

SUMMARY ON THE PROCESS OF IMPORTATION OF THE BIO-PRODUCTS;

Introduction

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), as a secretariat to The Kenya Standing Technical Committee on Imports and Exports (KSTCIE), facilitates the process of risk assessment before introduction of biological control agents, beneficial organisms, microorganisms and their products e.g. bio-fertilizer, soil inoculants, soil conditioners, bio-stimulants, organic fertilisers etc.

Any person who intends to import and use the above articles shall make an application to the KSTCIE by filling in the appropriate form provided in the link.

1. The applicant is responsible for the information submitted.
2. The application shall be submitted in 4 hard copies, separately bound.
3. All parts shall be filled by summarising the required information in the spaces provided and referenced to clearly labelled annexes.
4. A cover letter addressed to the Managing Director KEPHIS shall accompany the application dossier.
5. In case of more than one product, the applicant shall fill a separate form for each product.
6. All confidential business information shall be submitted in a separate and sealed file and clearly marked as `CBI`.
7. An applicant who is not a resident in Kenya shall appoint a local agent permanently residing in Kenya. An original letter of appointment must accompany this application.
8. Additional information relating to the application shall be provided if required.
9. The use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall be cleared by the National Biosafety Authority before an application is made.

Upon receipt of the application dossier, KEPHIS shall;

- (a) Review completeness of applications.
- (b) Distribute the application dossiers to subject matter experts for review.
- (c) KEPHIS shall collate the risk assessment findings from the experts, for presentation to the Committee in form of a "summary agenda";
- (d) KEPHIS convenes KSTCIE meetings every three months (quarterly) to consider applications. Where necessary further information may be requested by the committee.

- (e) The applicant shall be invited to make a presentation of their application to the Committee;
- (f) Upon evaluation of all available and availed information and the risk assessment findings, the Committee shall either approve or reject the application and provide import requirements where approval has been granted.
- (g) KEPHIS shall refer applications which are subject to other legislations on a case by case basis to the relevant regulatory authority e.g. biopesticides
- (h) KEPHIS shall oversee efficacy trials for applications that are not subject to other legislations. These includes bio-fertilizer, soil inoculants, soil conditioners, bio-stimulants, organic fertilisers.
- (i) Efficacy trial findings shall be considered by the committee in view of approval for use.
- (j) KEPHIS shall implement any other recommendation by the committee.
- (k) The applicant shall meet the costs of the process