resources or products are put at stake, make an inventory of such resources or products, and may take the following measures:

1. Obtaining an undertaking from the agricultural facility owner or importer to retain the violating resources or products or prevent their circulation or clearance until they are established to be safe;
2. Temporarily close the agricultural facility or part thereof;
3. Order recall or withdrawal of food products or agricultural resources, in coordination with other relevant agencies.

Article 230

In the event that the resources or products endanger human or animal health or the environment and that such risk cannot be avoided through available measures and procedures, the Ministry or its designee may take one or more of the following measures:

1. Issuing a warning notice to the facility to immediately withdraw or recall agricultural resources or products, within a specified period;
2. Issuing an order to prevent product circulation or clearance;
3. Withdrawing and recalling the product at the facility's expense in the event of non-compliance with the period specified by the Ministry;
4. Ensuring that the withdrawal or recall procedure has been completed;
5. Publishing a warning advertisement about the withdrawn or recalled product; or
6. Taking any action that the Ministry or its designee deems appropriate.

Article 231

The Ministry or its designee may destroy any agricultural resources or products that endanger human or animal health or the environment, pursuant to the following:

1. A report shall be drafted and shall list the type and quantity of the resources or products to be destroyed and the reason for destruction.
2. Said report shall be submitted to the Review Committee for approval.
3. Destruction shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures approved by the

- Ministry and under its supervision.
4. The agricultural facility shall bear all expenses of the destruction process.
 5. Destruction shall be attended by the facility officer or his representative where possible.

Article 232

Persons authorized to detect violations of the provisions of the Law and its Regulations shall, in the event of seizing any agricultural sector resources or products, or any tools used in committing the violation, shall:

1. Seize the violating products or resources in a closed place as per the nature thereof without prejudice to their needs or causing damage to the environment. If seizure is not possible, the Ministry or its designee shall appoint a controller to monitor said items if the need arises; and
2. Draft a detailed and accurate report describing the seized items. Multiple reports shall be drafted depending on the number of seized violations.

The violator shall bear all the resulting expenses and financial penalties.

Article 233

Agricultural products shall be recalled from the markets in coordination with SFDA, the Ministry of Commerce, and any other relevant agencies.

Article 234

The Ministry may seek assistance from security agencies to support enforcement of seizure or destruction procedures of agricultural resources or products in violation.

Article 235

Agricultural sector resources that are transferred from prohibited areas without obtaining the Ministry's authorization shall be destroyed in the nearest landfill, pursuant to the requirements set by the Ministry.

Article 236

The Ministry may confiscate and handle catches obtained as a result of violating the

provisions of the Law and its Regulations as follows:

1. If permitted, the confiscated catches shall be offered for sale in a public auction.
2. If harvested during the ban season, the confiscated catches shall be donated to charitable organizations.
3. If prohibited or permanently banned from harvesting, the confiscated catches shall be destroyed in accordance with the controls stipulated in these Regulations.

Chapter 3: Safe Treatment and Disposal of Agricultural Waste, and Destruction and Compensation Procedures

Article 237

The Ministry shall, for preservation purposes, examine agricultural sector resources and shall determine which items, products, or production inputs are to be disposed of as a result of being wholly or partially infected or suspected of being infected with diseases, epidemics, or pests, as required by the Ministry's policy to control the same.

Article 238

1. Without prejudice to relevant laws, the following requirements shall be implemented upon carrying out the treatment and safe disposal of agricultural waste:
 - a) Waste from agricultural and veterinary facilities shall not be discarded or kept inside or outside these facilities without safe environmental treatment, as determined by the provisions of the Law, its Regulations, the Ministry's instructions, and the relevant laws.
 - b) In the event that safe environmental treatment of the waste of agricultural facilities is not possible, said waste shall be dumped inside the agricultural facility in quicklime pits at a depth of at least two meters from the earth surface in stable and low-permeability soil. If not possible, said waste shall be buried outside the facility and away from the houses and other facilities. Waste shall not be thrown in pastures or near roads or waterways and water sources without treatment. Nor shall it be burned inside or outside the agricultural facility using incinerators not licensed by the competent agencies.

- c) Compliance with any controls or standards approved by the Ministry.
2. Agricultural and veterinary facilities may seek the assistance of the Ministry or service provider to carry out the treatment and safe disposal of waste generated by agricultural and veterinary facilities, in exchange for a fee to be specified by the Ministry, as it deems appropriate.

Article 239

The Ministry shall encourage service providers/agricultural practitioners to adopt advanced methods to dispose of or reuse agricultural waste.

Article 240

Veterinary facilities shall, upon carrying out the treatment and safe disposal of veterinary waste, comply with the provisions of the GCC Uniform Law for Medical Waste Management approved by Royal Decree no. M/53, dated 16/9/1426H and the relevant laws.

Article 241

In the event of detecting any residues of pesticides or veterinary preparations in any agricultural sector products or if these products show signs of corruption or higher microbial levels than the permissible limits pursuant to the Kingdom's approved standards, a report shall be drafted thereon pursuant to the control method approved by the Ministry and shall be submitted to the Review Committee to take legal action. The Ministry branch in the region or governorate from which the product was received shall be notified, in order to inspect and monitor the agricultural facility.

Article 242

Agricultural products that are not fit for marketing or human consumption in public markets shall be destroyed pursuant to the following controls:

1. An official field inspection form shall be used in two copies, one copy to be delivered to the service provider and the other for official use.
2. Inspection shall be carried out and the organoleptic testing form filled out prior to the start of sale in the market.

3. An inventory shall be made of the quantities in violation in the market by the Ministry's competent employee or its designee and shall be marked using a sticky tape.
4. The service provider shall receive a copy of the organoleptic testing report, including the required procedure to be carried out.
5. The owner of the goods or his deputy shall keep the goods until the arrival of the competent committee.
6. The violating goods seized after the termination of the auction sale period in the market shall be destroyed at the expense of the owner.
7. In the event that the service provider fails to implement the provisions of the testing form, or that he disposes of the violating goods, whether by selling, taking out of the market, or concealment, a notice of violation shall be issued against him pursuant to the provisions of the Law and its Regulations. Said violation shall be estimated on the basis of the highest market price of the product on that particular day.
8. In the event that the goods are destroyed, a preliminary warning notice shall be issued. If the violation is repeated by the same broker or producer, he shall be suspended for a period of six months. The goods owner shall only pay the service fee for the destruction of the goods charged by the market administration.

The Ministry or its designee shall conduct periodic tours of fresh products offered for sale in public markets to prevent trading in any violating products.

Article 243

Plant products offered for sale shall be inspected and evaluated pursuant to the following criteria:

1. Mechanical damage;
2. Pathological (microbial and insect) infections;
3. Immature/incomplete growth and maturity of the product;
4. Heterogeneity of growth or maturity;
5. Cooling damage;
6. Physiological damage;
7. Consignment being free from visible pesticide residues; and
8. Plant consignment being free from any excess moisture on product surface.

Article 244

Destruction shall be carried out as follows:

1. As for plant consignments: if the percentage of damage set forth in Article 243 of these Regulations, collectively or individually exceeds 50% of the total quantity tested, the entire product shall be destroyed.
2. Should said percentage be less than 50%, the violating product may be sorted.
3. The product owner or his deputy shall immediately withdraw the violating product from the market.

Article 245

The owner of agricultural sector resources, products, or production inputs registered with the Ministry shall be compensated in the event that the Ministry or its designee wholly or partially disposes of items infected or suspected of being infected with diseases, epidemics, or pests, provided that he has complied with the controls, instructions, and preventive measures issued by the Ministry. The procedures for estimating and disbursing compensation shall be made as follows:

1. The Ministry shall notify the Ministry of Finance branch or office located in the region to make an inventory of the agricultural sector resources, products, or production inputs to be disposed of. A special report shall be drafted listing their numbers and the reason for disposal thereof, and their value shall be estimated as per the prevailing market price.
2. Compensation for agricultural sector resources, products or production inputs that are disposed of shall be paid at a rate not exceeding 90% of the value contained in the Estimation Committee's report, pursuant to the following:
 - a) A compensation request shall be submitted through the Ministry to the Ministry of Finance.
 - b) Due amounts to affected persons shall be directly transferred to their accounts upon providing the following payment documents in full:
 - i. For individuals: the inventory, disposal and estimation report; a copy of the national ID card of the beneficiary or his legal agent authorized to receive financial dues; IBAN number of the beneficiary or his legal agent; and a copy of the agency agreement.

- ii. For companies or institutions: the inventory, disposal and estimation report; IBAN number of the company or institution; valid practice licenses from the relevant agencies; certificate of Zakat and income; commercial register; certificate from the General Organization for Social Insurance; and Saudization certificate.

Chapter 4: Inspection and Control of Violations

Article 246

The Minister or his designee may take a precautionary measure to suspend any activity, partially or completely, in the event of detecting any violation that requires an urgent and precautionary measure, pursuant to the following:

1. Partial suspension of activity if the violation does not constitute an epidemic threat to the agricultural sector, unless the Minister or his designee deems it necessary to suspend the activity completely.
2. Suspension shall be issued pursuant to a decision of the Minister or his designee based on a report prepared by the Ministry's controllers or designee. Said report shall describe the violation and the reason for suspension.
 3. The suspension period shall count as part of the license suspension period if the decision of the Review Committee or the court includes such penalty.

Article 247

The heads of Ministry departments, the directors of the Ministry's regional branches, and the directors of its offices in governorates shall issue ID cards for their employees, appointed pursuant to a decision by the Minister, from among employees authorized to detect violations of the provisions of the Law and its Regulations. Said cards shall include the following information: name in full, ID number, personal photo, and department's seal, and shall be issued in both the Arabic and English languages.

Article 248

Inspectors may detect violations as follows:

1. Entering licensed or unlicensed agricultural or veterinary facilities and verifying their compliance with the provisions of the Law, its Regulations, and the decisions and instructions issued by the Ministry, and handling reports;
2. Detecting violations through field inspection, aerial photographers, and others;
3. Accessing records, verifying the safety of devices and equipment, checking the legal situation of working staff, and ensuring that they hold the necessary licenses from the Ministry;
4. Drafting a report including the following:
 - a) Place, date and time of violation;
 - b) Name of inspector(s);
 - c) Violator's name, activity, address, and a copy of the facility's records and data;
 - d) Specified and accurate description of the agricultural sector resources subject of the violation, as well as the vehicles and tools used or suspected of being used in committing the violation;
 - e) Seized items subject of the violation which are quickly damaged or the preservation of which requires great expenses;
 - f) Determining the violation and the damages resulting therefrom, and documenting proof of the violation, whether through video recording, photographs, or other means;
 - g) Signing the report by the inspector, and by the violator, if any; if the latter refuses to sign, his refusal shall be recorded in the report.

The violator shall be notified to report to the Ministry pursuant to the approved forms.

5. Investigating the person responsible for the violation and any party associated therewith, hearing their statements and investigating their defense, and recording the same in the report prepared for this procedure, which includes the following:
 - a) Place, date, and beginning and ending time of investigation;
 - b) Name of the investigator;
 - c) Name, activity, and address of interrogatee;
 - d) Identifying the violation attributed to the interrogatee;
 - e) Questions addressed to the interrogatee and his replies thereto;

- f) Signing the report by the investigator, and by the interrogatee, if any; if the latter refuses to sign, his refusal shall be recorded in the investigation report.
6. If the perpetrator of a violation or his address cannot be identified, the following measures shall be carried out:
- a) A report of the violation, shall be drafted, including the data set out in paragraph (5) of this Article; the Ministry or its designee shall, in coordination with the relevant agencies, remove the violation.
 - b) The violator shall bear the expenses of removing the violation and the penalties resulting therefrom as soon as he becomes aware thereof; if he fails to cooperate and insists on his violation, a request shall be submitted to the competent agencies.
 - c) If the inspector is unable to notify a violator who has no fixed address, a request shall be submitted to the competent agencies, including the necessary information, to obligate said violator to pay the fine.

Article 249

Inspectors authorized to detect violations shall:

1. Carefully and accurately carry out the tasks entrusted to them, and record their actual observations;
2. Be fair and honest, and avoid using their law-enforcement capacity to achieve personal interests or benefits;
3. Present their credentials upon carrying out the tasks entrusted to them; and
4. Observe all necessary requirements for personal safety and take biosecurity measures upon inspecting facilities.

Article 250

Inspectors authorized to detect violations may exercise the following powers:

1. Seeking the assistance of security agencies when required;
2. Receiving reports on the violations related to their duties;
3. Hearing and recording the statements of complainants and witnesses, if any; and
4. Collecting and testing samples if the need arises.

Article 251

Should a violator use force, threat or violence against an inspector authorized to detect violations to prevent him from performing his duties, a report to that effect (hindering inspectors from carrying out their duties) shall be drafted, including the following data:

1. All details of the abuse: location, time, date, type (verbal or physical), and name of the abuser, if possible;
2. Capacity of the abuser (client, visitor, facility owner, or other.), his ID number, if possible, and his license or agricultural registration number;
3. Details of the abused employee: name, position, capacity, job number, ID number), description of abuse, damage or injury sustained, and an acknowledgment of his retention or waiver of the private right; and
4. Particulars of witnesses and their testimonies, as well as means of proof, if any (video recording, photographs, medical report, and the like.).

The Ministry shall refer the report and other relevant documents to the Bureau of Public Prosecution in accordance with the applicable legal procedures.

Article 252

1. An inspector may, if the violation is established, seize and deliver agricultural sector resources to the Ministry or its regional branch; the violator shall bear the expenses for preservation thereof.
2. An inspector may, if the violation is established, immediately seize, at the expense of the violator, the vehicles and tools used, or suspected of being used in committing the violation, and deliver the same to the competent agency, provided that the matter is referred to the competent court within seven days to affirm or cancel the seizure.
3. The Ministry or its designee may estimate the expenses of immediate seizure of the items referred to, and collect the same from the proceeds of selling such items after the issuance of a final ruling against the violator, or directly from the violator. If said expenses exceed the sale amount, the difference shall be collected from the violator.

Article 253

Without prejudice to the relevant legal provisions, in the event that the agricultural sector resources, products, or production inputs under seizure endanger agricultural

sector resources or public health, they shall be disposed of, in collaboration with the relevant agencies pursuant to approved environmental practices, and the destruction thereof shall be recorded in certified reports.

Article 254

The Ministry may dispose of seized agricultural resources not recovered by their owners, provided that these owners are notified of their right to recover the same, upon the lapse of one month from the notification date.

Article 255

Some inspection and control tasks of an administrative nature shall be assigned to companies pursuant to the following criteria:

1. The company shall be specialized in agricultural activity to be inspected.
2. The company shall have the administrative, financial and technical capabilities in proportion to the location and type of the inspection and control tasks assigned thereto by the Ministry, in line with the amount of work, and as estimated by the Ministry.
3. Any other controls or criteria set by the Ministry.

Said companies shall not engage in any activity that they are assigned to monitor and inspect; however, this restriction shall not apply to organizational entities chaired by the Minister.

Chapter 5: Violation Review Committees

Article 256

A committee or more shall be formed pursuant to a decision by the Minister to consider and decide on violations of the provisions of the Law, its Regulations, and the license, impose penalties, and review the objections filed by interested parties regarding fines imposed by the Ministry, as follows:

1. The committee shall be formed of five members, provided that the chairman and his deputy be specialized in *Sharia* or law. Committee meetings shall be deemed valid

- if attended by at least three members, including the chairman or his deputy.
2. The committee shall operate independently and shall administratively report to the Minister.
 3. The term of committee membership shall be three years from its formation date, and shall be renewable with the Minister's approval.
 4. If the position of a committee member becomes vacant, the Minister shall issue a decision to appoint a replacement member for the remainder of the committee's term.
 5. The Minister may appoint alternate members to the committee to replace any member in the event of his absence or resignation until a replacement member is appointed to complete his term.
 6. The committee shall be headquartered at the Ministry, and the Minister may form other committees at Ministry branches as he deems appropriate.

Article 257

The chairman of a Review Committee and his deputy shall be selected on the basis of their scientific and practical experience, as well as their ability to carry out the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the committee and achieve the objectives of the Law. They shall undertake the following:

1. Managing committee meetings in the best possible manner;
2. Addressing the competent agencies and all parties associated with the committee's activities;
3. Communicating the committee's decisions to the competent agencies and to all parties concerned;
4. Approving the legal and technical principles adopted by the committee and any updates thereto; and
5. Approving and submitting the annual report on the committee's activities to the Minister.

Article 258

The Review Committee shall be assisted by an administrative unit or units called "Secretariat of the Review Committee on Violations of the Agriculture Law". Said unit(s) shall be managed by a secretary and shall administratively report to the Minister.

It shall be supervised by the committee chairman and shall assist the committee in performing its tasks and duties, particularly the following:

1. Receiving and studying any claims of violations and objections referred to the committee to ensure that the necessary documents and information are completed;
2. Making the necessary arrangements for holding committee meetings;
3. Recording the minutes of committee meetings, deliberations and decisions;
4. Drafting and reviewing decisions and making the necessary amendments thereto;
5. Notifying a violator of the committee's decision and of his right to appeal the same before the Administrative Court, as provided for in the Law;
6. Receiving correspondences addressed to the committee and preparing draft responses under the supervision of the committee chairman, and entering the same in a special record;
7. Indexing, archiving and retrieving the committee's decisions in an electronic and paper form, as well as related issues and decisions, in a special record and coordinating with the Ministry regarding their publication;
8. Preparing and submitting the annual report on committee's activities to the committee chairman for approval;
9. Managing the committee's homepage on the Ministry's website; and
10. Any other tasks assigned thereto by the committee chairman.

Article 259

1. The Ministry shall refer violation reports to the Secretariat of the Review Committee and shall address the same to the committee chairman, in accordance with the procedures approved by the Minister.
2. The secretariat of the Review Committee shall make preparations for considering the violations presented to the committee pursuant to the committee's decision in this regard. The committee may seek assistance from Ministry employees or others to carry out these tasks, pursuant to its laws.
3. The committee shall, prior to assuming its competencies, ensure that all formal procedures are completed and required documents attached, and shall particularly ensure that the competent administrative agency investigates the violator, hears his statements and investigate his defense, or his refusal to attend the investigation despite his notification of its date in advance. The committee shall also ensure that

the violator has been properly notified.

Article 260

1. The Review Committee shall, upon carrying out its duties, fully consider each violation or objection and impose the corresponding penalties in accordance with the provisions of the Law and its Regulations. It shall also observe the principle of proportionality between the violation and the corresponding penalty.
2. The Review Committee shall meet at its head office at the Ministry's headquarters or branches, and it may hold its meetings elsewhere whenever the need arises. It may hold its meetings via electronic means or as it deems appropriate to perform its tasks and duties.
3. The Review Committee meetings and deliberations shall be confidential, and shall only be attended by its members. Non-members may attend said meetings only with the approval of the committee and pursuant to a prior notification addressed to its secretariat, provided that they do not participate in voting.
4. The meeting procedures and the Review Committee's deliberations and decisions shall be recorded in special minutes, which shall include the meeting date and time and the names of attendees. Committee meetings shall only be deemed valid if attended by the majority of its members at least, including the chairman or his deputy.
5. The committee may, as it deems appropriate, summon a person accused of committing a violation to hear his statements. It may also find it sufficient to receive a written statement from that person via any means that it deems appropriate. This permissive procedure by the committee shall not preclude the competent administrative agency from investigating the violator or recording his refusal to attend the investigation, using an approved form prepared therefor.
6. The Review Committee shall be entitled, upon considering a violation, to hear the statements of any person it deems associated therewith. It may, at its own discretion, summon that person to appear, and may have access to all information related to the violation, including confidential information.
7. The Review Committee may consult an expert or any person it deems appropriate upon considering violations and objections.
8. The Review Committee shall have the right to address the public and private sectors

- to request statements and documents related to the violation under consideration.
9. The Review Committee may return violation documents to the competent administrative agency to complete control or investigation procedures and any other procedures it deems necessary to consider and decide on the violation.
 10. The Review Committee shall have the right to accept any means of evidence that is established in *Sharia* or law.
 11. The Review Committee shall refer to its records to detect any previous violation committed by the violator, and the measures taken pertaining thereto, and shall take such precedents into account when deciding on the penalty.
 12. The committee members, secretariat and any person whose assistance is requested by the committee to perform its duties shall maintain the confidentiality of any information or data that they are privy to as a result of committee work, and shall not use the same in other than committee's activities.

Article 261

Any person claiming to have committed a violation, as well as all parties and persons associated therewith, shall fully cooperate with the Review Committee to disclose any information or data requested thereby.

Article 262

1. The Review Committee shall decide on all issues submitted thereto.
2. The Review Committee's decision shall be numbered and dated, and shall comprise a description of the violation, its grounds, the defenses submitted by the violator and responses thereto, if any. Said decision shall be reasoned, and the penalty shall be determined accordingly once the violation is established.
3. The Review Committee's decisions shall be issued by the majority vote at least; in the event of a tie, the meeting chairman shall have the casting vote. A dissenting opinion shall be entered in the meeting record.
4. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 26(3) of the Law, the Review Committee's decisions shall be enforceable to any person against whom they were issued, and shall be appealable before the Administrative Court, pursuant to the Law.
5. The Review Committee shall refer its penalty decisions to the competent administrative agency to inform the violator and take the necessary procedures to

impose the prescribed penalty.

Article 263

1. The Review Committee shall decide on urgent violations submitted thereto within a period not exceeding 10 working days from the date of entering said violation in its records. It shall consider and decide on any grievance within a period not exceeding seven working days from its date, and shall decide on serious violations as soon as they are received within a period not exceeding 3 working days.
2. The Review Committee may postpone its decision on a pending violation, or decide thereon at its discretion, taking into account violations that affect people or property or endanger consumers.

Article 264

The Ministry shall disburse to each member of the Review Committee a lump sum remuneration of 2 thousand riyals for each meeting he attends, provided that the number of meetings is determined by a decision of the Minister and does not exceed 12 meetings per month.

Part 9: General Provisions

Article 265

The owner/tenant of an agricultural or veterinary facility shall be fully responsible for any violations and abuses of the provisions of the Law or its Regulations within his facility.

Article 266

1. The Ministry shall, individually or in coordination with any person it deems appropriate, encourage and attract the private sector to participate in all types of agricultural activities and services. It shall accordingly draw up appropriate plans to improve the investment environment in the agricultural sector; support facilities, projects, and investors therein; provide necessary data and information, follow-up, coordination and assistance; solve problems; and overcome difficulties and

obstacles.

2. The Ministry shall be entitled to collect, analyze, use, and issue or publish data for all types of agricultural activities, as it deems appropriate.

Article 267

Organic farming shall be subject to the provisions, controls, powers, conditions, requirements, standards, technical specifications and national emblems stipulated and explained in the Implementing Regulations for Organic Farming issued by the Ministry.

Article 268

The Ministry or its designee shall monitor and evaluate all risks related to the agricultural sector, and shall set the necessary strategies to deal therewith, in coordination with the relevant agencies.

Article 269

1. The Ministry shall form a committee under the name “Review Committee on Agricultural Sector Applications” to receive applications submitted to the competent agency of the Ministry by the sector’s service providers/agricultural practitioners. Said committee shall consider these applications and submit its opinion thereon to the competent person at the Ministry to take the appropriate decision.
2. The decision to form said committee shall determine the tasks entrusted thereto, its chairman and members, and its working rules and procedures.

Article 270

The Ministry shall develop and facilitate methods for leasing and/or investing in agricultural lands in accordance with the relevant laws, regulations and provisions.

Article 271

The provisions set out in any laws issued within the framework of the GCC, or the Kingdom's obligations under the relevant international agreements to which it is a party, shall be applied to all matters not provided for in the Law, its Regulations, and the technical regulations or guides referred to in the Regulations. In the event of any conflict, provisions shall be arranged, in terms of precedence, pursuant to the following

order:

1. The provisions set out in any of the laws issued within the framework of the GCC, or the Kingdom's obligations under the relevant international agreements to which it is a party, as the case may be;
2. The Law;
3. The Regulations; and
4. The technical regulations and guides referred to by the Regulations.