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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 7909 **11 September 2026**

NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 101 OF 1998)

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION OF THE FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM FOR GENERAL INFORMATION, AND FOR APPLICATIONS FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION TO LIGHT, USE OR MAINTAIN A FIRE IN THE OPEN AIR IN A REGION WHERE A FIRE DANGER IS HIGH OR EXTREME

I, Willem Abraham Stephanus Aucamp, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby in terms of sections 9(1) and 10(2)(a), read together with section 21(1) of the of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998), give notice of my intention to make Guidelines for exemption from the prohibition to light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in a region where a fire danger is high or extreme, as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Government *Gazette*, or in a national newspaper, whichever date comes last, written representations to the following addresses:

By post to:	The Director General: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Attention: Mr Lwando Paraffin Assistant Director: Veldfires Private Bag X447 **PRETORIA** 0001
By hand at:	Ground Floor (Reception), Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, 0083
By email:	lparaffin@dffe.gov.za

Any enquiries in connection with this Notice can be directed to Mr Lwando Paraffin at (067) 419 9857or lparaffin@dffe.gov.za

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses thereto will be included in the comments and response report which may be made available to the public. If a commenting party has any objection to his or her name, or the name of the represented company/organization, being made

publicly available in any comments and responses report, such objection should be highlighted as part of the comments submitted.

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

WILLEM ABRAHAM STEPHANUS AUCAMP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

1. Introduction

The National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998) (the Act), obliges the Minister to set up and maintain a National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS). The NFDRS is used to provide a measure of the relative seriousness of burning conditions and threat of fire by providing a measure of the likelihood of a fire starting and spreading. It processes and evaluates factors influencing fire danger systematically and represent them in the form of fire danger indices.

The NFDRS has five official colours to rate the level and categories of the likelihood of fires occurring in each area as shown in tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: NFDRS Colour Codes and Fire Danger Index

COLOUR CODES	FIRE DANGER INDEX	FIRE DANGER	RATING
BLUE	0-20	Low	Insignificant
GREEN	21-45	Moderate	Low
YELLOW	46-60	Dangerous	Medium
ORANGE	61-75	Very dangerous	High
RED	76-100	Extremely dangerous	Extremely

Table 2: Recommended actions at the various alert stages NFDRS.

INDICATIVE COLOUR	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
DANGER RATING	Insignificant	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS MEASURES	No precaution is needed	Fires including prescribed burns may be lit, used or maintained in the open air on the condition that persons making fires take reasonable precautions against the fires' spreading.	No fires may be allowed in the open air except those that are authorised by the Fire Protection Officer where a Fire Protection Association exists, or elsewhere, the Chief Fire Officer of the local fire service, or fires in designated fireplaces.	No fires may be allowed in the open air, unless exempted in writing by the Minister.	No fires may be allowed under any circumstances in the open air and Fire Protection Associations and Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency fire emergency and disaster management plans including extraordinary readiness and response plans. All operations likely to ignite fires halted. Householders placed on alert.
APPLICATION OF THE ACT			Above precautionary measure to be prescribed and made applicable nationally on days rated moderate.	Section 10(1)(b) of the Act applies: no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in the region where the fire danger is high or extreme, unless the Minister, on good cause shown, exempts in writing, a landowner or group of landowners from the said warning, subject to any conditions that the Minister may impose.	Section 10(1)(b) of the Act applies: no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in the region where the fire danger is high or extreme, unless the Minister, on good cause shown, exempts in writing, a landowner or group of landowners from the said warning, subject to any conditions that the Minister may impose.
RELATIONSHIP WITH DISASTER MANAGEMENT				Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) applies: The threat of disastrous wildfires exists at municipal level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres.	Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No.57 of 20020 applies: The threat of disastrous wildfires at provincial level exists under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres.
FIRE BEHAVIOUR	Fires are not likely to ignite. If they do, they are likely to go out	Fires likely to ignite readily but spread slowly.	Fires ignite readily and spread rapidly, burning in the surface layers below	Fires ignited readily and spread very rapidly, with local crowning and short-range spotting. Flame lengths	Conflagrations are likely in plantation forests, stands of alien invasive trees and shrubs, sugar cane plantations, and

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INDICATIVE COLOUR	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
	without suppression action. There is little flaming combustion. Flame lengths in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 0.5 m and rates of forward spread less than 0.15 kilometres per hour.	Flame lengths in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 1.0 m and rates of forward spread less than 0.3 kilometres per hour.	trees. Flame lengths in grasslands and plantation forests between 1 and 2m, and rates of forward spread between 0.3 and 1.5 kilometres per hour.	between 2 and 5 m, and rates of forward spread between 1.5 and 2.0 kilometres per hour.	fynbos. Long range fire spotting is likely in these fuel types. Rates of forward spread of head fires can exceed 4.0 kilometres per hour and flame lengths will be in the order of 5 – 15 m or more.
FIRE SUPPRESSION DIFFICULTY	Direct attack feasible: one or a few field crew with basic firefighting tools easily suppresses any fire that may occur.	Direct attack feasible: fires safely approached on foot. Suppression is readily achieved by direct manual attack methods.	Direct attack constrained: fires not safe to approach on foot for more than very short periods. Best forms of control should combine water tankers and back burning from fire control lines.	Direct attack not feasible: fires cannot be approached at all and back burning, combined with aerial support are the only effective means to combat fires. Equipment such as water tankers should concentrate efforts on the protection of houses.	Any form of fire control is likely to be precluded until the weather changes. Back burning dangerous and best avoided.

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2. Exemption in terms of section 10(2)(a) of the Act

Section 10(1)(b) of the Act states that when the fire danger is rated as high in any region, the Minister must publish a warning at the earliest possible opportunity in all the main languages used in that region.

Sections 10(2)(a) further states that when the Minister has published a warning in terms of subsection (1) (b), no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in the region where the fire danger is high or extreme, unless the Minister, on good cause shown, exempts in writing, a landowner or group of landowners from the said warning, subject to any conditions that the Minister may impose.

This Guideline outlines the process to be followed when applying for exemption in terms of section 10(2)(a) of the Act.

3. Applications for exemption

Any landowner(s) may apply in writing to the Minister for exemption from the prohibition in terms of section 10(2)(a) of the Act. The Application Form is available on the Departmental website and at Regional Offices.

An application in terms of subsection (1) must be accompanied by —

(a) an explanation of the reasons for the application; and
(b) any applicable supporting documents.

The application must be submitted to the relevant regional office of the Department.

4. Consideration of application for exemption

(1) The Minister may request an applicant to furnish additional information where such information is necessary for the purposes of informing the Minister's decision.

(2) If the rights or interests of other parties are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed exemption, the Minister may, before deciding the application, request the applicant to—

(a) bring the application to the attention of relevant organs of state, interested persons and the public by conducting a participation process indicated by the Minister, and
(b) submit any comments received from following such process to the Minister.

5. Decisions on applications for exemption

(1) Section 10(b)of the Act states that the Minister must, before granting any exemption, consult the Fire Protection Association of the area, if any, and the Fire Protection Officer.

(2) The Minister may —

(a) grant the exemption, with conditions; or

(b) refuse to grant the exemption.

(3) If an application is granted, the Minister must issue a written exemption notice to the applicant stating—

(a) the name, address and telephone number of the person or organ of state to whom the exemption is granted;

(b) the location where the exemption applies;

(c) the conditions subject to which the exemption is granted, and

(d) the period for which exemption is granted.

6. Suspension and withdrawal of exemptions

(1) The Minister may on good grounds shown, suspend or withdraw an exemption or amend the exemption, or any part thereof.

(2) Before suspending or withdrawing an exemption, the Minister must give the person to whom the exemption was granted an opportunity to comment, in writing, on the reasons for the suspension, withdrawal.

7. Minimum requirements

(1) The following minimum conditions, where applicable, will be considered before the Minister will consider an exemption.

(a) All necessary firebreaks have been prepared and are clean of flammable material capable of carrying a fire across the firebreak. This includes a strip between the outer and inner firebreaks, where double firebreaks have been provided.

(b) The landowner must satisfy him/herself that all firefighting equipment (including vehicles and radio communication) is serviceable and that all firefighters are equipped with PPE that is in a good, serviceable condition.

(c) Sufficient water resources, and trained personnel must be available and present on the day of burning.

(d) The name and contact numbers of a qualified and capable person to oversee the fire must be made available.

(e) The person in charge is responsible for planning, ensuring that all related safety precautions and procedures have been given due consideration and have been put in place, and for the actual execution of the burn. These may be delegated as a whole or in part to others, as agreed between landowner and responsible person.

(f) In the event that the landowner or the person(s) responsible for the implementation of the burn is not satisfied with any aspect relating to safety and risk and feels that the burn may not proceed, he/she may call it off and postpone the burn. In such an event, neighbouring landowners should be informed.

(g) All neighboring landowners must be notified of the intention to burn, at least 24 hours before the burn, as well as on the morning of the burn. Should it be decided to postpone the burn, the people already notified must be informed of this decision.

(h) Supervision must always be kept until fire is completely extinguished. All neighboring landowners must be notified when the fire has been completely extinguished.

8. The application process.

(1) The landowner or group of landowners must apply to the Minister as per the attached Application Form marked **Annexure A**, which can either be obtained from a Department regional office or online on the Departmental website.

(2) The Minister reserves the right to:

(i) Conduct in loco inspection before or after the burn.

(ii) Consult with the Fire Protection Association of the area; and/or

(iii) The Chief Fire Officer of the local authority.

9. Repeal of Notice

The South African National Fire Danger Rating System Notice published in Government *Gazette* No. 37014 of Government Notice R.1099, on 15 November 2013, is hereby repealed, and replaced by this Notice.

Annexure A

Application Form

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION TO LIGHT, USE OR MAINTAIN A FIRE IN THE OPEN AIR IN A REGION WHERE A FIRE DANGER IS HIGH OR EXTREME, IN TERMS OF SECTION 10(2)(b) OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 101 OF 1998)

SECTION A: Signing of document

The following member(s) of the ..... as set out in the list below have signed this Section A and understand what is stated in the document as a whole.

No.	Farm name	Member name	Signed
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			

SECTION B: REASONS FOR THE EXEMPTION APPLICATION

The member(s) is applying for exemption because:

.....

.....

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.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

SECTION C: UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF THE EXEMPTION APPLICATION

C1: As a signing member of this document, I understand that under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998):

a) Section 10(1)(b) states that when the fire danger is rated as high in any region, the Minister must publish a warning at the earliest possible opportunity in all the main languages used in that region.

b) Sections 10(2)(a) further states that when the Minister has published a warning in terms of subsection (1) (b), no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in the region where the fire danger is high or extreme, unless the Minister, on good cause shown, exempts in writing, a landowner or group of landowners from the said warning, subject to any conditions that the Minister may impose.

c) Section 10(b) states that the Minister must, before granting any exemption, consult the Fire Protection Association of the area, if any, and the Fire Protection Officer.

C2: As a signing member of this document, I also understand that:

a) When receiving exemption from the Minister, it does not exempt me from the responsibility as landowner/user to prevent a fire from starting or spreading from or over my farm/property.

b) The exemption does not transfer my responsibility on to any neighbour, the Fire Protection Association, local or national authority to prevent a fire from starting or spreading from or over my farm/property.

c) If the exemption is granted, I undertake to adhere to the conditions imposed by the Minister.

C3: As a signing member of this document, I also agree to the following clauses:

a) The Department, nor the Delegated Official of the Department is not liable for any damage or loss caused by the purported exercise of any power in terms of this Act.

b) It is my duty to inform any third party that may be affected by this application and the outcome thereof.

C4: Signatures

As Chairman/ Delegated person of the ..... with the Executive Committee, I hereby **recommend / do not recommend** this application for exemption for the said member/s listed and signed under Section A

Signed _____ by (full names): _____ as Chairman/

Delegated person at _____on this day the _____

As a Regional Deputy Director: Forest Resource Protection, I **support / do not support** this application for exemption as set out in this document by the group landowners/users listed in Section A and signed under Section C.

Comments:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signed _____ by (Full Names): _____

As an appointed official of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment At

_____on this day of the _____

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE PROHIBITION TO LIGHT, USE OR MAINTAIN A FIRE IN THE OPEN AIR IN A REGION WHERE A FIRE DANGER IS HIGH OR EXTREME, IN TERMS OF SECTION 10(2)(b) OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 101 OF 1998)

As a Director: Forest Resource Protection, **I recommend / do not recommend** this application for exemption as set out in this document by the group landowners/users listed in Section A and signed under Section C.

Comments:

.....
.....
.....

Signed _____ by (Full Names): _____

As an appointed official of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment At

_____on this day of the _____

As a Chief Director: Forestry Policy Management, I **Approve / Approve with amendments/ do not Approve** this application for exemption as set out in this document by the group landowners/users listed in Section A and signed under Section C.

Comments:

.....
.....
.....

Signed _____ by (Full Names): _____

As a delegated official of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment At

_____on this day of the _____

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 7910 **11 September 2026**

NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 101 OF 1998)

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS, 2003

I, Willem Abraham Stephanus Aucamp, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby in terms of section 21(1) of the of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998), give notice of my intention to amend the Fire Protection Association Regulations, 2003, published in Government *Gazette* No. 25137 of Government Notice R.953 on 4 July 2003, as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Government *Gazette*, or in a national newspaper, whichever date comes last, written representations to the following addresses:

By post to:	The Director General: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Attention: Mr Lwando Paraffin Assistant Director: Veldfires Private Bag X447 **PRETORIA** 0001
By hand at:	Ground Floor (Reception), Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, 0083
By email:	lparaffin@dffe.gov.za

Any enquiries in connection with this Notice can be directed to Mr Lwando Paraffin at (067) 419 9857or lparaffin@dffe.gov.za

Comments received after the closing date may not be considered.

WILLEM ABRAHAM STEPHANUS AUCAMP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In this Schedule any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, will bear that same meaning, and unless the context indicates otherwise —

"the Regulations" means the Fire Protection Association Regulations, 2003, published in Government *Gazette* No. 25137 of Government Notice R.953 on 4 July 2003.

Amendment to regulation 3 of the Regulations

2. Regulation 3 of the Regulations is hereby amended by:

(a) the substitution for subregulation 3(1) of the following subregulation:

"**3. Formation of a fire protection association.—** (1) Owners, including the municipality concerned, or a traditional council established in terms of section 16 of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act, who wish to form a fire protection association for the purpose of predicting, preventing, managing and extinguishing veldfires, must form a fire protection association at a founding meeting.";

(b) the addition after subregulation (13) of the following subregulation:

"(14) The owner in respect of State land, a state-owned enterprise, a public entity or an organ of state must, join a registered fire protection association in the area in which the land is situated.".

Amendment to regulation 6 of the Regulations

3. Regulation 6 of the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution for subregulation 6(6) of the following subregulation:

"(6) If the Minister, is satisfied that the fire protection association qualifies for registration in terms of section 4(4) of the Act, to fulfil certain conditions after registration, the Minister must —

(a) enter the fire protection association in a register of fire protection associations;

(b) issue a registration certificate and a registration number; and

(c) inform the fire protection association in writing of the conditions it must fulfil once it has been registered and the time period within which it must do so.";

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 7911 **11 September 2026**

NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT, 1998
(ACT NO. 101 OF 1998)

NATIONAL VELDFIRE APPEAL REGULATIONS, 2026

I, Willem Abraham Stephanus Aucamp, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby give notice of my intention to make Regulations pertaining to the processing, consideration of, and decisions on appeals, in terms of section 32A, read together with sections 20(a) and (f) and 21(1) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998), as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Members of the public are invited to submit, within thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Government *Gazette*, or in a national newspaper, whichever date comes last, written representations to the following addresses:

By post to:	The Director General: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Attention: Lwando Paraffin Assistant Director: Veldfires Private Bag X447 **PRETORIA** 0001
By hand at:	Ground Floor (Reception), Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Arcadia, 0083
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WILLEM ABRAHAM STEPHANUS AUCAMP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

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CHAPTER 1
INTERPRETATION AND PURPOSE

1. Interpretation

(1) In this Schedule any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, will bear that same meaning, and unless the context indicates otherwise —

(a) "**appeal administrator**" means the holder of an office in the Department, who administers an appeal on behalf of the appeal authority;

(b) "**appeal authority**" means the Minister as contemplated in section 32A of the Act, or a person delegated the power to decide an appeal;

(c) "**appellant**" means any person or organ of state who is entitled to submit an appeal in terms of section 32A of the Act and includes an applicant;

(d) "**applicant**" means a person to whom a decision contemplated in section 32A of the Act, has been issued;

(e) "**independent**" in relation to an expert or person appointed as a member of an advisory appeal panel, means —

(i) that such a person has no business, financial, personal or other interest in the appeal in respect of which that person is appointed in terms of these Regulations other than fair remuneration for work performed in connection with that appeal; or

(ii) that there are no circumstances that may compromise the objectivity of that person in performing such work.;

(f) "**the Act**" means the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998).

(2) When a period of days must be reckoned in terms of the Regulations, the period must be reckoned as from the start of the day following that particular day to the end of the last day of the period, but if the last day of the period falls on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, that period must be extended to the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, and the period between 15 December to 5 January must be excluded from the reckoning of days.

(3) Where a prescribed timeframe is affected by one or more public holidays, the timeframe must be extended by the number of public holiday days falling within that timeframe.

2. Purpose of Regulations

(1) The purpose of these Regulations is to regulate the procedure contemplated in section 32A of the Act relating to the submission, processing, consideration of, and decisions on appeals in respect of the Act.

CHAPTER 2
ADMINISTRATION AND PROCESSING OF APPEALS

3. Application of Regulations

(1) These Regulations are applicable to an appeal against a decision taken in terms of the Act that is subject to an appeal to the appeal authority in terms of section 32A of the Act.

4. Submitting an appeal

(1) An appellant must submit an appeal—

(a) within 20 calendar days from the date of the decision;

(b) to the appeal administrator and to the competent authority; and

(c) to the applicant, where the appellant is not the applicant.

(2) An appeal submitted in terms of sub-regulation (1) must—

(a) be in writing;

(b) be in the form obtainable from the relevant website of the appeal authority; and

(c) include the supporting documentation referred to in the appeal.

(3) An applicant must—

(a) notify, and make a copy of the appeal available to affected parties and affected organs of state, within 5 calendar days of the expiry of the 20-day period in sub-regulation (1); and

(b) submit proof of the notification contemplated in paragraph *(a)* to the appeal administrator within 5 calendar days of sending the last notification.

5. Responding statement

(1) The applicant, where applicable, and any other person contemplated in regulation 4 may, within 20 calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal, submit, in the form obtainable from the website of the relevant appeal administrator, a statement responding to an appeal, to the appeal administrator and to the appellant.

6. Additional information

(1) The appeal administrator may, at any time request additional information from any person or affected organ of state for purposes of the appeal.

7. Decision on appeal

(1) The appeal authority must decide an appeal, and notify the appellant, applicant, and, where applicable, and affected organs of state of the decision within 50 calendar days of the expiry of the time period in regulation 5.

(2) An appeal decision must contain written reasons for the decision.

CHAPTER 3
GENERAL PROVISIONS

8. Processing of appeal

(1) The appeal administrator must acknowledge receipt of an appeal and responding statement within 5 working days after receiving either.

(2) The appeal administrator must notify—

(a) the appellant;

(b) the applicant, where the appellant is not the applicant; and

(c) any party who submitted a responding statement,

within 5 working days of the appointment of an advisory appeal panel or expert in terms of regulation 11.

9. Extension of timeframes

(1) The Appeal Administrator may extend or condone a failure by a person to comply with the timeframes in regulations 4(1) and 5.

10. Complex appeals

(1) Despite regulation 7(1), the appeal authority may decide an appeal within—

(a) 70 calendar days of the expiry of the period in regulation 5; or

(b) 50 calendar days of the appeal administrator receiving the appeal panel or expert's recommendations, where an appeal is complex.

(2) An appeal is complex where it requires—

(a) the appointment of an advisory appeal panel or an expert to assist the appeal authority to decide an appeal;

(b) the appeal administrator to undertake a site inspection to properly advise the appeal authority; or

(c) more than one appeal administrator to process the appeal due to the volume of its documents or the technical nature of its subject-matter.

11. Advisory appeal panel

(1) If the appeal authority decides to appoint an advisory appeal panel or expert to consider and advise the appeal authority on an appeal, the appeal administrator must provide the appeal panel or expert with a written instruction within 10 calendar days of being appointed concerning the issues which the advisory appeal panel or expert must advise on.

(2) The advisory appeal panel or expert must, within 10 calendar days of receiving instructions, submit its written recommendations to the appeal administrator.

(3) A member of the advisory appeal panel or an expert must—

(a) be independent; and

(b) have suitable qualifications and experience in relation to the matters that must be considered in the appeal.

(4) A person may not be appointed as a member of an advisory appeal panel or an expert if that person—

(a) was involved in any way in the making of the decision being appealed;

(b) or any spouse, partner or close family member of that person has a personal or private interest in the outcome of the appeal;

(c) is an unrehabilitated insolvent;

(d) has, because of improper conduct, been removed from an office of trust; or

(e) has been declared by a court to be mentally ill or disordered.

(5) The chairperson of the advisory appeal panel must ensure that any dissenting opinion by a member of the panel is recorded in the written report of the panel.

12. Delivery of documents

(1) A person may deliver documents in terms of these Regulations by—

(a) electronic mail; or

(b) delivering a hard copy by hand where that person does not hold an electronic mail account.

13. Short title and commencement

(1) These Regulations are called the National Veldfire Appeal Regulations, 2026 and take effect on the date of publication for implementation in the Government *Gazette*.

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