

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION IN THE EASTERN CAPE PERTAINING TO HONEY BUSH TEA:

Kindly take note that this is only applicable to berg- and vlei- tea: *Cyclopia intermedia* and *subternata* and is only applicable to the Eastern Cape Province.

1. REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES AND FLORA LICENSES:

Any person wanting to trade or cultivate any of the two species must register with the Dept. of Environmental Affairs (DEDEAT) either as a flora seller or a flora grower and also obtain a license to trade with it. Flora licenses for sellers only cost R 20 and is valid for one year. The flora licenses for growers is free of charge and valid for 3 years. The registration certificate basically registers the individual with DEDEAT and the license permits him to trade with honey bush tea. This means that any individual delivering honey bush tea to a factory, must be registered and have a license. It is also illegal for a factory to buy honey bush tea from a person who is not registered and has a license/permit to do so.

2. EXPORT PERMITS:

An export permit is required for the export of honey bush tea from the Eastern Cape to any of the other Provinces and abroad.

3. PICKING AND POSSESSION OF FLORA

A permit is required if a person wants to harvest/pick honey bush tea on another property that does not belong to him.

4. WRITTEN PERMISSION:

The written permission from a landowner is required when picking honey bush tea on his farm. The permission must be in writing must have the following details on it: the full name, surname and address of both parties concerned, it must be dated and signed by the landowner, must reflect the period of the permission, must reflect the species and the number or weight of the flora and it must be declared if it was sold or donated by the landowner. Any permission not reflecting the above is invalid.

5. POSSESSION OF FLORA:

Any person found in possession of honey bush tea must be able to produce the written permission from the landowner where he has harvested the tea or if that person was not the landowner, the written confirmation from that other person. If no such documents are produced, that person is illegally in possession of the tea and can thus be prosecuted. Even if the tea originates from another Province, these documents are still required as proof of legal origin.

6. POSSESSION OF HONEY BUSH TEA BY A LANDOWNER OR HIS FULL TIME EMPLOYEES:

A landowner delivering tea to a factory must be registered and have a license as mentioned. His full time employees do not need picking permits and they also do not need written permission but verbal permission. When tea is delivered to the factory, the permit holder or his delegated official, must issue an invoice confirming the following: his permit number, his business details, name and address and the species and number/weight. Should the tea be delivered or received without this invoice, the permit holder can be prosecuted.