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THE FOOD SECURITY ACT,
(CAP. 249)

REGULATIONS

THE FOOD SECURITY (QUALITY CONTROL OF CEREALS AND OTHER PRODUCE)
REGULATIONS, 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Regulations *Title*

1. Citation.
2. Interpretation.

PART II
PRODUCTION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

3. Compliance with agricultural production practices.
4. Control of pests and diseases.
5. Crop varieties and specifications.
6. Harvesting and post harvesting handling.
7. Promotion of agronomical standards and good agricultural practices.

PART III
QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS, INSPECTION AND SAMPLE

8. Use of quality and sanitary standards.
9. Functions of grading experts.
10. Application of pesticides.
11. Storage and transportation requirements.
12. Adulteration.
13. Weighing and measurement requirements.

- 14. Appointment of inspectors.
- 15. Taking of samples.

PART IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 16. Buying centres.
- 17. Offences and penalty.

THE FOOD SECURITY ACT,
(CAP.249)

REGULATIONS

(Made under section 42(1))

THE FOOD SECURITY (QUALITY CONTROL OF CEREALS AND
OTHER PRODUCE) REGULATIONS, 2026

PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

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| Citation | 1. These Regulations may be cited as the Food Security (Quality Control of Cereals and other Produce) Regulations, 2026. |
| Interpretation | 2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires- |
| Cap. 249 | “Act” means the Food Security Act; |
| Cap. 130 | “Agronomical standards” means the standards issued under the Standards Act relating to improving cereal and other produce productivity and soil control in order to ensure optimal and sustainable agricultural system; |
| | “Authority” has the meaning ascribed to it under the Act; |
| | “buying centre” means a place designated by the local government authorities and approved by the Authority to be a crop buying center; |
| | “cereals” means edible grains such as maize, oat, wheat, rice, barley, finger millet, bulrush millet and sorghum; |
| | “crop” means the produce of what is planted or a part of plant which is harvested after cropping, cut, or gathered from a plant or agricultural field or of a single kind of grain, legume or fruit gathered in a single season; |

- “dealer” means a person who is engaged in the business of procuring, processing, importation, exportation, distribution or sale of cereal or other produce;
- “Director General” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority appointed under the Act;
- “grower” means a small-scale grower, a medium-scale grower or a large-scale grower engaged in the preparation, cultivation, planting and harvesting of cereals and other produce for commercial purposes;
- “inspector” means an officer authorised by the Authority to act as an inspector in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
- “large scale grower” means a person who grows cereal or other produce in a parcel of land exceeding twenty acres;
- “Minister” means the Minister responsible for agriculture;
- “medium scale grower” means a person who grows cereal or other produce in a parcel of land of not less than six acres but not exceeding twenty acres;
- “other produce” means the agricultural produce as may be *Gazetted* by the Minister to be regulated under the Act;
- “premises” means land, building, factory, erection, vehicle, article or receptacle whatsoever used for the purpose of growing, sorting, processing, storage transporting or for any other activity connected to the handling of cereals or other agricultural produce;
- “processor” means a person who converts or transforms on a commercial scale, any cereals or other produce regulated by the Act into a finished or semi-finished product; and
- “small scale grower” means a person who grows cereal or other produce in a parcel of land not exceeding five acres.

PART II
PRODUCTION STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

Compliance
with
agricultural
practices

Cap. 308

3.-(1) A grower shall adhere to agronomical standards and best agricultural practices relating to the production of cereals and other produce and-

- (a) keep and clean the fields by removing any type of weeds and unwanted materials;
- (b) use planting materials and certified seeds which are approved by the relevant authorities under the Seeds Act;
- (c) use fertilisers, herbicides, fungicides, or any other inorganic or organic inputs for growing as recommended by the relevant authorities;
- (d) not grow any cereals or other produce in areas or regions that have been prohibited by the relevant authorities;
- (e) not mix cereals or other produce with any foreign materials which may adulterate the quality of the crop;
- (f) not grow cereals or other produce in any area that has been declared as quarantined area by the relevant authority; and
- (g) not do any act that is likely to affect the volume, quality or quantity of cereals or other produce.

(2) The Authority shall in collaboration with other relevant authorities, ensure compliance of this regulation.

Control of pests
and diseases
Cap. 133

4. A grower shall control pests and diseases through integrated pest management and in accordance with control measures prescribed under the Plant Health Act.

Crop varieties
and
specifications
Cap. 308

5. Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, a grower shall utilise crop varieties and specifications of cereals or other produce set out under the Seeds Act.

Harvesting and
post harvesting
handling

6.-(1) A grower shall harvest agricultural produce at its physiological maturity in accordance with the agronomical standards.

Cap. 130 (2) A grower shall handle harvested cereal or other agricultural produce in accordance with the Standards Act.

Promotion of agronomical standards and good agricultural practices 7.-(1) The Authority may, in collaboration with the relevant institution, provide training and extension services to growers and promote adherence to sustainable agronomical standards and good agricultural practices.

(2) For the purpose of this regulation, the term “relevant institution” includes-

- (a) sectoral ministry;
- (b) local government authority;
- (c) research and innovation institution;
- (d) civil society organisation;
- (e) private sector; or
- (f) any other entity which the Authority may deems necessary.

PART III QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS, INSPECTION AND SAMPLE

Use of quality and sanitary standards 8. A grower or dealer shall, at all stages of production, storage, transportation, processing and marketing-

- Cap. 133 (a) take measures to prevent pests as prescribed in the Plant Health Act;
- (b) ensure that premises for the storage of cereals or other produce are clean;
- Cap. 130 (c) ensure that cereals or other produce are stored or transported in packages which conform the standards set out under the Standards Act and directives issued by the Authority;
- (d) not store any chemical in the premise;
- (e) observe sanitary measures in all activities relating to cereals and other produce;
- Cap. 130 (f) ensure cereals and other produce are packed in appropriate packaging materials and labelled in accordance with the Standards Act;
- Cap. 340 (g) use weighing scales in compliance with the requirements of the Weights and Measures Act; and

Cap. 191 (h) comply with environmental management standards set out under the Environmental Management Act.

Functions of grading experts 9. Grading experts appointed under the Act shall have the following functions:

- (a) grading the cereals and other produce into appropriate grades at the buying center and other places including store, crop packaging centre or in a cold room;
- (b) verifying cereals and other produce's grades; and
- (c) any other function as the Authority deems it necessary.

Application of pesticides 10.-(1) A grower or dealer shall consistently apply a pesticide approved by the relevant authority so as to preserve the quality and safety of cereals and other produce.

(2) The grower or dealer shall keep records of pesticides used and make available to inspectors when needed.

(3) The records referred to under subregulation (2) include-

- (a) a crop grown or stored;
- (b) a crop variety used;
- (c) type and variety of seed used;
- (d) date of planting;
- (e) pest and disease records;
- (f) pesticides applied;
- (g) fertilizer applied;
- (h) details of pesticide application;
- (i) inspection report of the premises; and
- (j) any other relevant information as may be directed by the Authority.

Storage and Transportation requirements 11. A grower, processor or dealer shall ensure that premises used for storing, processing, or transporting cereals or other produce-

- (a) are registered by the Authority;

- Cap. 130
- (b) meet all requirements and safety standards for storage or handling of cereals or other produce issued under the Standards Act;
 - (c) are designed and maintained in a manner that the risk of exposure and environmental contamination is avoided; and
 - (d) in the case of horticultural produce, among other things, they are fitted with refrigeration and insulation devices necessary for preservation of the produce during the storage or transportation.

Adulteration

12. A person shall not add or cause to be added any foreign material into cereals or other produce that may be harmful to human health, extraneous or compromise their quality.

Weighing and measurement requirements
Cap. 340

13.-(1) The buyer shall use weighing scale approved under the Weights and Measures Act.

(2) Every packing material containing cereals or other produce for sale shall, be weighed in presence of the buyer and the grower and the weight shall be marked on the side of the packing material.

(3) The actual weight of cereals or other produce to be recorded shall exclude the weight of the packing material.

Appointment of inspectors

14.-(1) Subject to the provisions of the Act, the Authority may appoint qualified persons to be inspectors.

(2) A person shall not be appointed to be an inspector under subregulation (1) unless that person holds atleast a certificate in agriculture or in any other related field as may be determined by the Authority.

(3) An inspector appointed under this regulation shall have the following powers:

- (a) monitoring the arrangement for the buying, handling and transportation of cereals or other produce;
- (b) inspecting farming areas to ensure compliance with all agronomical standards;

- (c) monitoring the importation and exportation of cereals and its produce;
- (d) conducting inspection of fields, premises, weighing and qualities of cereals and other produce as may be directed by the Authority;
- (e) inspecting vehicles used to transport cereals and other produce to ascertain whether they meet the standards;
- (f) requiring any person to give details or information relating to cereals or other produce as may be required;
- (g) taking samples and certifying weight and qualities of cereals and other produce as may be determined by the Authority; and
- (h) any other power as the Authority may deem necessary or expedient for the proper performance of its functions.

Taking of
samples

15.-(1) An inspector shall, after serving a reasonable notice to a grower or a dealer and disclose his identity, enter any premise and take samples of any cereals or other produce for analysis.

(2) An inspector shall, where the sample is taken under subregulation (1), ensure that-

- (a) the owner or a person in control is present and witnesses the taking of a sample;
- (b) the owner or a person in control is availed an opportunity to sign an acknowledgement note of the sample taken; and
- (c) the sample is properly packed, sealed and labelled.

(3) The taking of a sample under this regulation shall consider the requirements of each particular standard.

(4) A sample taken under subregulation (1) shall be analysed to determine whether it meets the quality standards under these Regulations.

(5) Costs for sampling and analysis of cereals or other produce shall, unless such sampling is requested by the dealer, be borne by the Authority.

(6) Notwithstanding subregulation (5), the owner or any person in control of cereals or other produce subject

to sampling and analysis who misrepresents the quality of such cereals or other produce commits an offence and on conviction shall, in addition to penalty under regulation 17, be liable to pay twice the cost of conducting sampling and analysis.

PART IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Buying centres

16. The Authority shall, in collaboration with local government authorities, establish and register crop and other produce buying centres and ensure that the buying and selling activities take place in those centres.

Offences and
penalty

17.-(1) A person who contravenes the provisions of these Regulations commits an offence and on conviction shall-

- (a) in the case of an individual, be liable to a fine of not less than one million shillings but not exceeding five million shillings or to an imprisonment for a term of not less than one year but not exceeding two years or to both; or
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, be liable to a fine of not less than five million shillings but not exceeding ten million shillings.

Dodoma,
26th March, 2026

DANIEL G. CHONGOLO
Minister for Agriculture