MCAZ Medicines Control Authority of Zimbabwe

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CIRCULAR 15 of 2021

Date: 7/07/2021

To: **Holders of Premises Licences for Retail, Hospital & Restricted Pharmacies**

RE: IMPORTATION OF MEDICINES BY HOLDERS OF PREMISES LICENCES FOR RETAIL PHARMACIES, HOSPITAL AND RESTRICTED PHARMACIES

Reference is made to Circular 4 of 2019, which authorised parallel importation of registered medicines and authorisation for importation of bulk medicines in terms of Section 75 of the Medicines and Allied Substances Control Act (Chapter 15:03) MASCA.

This authorisation was facilitated at that time to alleviate shortages of essential medicines. However, the Authority has been facing challenges with some importers who are bringing in products which do not conform to the approved labelling requirements, some in foreign languages and others that are manufactured at unapproved sites.

The Authority therefore reminds importers of the conditions for importation specified in Circular 4 of 2019 and advises importers that all products imported through provisions of Circular 4 of 2019 should have English language labels and all registered products should have:

1. Similar artwork to the registered products;
2. Same pack size as the registered products;
3. Same manufacturer name and manufacturing address as the registered products;
4. Same pharmacopeal finished product specification as the registered product.

The importing parties are fully responsible for the quality of the product on the market and all the products imported should only be for consumption by the importing party.

The Authority would like to inform importers that non-compliance will result in the products being re-exported at the importers` expense. In addition, if the Authority continues to face the same challenges, authorisation for parallel importation of medicines shall be revoked without further notice.

MEDICINES CONTROL AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE

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R. Rukwata (Mr.)
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL