FOOD & BEVERAGE // MEAT, STAPLES & DRY GOODS

Meat, staples and dry goods line inspection in South Africa

Labels that must match the product, codes on flexible packs and print on heavy bags. Three stations for poultry and meat packers, sachet and pouch lines and staple food mills.

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Describe your line

// SHORT ANSWER

Meat, staples and dry goods line inspection in South Africa is mostly about the right label and a readable code on packs that are cold, flexible or dusty. addaScan builds three HIKROBOT-based stations for these lines: weigh-price label verification on poultry and meat trays, code and visible seal checks on sachets, pouches and flow wraps, and print, code and closure checks on maize meal and sugar bags. Each page below gives the hardware and an indicative rand budget for a typical application.

// ON SOUTH AFRICAN LINES

Cold rooms, flexible packs and dusty bag lines

Poultry lines run at large volumes: SAPA reports 1 418 766 tonnes of broiler meat (dressed weight) produced in 2024 (SAPA, 2024). Maize meal is the main staple, with bread second (NAMC), and it is

packed in printed bags from small to large sizes. Sauces, drink powders, snacks and spices fill sachets, pouches and flow wraps on high-speed packers.

The faults differ by line but share a pattern: a label meant for another product, a code that did not print or smudged on a flexible pack, a bag that left the closer open or with the wrong grade printed. The environments are hard on cameras: cold, wet cutting rooms on meat lines, and flour or maize dust on milling lines. Weighing stays with the checkweigher or the labeller’s scale; the camera checks what is printed and visible.

// LINE SOLUTIONS

Line solutions for these lines

Each is a complete station with HIKROBOT hardware, installation and an indicative installed budget for a typical application, in rand excluding VAT. Projects involve custom requirements, so the final price follows a sample test.

LINE SOLUTION	FAULTS IT CATCHES	HIKROBOT CONFIGURATION	INDICATIVE BUDGET (EXCL. VAT)
Weigh price label verification	Missing or wrong labels, wrong product, unreadable barcode, wrong date	Code reader + vision sensor or colour camera, tray pusher	R 160 000 – R 740 000
Pouch inspection	Missing or smeared codes; product in seal, folds, open edges; short cartons	Vision sensor on the code, line scan over seals, air-jet reject	R 80 000 – R 930 000

LINE SOLUTION	FAULTS IT CATCHES	HIKROBOT CONFIGURATION	INDICATIVE BUDGET (EXCL. VAT)
Maize meal bag inspection	Wrong bag stock for the grade; missing or unreadable code; bag not closed	Vision sensor or 2 cameras in dust housings, bag reject	R 110 000 – R 770 000

// CHECKS

The checks these lines use, and where each stops

The same inspection applications appear across these lines; each links to the page that explains it in depth.

CHECK	APPLICATION	WHAT IT CATCHES	WHERE IT STOPS
Label content and match	**Label inspection**	Wrong label for the product, missing label, unreadable barcode, wrong date	Weight and price accuracy: that is the scale’s job
Codes on flexible packs	**OCR/OCV and code inspection**	Missing, smudged or wrong date and batch codes on film and bags	Grading print quality to ISO standards
Visible seal area	**Fill level, cap and seal**	Product trapped in the seal, folds, open edges	Leaks and seal strength
Count per carton	**Presence and counting**	Short cartons of sachets or packs	Packs hidden under others in a closed carton

CHECK	APPLICATION	WHAT IT CATCHES	WHERE IT STOPS
Pallet and case labels	**Carton and pallet verification**	Case and pallet labels matched to the order	Contents of a closed case

// SOUTH AFRICAN RULES

Rules that set the outcome these checks support

The rules require the outcome; a camera is one way to check it on every unit.

- **Poultry product names.** Amended poultry meat regulations require the product name to describe any added solution truly, for example “chicken with brine” (DAFF, poultry regulations amendment). A label station checks that the label printed matches the product on the line; it does not measure brine.
- **Raw processed meat marking.** Containers must be marked with a date or a batch code for traceability (GN R2410, 2022).
- **Maize products.** Containers must be marked in clearly legible symbols with, among other things, the grade and net mass, and bags must be properly closed (maize products regulations, 2016).
- **Quantity.** Automatic fillers must be able to detect short fills and keep records (Legal Metrology Regulations, 2018), and FSSC 22000 adds quantity control for certified sites (FSSC 22000 v6, 2.5.9). The proof of contents stays with weighing.

// FAQ

Questions about meat, staples and dry goods line inspection

How do meat packers stop the wrong label going on a tray?

A station after the weigh-price labeller reads the label’s barcode and text and compares them with the product the labeller recipe or PLC says is running. A label for another product, a missing label or an unreadable barcode is rejected before the tray is cased.

Can a camera read codes on sachets and flow wraps at speed?

Usually, when the code is printed in the same place on every pack and the film does not wrinkle at the camera. Multi-lane sachet machines may need one camera across the lanes or one per lane; the sample test on your film decides.

How much does inspection on these lines cost in South Africa?

The three line solutions above give indicative installed budgets for a typical application, from about R 80 000 for a single vision sensor to about R 930 000 for a station with line scan over the seals, excluding VAT. Projects involve custom requirements, so the final price follows a sample test.

Does a camera replace the checkweigher on a bag line?

No. The camera checks print, codes and the closure; the checkweigher or filling scale proves the mass. They work side by side on the same line and can share the reject.

Will the camera cope with maize dust?

With an IP67 housing, a purge or shroud and a cleaning routine, yes in most mills. Dust that settles as a crust on the window will blind any camera, so the mounting point and cleaning are part of the site survey.

SOURCES

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2. Minister approves amendments to poultry meat regulations (https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/minister-senzeni-zokwana-approves-amendments-poultry-meat-regulations-01-oct) `(government statement, checked 2026-10-02)`
3. Regulations for certain raw processed meat products (GN R2410, 2022) (https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202208/46789reg11478gon2410.pdf) `(gazette, checked 2026-10-02)`
4. NAMC: Our daily bread (https://namc.co.za/our-daily-bread) `(agency article, checked 2026-10-02)`
5. Regulations relating to the grading, packing and marking of maize products (2016) (https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/saf153152.pdf) `(regulation (FAOLEX copy), checked 2026-10-02)`
6. Legal Metrology Regulations (GN 877, 2018) (https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/201808/41854gon877.pdf) `(gazette, checked 2026-10-02)`
7. FSSC 22000 Scheme Version 6 (https://www.fssc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/FSSC-22000-Scheme-Version-6-.pdf) `(scheme document, checked 2026-10-02)`

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// NEXT STEP

Send us a few packs, labels or bags from your line

Start an assessment

Describe the products, the line and the fault you need caught. We test on your samples and reply with a feasibility note and a budget.