AFRICAN BIOLOGICALS ALLIANCE
For Africa. By Africa.

REGISTRATION · SOUTH AFRICA · AGRICULTURAL REMEDIES

Registering a remedy: the journey

From application to certificate under Act 36 of 1947: who may apply, what the registrar checks, how long it takes, and what happens next.

7 tests the registrar must be satisfied of	**14 days** to check an application is complete
418 days estimated for a generic or label extension	**3 years** a certificate lasts, then renew

THE JOURNEY

Eight stages

01 **Be able to apply**
A resident of South Africa, or a company with a registered office here.

02 **Build the dossier**
Forms, data, safety data sheet, label, fee and declarations.

03 **Submit**
To the Registrar, with a cover letter and service request form.

04 **Administrative check**
Within 14 days: is everything there? If not, you are asked, and it can be rejected.

05 **Scientific screening**
Checked against the data requirements. About 30 days to supply what is missing.

06 **Evaluation**
The longest stage. The applicant may be contacted for data.

07 **Decision**
The registrar decides and tells you in writing. A certificate, or a refusal. You can appeal to the Minister.

08 **Keep it alive**
Three years, then renew. Keep every condition on the certificate.

HOW LONG IT TAKES

Estimated days, to scale

The department's 2017 estimates. They can stretch if the applicant is slow to answer. The table says working days in one place and calendar days in another.

New molecule 627 days



Generic, new formulation, major amendment, label extension 418 days



New source of active ingredient, change of formulator 208 days



Minor amendment, trade name, parallel or daughter, packaging change, re-instatement 118 days



Renewal 90 days



Advertisement 35 days



Import permit 14 days



Certificate of free sale 7 days



Check Screening Evaluation Decision

WHAT GOES IN

Who may apply, and what to send

Who may apply

Regulation 2

1 A resident of the Republic
Or, for a company, one with a registered office in the Republic.

2 On the Registrar's form, in duplicate
Get it from the Registrar's office.

3 Signed by the applicant, or by a representative
Representative and applicant details both go in.

Always

Regulation 3

A Where it is made
Name and address of the place of manufacture.

B The prescribed fee

C A safety data sheet
GHS compliant.

D A typed label, two printed copies
In English.

E Two signed declarations
No substance of concern. Information authentic, accurate and complete.

The scientific documentation

where relevant, as the Registrar's guidelines set out

What it is
Active ingredient, impurities, co-formulants, strain, properties, container, analytical methods, five batch analyses.

Is it harmful
Toxicology, exposure, effects on children, ecotoxicology, bees, environmental fate.

Does it work
Efficacy and phytotoxicity, under the supervision of a SACNASP-registered person, with signed assessment reports.

What is left on food
Residue chemistry, proposed maximum residue limits and withholding periods.

Elsewhere
Registrations or refusals in other countries, with the reasons.

Producer responsibility
Proof of waste management compliance, where it applies. Aerial application needs a risk assessment.

A completeness checklist
Showing the dossier is complete.

Samples, if asked
Of the remedy and of the technical grade of the active ingredient.

THE REGISTRAR'S TESTS

Seven things to be satisfied of

If the registrar is satisfied of all seven, the registrar must register the remedy and issue a certificate (regulation 8).

01

Complete and true

All the information, in all material particulars.

02

Works without unreasonable harm

To the environment and human health, used in the usual way.

03

Meets the standards

The active ingredient complies.

04

No substance of concern

And not a banned remedy.

05

Effective as claimed

Labelling and packaging comply.

06

Residues in order

For food crops, under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act.

07

Follows the Act

And the regulations.

> The certificate shows the holder, trade name, active ingredients, registration number and any conditions. A remedy that does not meet the tests may be refused. You can appeal to the Minister.

OTHER ROUTES

Not every registration starts from scratch

Daughter or parallel

Uses data from an existing registration.

1. The holder gives permission.
2. Same conditions as the existing registration.
3. Estimated 118 days.

Minor change

An administrative change.

1. Tell the Registrar, with a declaration that nothing else changed.
2. The Registrar advises approval.

Exceptional registration

Emergency use.

1. Only where there is no other remedy for the use.
2. For not more than 24 months.

Fast-tracked replacement

For substances of concern.

1. See the fast-tracking guide.

WHERE IT IS UNCLEAR

Ask before you rely on it

One source says	Another says
2023 regulations: application in duplicate, two label copies	2017 guideline: forms in triplicate, three label copies. We follow the regulations; confirm with the registrar
The time frame table says working days	Its caption says calendar days
The estimates come from a 2017 guideline on non-crop remedies	Whether they still apply to every remedy is not confirmed
The 2015 data guidelines are not in our saved sources	So what data each remedy type needs is not covered here

Ask the registrar's office, in writing, which requirements apply to your product.

Information, not legal advice. Facts as of 26 October 2026, from the Regulations relating to agricultural remedies (25 August 2023), the Registrar's 2017 guidelines on non-crop remedies (for the process and time frames only) and Government Gazette 54123 (13 February 2026). Whether the 2017 time frames still apply, the data each remedy type needs and the forms themselves are not covered. Guidelines page: https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/publication/581-guidelines

Sources

Prepared by the African Biologicals Alliance from these documents. They belong to the department and remain subject to its own terms.

- Regulations relating to agricultural remedies. Government Gazette 49189, 25 August 2023.
- Guidelines on the data and documents required for the registration of agricultural remedies used in non crop situations in South Africa (process and time frames only). Issued by the Registrar of Act 36 of 1947, October 2017. https://www.nda.gov.za/index.php/publication/581-guidelines
- Regulations relating to tariffs. Government Gazette 54123, 13 February 2026.

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