



Procedures for importation of products in the Country

Introduction

Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA), is a regulatory body under the Ministry of Health responsible for controlling the quality, safety and of food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices. TFDA has set down procedures to be followed by all stakeholders who intend to import food, drugs, cosmetics and medical devices in the Country. These procedures have been developed in accordance to the Tanzania, Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 2003, with the aim of ensuring that all imported products which are regulated by the Authority comply to National and International standards of safety and quality and hence protecting the public health.

Products: in this case imply all those which are regulated by TFDA, that is food, drugs, herbal drugs, cosmetics and medical devices.

Control of importation help in ascertaining that only products with appropriate information on the label are one which would be allowed in Tanzania market. Importation procedures again can help in outsmarting unfaithfully traders who deliberately import products with poor standards of quality and safety.

All traders who intend to import products regulated by TFDA, ought to get registration from the Authority. Furthermore, it is only registered products which are allowed to enter in Tanzania and circulate in the market.

Importation procedures

Registered Importers are supposed to get Import Permit from TFDA whenever they intend to import some products.

During application for Import Permit, the applicant will be required to fill in Application form and submit together with the Profoma Invoice to the Director General, TFDA. The Profoma Invoice should include full information about the product to be imported.

The following information must appear on the Profoma Invoice;-

1. Name of the product (brand and generic names)
2. Manufacturer's name
3. Registration number of the product
4. Dosage form and strength of ingredients
5. Quantity and value of the product to be imported
6. Transportation means and Port of entry
7. Expiry date (especially for donation products)

After scrutinising the Profoma invoice and application form, Import permit may be issued to the applicant only for products which have been listed on the Profoma Invoice. The permit is valid for 6 months after which period, if the said products would not have been imported, the applicant will be required to re-apply for import permit of the same products.

Imported products

The consignment of the imported products, is always inspected at the Port of entry by TFDA inspectors to check and prove if it is permitted product for importation. Furthermore, all information available on the Profoma invoice are re-checked and analysed.

A sample of the product can be taken for preliminary analytical testing if the inspector is suspicious of the quality and safety standards of the same. Some pharmaceutical products including some Antibiotics, Antimalarials and Antiretroviral drugs are always screened for their quality and safety at Port of entries before allowed to be marketed in the Country. When the Inspector is satisfied with the standards of quality and safety of imported products, s/he stamps the consignment ready to circulate in the country.

Poor quality products

Products which fail to meet National and International standards of quality and safety through preliminary screening, are prohibited from importation. Samples of the said products are sent to the central laboratory, at TFDA headquarters for further analysis. If it is proved that the products have minimal standards of quality and are not safe for human consumption, they are either returned to the country of origin or disposed off at the expense of the Importer.

TFDA urges Importers to collaborate in making sure that importation procedures are strictly observed so that only safe and high quality products circulate in Tanzania market and hence the public health is safeguarded.

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