

MSUNDUZI MUNICIPALITY



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The Msunduzi Municipality

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT POLICY

*Adopted in terms of section 111 of the Municipal Finance Management Act,
No.56 of 2003 and the Municipal Inventory Management Regulations*

**MUNICIPAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT POLICY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT: MUNICIPAL FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT, 2003**

Date of adoption:

Council resolves in terms of section 111 of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act (No. 56 of 2003), to adopt the following proposal as the Inventory Management Policy of the Msunduzi Municipality.

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1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this Policy, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following definitions are applied:-

“Accounting Officer” means the Municipal Manager for the Municipality as contemplated in section 60 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003

“CFO” means the Chief Financial Officer designated in terms of section 80(2)(a) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 56 of 2003

“Delegated authority” means the official who is given the authority for relevant functions in terms of the municipality’s written delegations;

“Inventories” are assets:
In the form of material or supplies to be consumed in the production process,
In the form of materials or supplies to be consumed or distributed in the rendering of services
Held for sale or distribution in the ordinary course of operations, or
In the process of production for sale or distribution

“Obsolete inventory” means items that have expired, are redundant or damaged;

“Re-order level” means the level of inventory at which inventory is re-ordered;

“Requisition form” means a written request to the Inventory Supervisor to supply specified inventory;

“Responsible manager” means the official responsible for the Stores of SCM Unit in the municipality;

“Store” means a place where inventory is stored and reserved for future use, or a source from which supplies may be drawn;

“Stores Controller” means the official responsible for the requisition, receipt, issue, recording and safeguarding of inventory; and

“Manager Logistics” means the official responsible for the cost-effective and efficient management of inventory,

“GRAP” Standards of Generally Recognized Accounting Practice.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE POLICY

- 2.1 The policy aims to achieve the following objectives which are to:-
- a) Provide guidelines that employees of the Municipality must follow in the management and control of inventory, including safeguarding and disposal of inventory.
 - b) Procure inventory in line with the established procurement principles contained in the Municipality's Supply Chain Management Policy.
 - c) Eliminate any potential misuse of inventory and possible theft.

3. SCOPE

- 3.1 This policy applies to The Msunduzi Municipality's inventory received by the Store Controllers and issued to users.
- 3.2 This policy specifically excludes:
- a) Pharmaceutical inventory and
 - b) Equipment and other assets not defined as inventory;

4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 In terms of the MFMA, the Accounting Officer for a municipality must:
- a) Be responsible for the effective, efficient, economical and transparent use of the resources of the municipality as per section 62 (1)(a);
 - b) Take all reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure and other losses as per section 62(1)(d);
 - c) Be responsible for the management, including the safeguarding and the maintenance of the assets, and for the management of the liabilities, of the municipality as per section 63 (1) (a) and (b).
- 4.2 **In terms of the following paragraph of GRAP 12:**
- 4.2.1 Inventories shall be recognized as an asset if, and only if,
- a) it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the entity ,and
 - b) the cost of the inventories can be measured reliably

4.3 MEASUREMENT AT RECOGNITION

- 4.3.1 Inventories that qualify for recognition as assets shall initially be measured at cost
- 4.3.2 Where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, their costs shall be their fair value as at the date of acquisition

4.4 MEASUREMENT AFTER RECOGNITION

- 4.4.1 Inventories shall be measured at the lower of weighted average cost and net realization value, except where paragraph .18 applies
- 4.4.2 Inventories shall be measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost where they are held for:
 - a) distribution at no charge or for a nominal charge, or
 - b) consumption in the production process of goods to be distributed at no charge or for a nominal charge.

4.5 RECOGNITION AS AN EXPENSE

- 4.5.1 When inventories are sold, exchanged or distributed the carrying amount of those inventories shall be recognized as an expense in the period in which the related revenue is recognized. If there is no related revenue, the expense is recognized when the goods are distributed, or related service is rendered. The amount of any write-down of inventories to net realizable value and all losses of inventories shall be recognized as an expense in the period the write-down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write –down of inventories ,arising from an increase in net realizable value, shall be recognized as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognized as an expense in the period in which the reversal occurs.
- 4.5.2 Some inventories may be allocated to other assets accounts, for example, inventory used as a component of self-constructed property, plant or equipment. Inventories allocated to other assets in this way are recognized as an expense during the useful life of that asset.

5 INVENTORY PROCEDURES

- 5.1 The procedures for inventory must be followed to ensure that:
 - a) Inventory is safeguarded at all times;
 - b) There are accurate records of quantities on hand at all times;
 - c) Optimum inventory levels are maintained to meet the needs of users;
 - d) Only authorised issues of inventory are made to users; and
 - e) Items placed in store are secured and only used for the purpose for which they were purchased.

5.2 Appointment of Responsible Officials

- 5.2.1 The CFO must appoint, in writing, officials to perform the duties of Manager Logistics and those of Stores Controllers in terms of this Policy.
- 5.2.2 Adequate segregation of duties between the requisition, receipt, recording, storage and safekeeping of inventory and the management and control thereof must be maintained to avoid the potential occurrence of errors and fraud.

5.3 Maintenance of Inventory catalogue

- 5.3.1 The master file on SAP for inventory items shall maintained to reflect all approved stock items.
- 5.3.2 New stock items may only be added after the item specification has been formulated and approved where applicable.
- 5.3.3 The expiring date of items specifications must be monitored by the logistics manager, who must initiate the recompilation of new specifications timeously to prevent stock items being acquired without approved specifications or alternatively result in out of stock specifications.
- 5.3.4 Special storage requirements of all inventory items must be recorded in the master file together with minimum order level, the shelf life of the items.

5.4 Ordering of Inventory

- 5.4.1 Each department must set its own Inventory reorder levels for all items in consultation with the CFO or his delegate, the inventory levels must indicate the minimum and maximum inventory that can be maintained.
- 5.4.2 Due diligence and care shall be exercised in identifying low value and high value items of inventory
- 5.4.3 Minimum inventory level of high value items shall be ordered, any maximum order shall be based on specific requirement/need in order to avoid large amount of cash tied up on inventory.
- 5.4.4 A reorder listing should be printed daily and reviewed by the Stores Controller.
- 5.4.5 The Stores Controller must use the listing as a primary source of information to complete the purchasing requisition form.
- 5.4.6 The purchasing requisition form must be completed in duplicate, with one copy kept in the requisition book and an original copy forwarded to the procurement section.
- 5.4.7 A copy of the purchase order form will then be forwarded by the procurement department to the inventory department.
- 5.4.8 Orders must thereafter be filed in date sequence.
- 5.4.9 This file must form the basis for follow up of orders and for matching goods that are delivered to inventory department.

- 5.4.10 The orders file should be reviewed daily by the Stores Controller and any orders, which have not been delivered as per the agreement with the buyer, must be followed up immediately.
- 5.4.11 In respect of goods and services (with the exception of professional services where there are other mechanism in place for a accepting a bid), no work shall commence or goods be delivered an official order has been placed with the supplier.
- 5.4.12 The Msunduzi Municipality shall not be liable for payment for any goods delivered or services rendered in contravention of clause 5.4.11 above

5.5 Receipt of Inventory

- 5.5.1 The quantity and quality of the inventory received from suppliers must be according to specifications.
- 5.5.2 Deliveries of goods may not exceed the order quantity. Short deliveries will keep the order purchase open until the balance of the order is received or cancelled
- 5.5.3 The Stores Controller and or Storemen Receiving must compare the delivery note to the purchase order before accepting the goods.
- 5.5.4 The invoice must match the supplier name and order number.
- 5.5.5 Manager Logistics must ensure that:
- a) All delivery notes are signed
 - b) All incorrect delivery items are rejected and clearly identified on both copies of the delivery note; and
 - c) The supplier signs all amendments
- 5.5.6 The inventory received must be transferred to the secured store by the Inventory Supervisor and the inventories must be stored in their respective sections as detailed in 5.5.
- 5.5.7 The inventory record/register/database must be updated.

5.6 Storage of Inventory

- 5.6.1 Inventory must be stored in a secured, exclusive use area, under **lock** and **key**, furthermore the inventory must be insured in terms of the Risk Management Policy of the municipality.
- 5.6.2 The area must be used exclusively for the storage of inventory, with limited authorized access only.
- 5.6.3 Inventory must be positioned to facilitate efficient handling and checking.
- 5.6.4 All items must be stored separately, with proper segregation.
- 5.6.5 Inventory must be clearly labeled for easy identification. Inventory tag/bin cards or inventory labels may be used to identify each item and to aid in the physical verification of the items.

Details should include the following:

- a) Order number;
 - b) Quantity received;
 - c) Date of receipt;
 - d) Quantity issued;
 - e) Date of issue;
 - f) Maximum stock level;
 - g) Re-order level;
 - h) Re-order quantity;
 - i) Closing stock; and
 - j) Any other relevant information.
- 5.6.6 Where possible, all items of the same type and reference must be stored together as per the description on the inventory records.
- 5.6.7 Items with limited shelf life must be rotated on a first in first out basis, in accordance with paragraph .35 of GRAP, to reduce the occurrence of expired or obsolete stocks.
- 5.6.8 Due diligence and care must be exercised to prevent damage of, or deterioration of inventory.
- 5.6.9 Due regard must be given to any safety standards which may apply to the storage of certain inventories.
- 5.6.10 Steps must be taken to ensure safe custody of items, including precautions against loss or theft.
- 5.6.11 The Stores Controller or Delegated Official responsible for the custody and care of inventory must ensure that in his/her absence, such items, where applicable, are securely stored.
- 5.6.12 The responsibility for the custody of the storeroom keys must be allocated by the delegated authority to an official who is accountable for its use.
- 5.6.13 No unauthorized persons/officials shall obtain entry to premises, buildings or containers where inventory is kept, unless accompanied by the responsible official.
- 5.6.14 Whenever a change in the Stores Controller or SCM Officer occurs, an inventory count must be conducted.
- 5.6.15 An independent official shall be nominated in writing by the delegated authority to assist the official handing and taking over with the checking of the inventory and any discrepancies.
- 5.6.16 Should the above not be complied with, the official taking over shall be liable for any discrepancies.
- 5.6.17 A handing-over certificate, must be completed by the handing and taking over officials and a copy retained for record purposes.
- 5.6.18 The following fire protection precautions must be adhered to:
- a) Inventories of an inflammable or dangerous nature shall be stored and handled in such a manner that persons or property are not endangered and in compliance with the requirements of any local authority;
 - b) The area must be clearly signposted; and

- c) Fire extinguishing equipment must be placed in the area where inventories are held and must be serviced regularly.

5.7 Issue of Inventory

- 5.7.1 Only the Store men are authorized to issue inventory from the warehouse.
- 5.7.2 Inventory must only be issued in terms of the approved requisition form of the Municipality.
- 5.7.3 All requisition forms must be ruled off immediately below the last item to prevent items being added once the requisition is authorized by the responsibility manager.
- 5.7.4 The Stores Controller must verify that items ordered match items reflected on the requisition form.
- 5.7.5 The official receiving the inventory must acknowledge in writing, the receipt of inventory.
- 5.7.6 Inventories must be issued and used for official purposes only.

5.8 Issue of capital spares/inventory

- 5.8.1 The cost of the capital inventory must be transferred from stock to the capital work in progress/ in terms of the capital project.
- 5.8.2 On completion of the capital project, the item will be capitalized in compliance with paragraph 4.5.2 of the inventory management policy.

5.9 Management of open reservations

- 5.9.1 On a monthly basis all open reservations must be reviewed and followed up with the relevant user that reserved it.
- 5.9.2 All open reservations over 2 months will be closed and stock items made available.

5.10 Obsolete inventory

- 5.10.1 The preparatory work for the disposal of obsolete inventory must be undertaken by the Stores Controller and verified by the Manager Logistics.
- 5.10.2 The Accounting Officer or delegated authority must convene a Disposal Committee for the disposal of obsolete inventory.
- 5.10.3 The Disposal Committee should consist of at least 4 officials, one of whom must be appointed as the chairperson.
- 5.10.4 The delegated authority may approve the write-off of inventory, if satisfied that: -
 - a) The inventory has expired and is redundant;

- b) The inventory is of a specialized nature and has become outdated due to the introduction of upgraded and more effective products;
 - c) The inventory cannot be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended; or
 - d) The inventory has been damaged and is rendered useless.
- 5.10.5 All disposed of items must be updated in the inventory records/register/database for the purposes of proper management and control.

5.11 Inventory count

- 5.11.1 All stock counts must be done in accordance with SAP stock count procedures (Rotational, year end, ad hoc counts) being:
- a) Creation of physical inventory document
 - b) Print physical inventory document
 - c) Count the physical stock
 - d) Enter count in system
 - e) Analyze difference
 - f) Initiate recount and follow the steps c, d and e
 - g) Post the difference
- 5.11.2 Items must be counted on a rotational basis throughout the year. A rational basis count plan must be drawn up in the beginning of the year in such a manner that each inventory item will be counted during the year. Record must be kept of the results which must be consolidated and reported quarterly to the CFO in terms of point 8.1
- 5.11.3 Where the quantity of inventory is too large for the count to be completed on a single occasion, inventory arrangements must be made to count the item in a practical manner.
- 5.11.4 Arrangements must be made for a compulsory year end stock count of all stock items. The stock movements such as issues and receipts must be controlled to ensure the stock count is accurate. This count should be subject to a quality assurance process that includes proper supervision by an independent person and spot check counts.
- 5.11.5 Gains and losses accounts should be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Logistics manager and supporting evidence must be maintained. Focus on the identification of unauthorized stock adjustments.
- 5.11.6 All approved Municipal procedures and processes must be complied with during the inventory count.
- 5.11.7 The Manager Logistics must document and report to the CFO after investigating any discrepancies between the inventory records/register/database, bin/tag cards or inventory labels and the physical inventory.

- 5.11.8 The CFO must submit a report with the findings to the Accounting Officer, in order to have the matter reported to the Executive Committee of the Municipality for the write-off of any inventories losses, or the write –up of surpluses.
- 5.11.7 The appropriate disciplinary action must be instituted when applicable.
- 5.11.8 The inventory record/register/database must be updated accordingly.

6 INVENTORY RECORDS

- 6.1. An inventory record/register/database must be maintained for all inventory items, either manually and / or electronically.
- 6.2 All relevant information must be included for the proper management and control of all inventory items. It is recommended that details include but are not limited to:
 - a) Material number;
 - b) Item description;
 - c) Common operation descriptions of item;
 - d) Quantity and value of stock on hand;
 - e) Quantity and value of stock received;
 - f) Quantity and value of stock issued;
 - g) Re-order level;
 - h) Gains and losses;
 - i) Impairment values;
 - j) Optimum inventory level;
 - k) Quantity and value of obsolete stock; and
 - l) Opening/closing balance.
- 6.3 An inventory register/database must be printed monthly and the hard copy filed in a chronological order to maintain a proper audit trail.

6.4 FUEL MANAGEMENT

- 6.4.1 The Stores Controller will be responsible for the purchase of the fuel and oil requirements of the Council and the recording, allocation and control over such requirements.
- 6.4.2 Fuel and oils shall be purchased in accordance with normal Msunduzi Municipal Supply Chain policy and procedures.
- 6.4.3 Only sufficient fuels and oils to meet the short-term requirement of the Council shall be purchased at a given time.

- 6.4.4 The Store Controller must ensure that all fuel and oil supplies received are accurate and in accordance with official order instructions.
- 6.4.5 Fuel pumps must be adequately protected against fire and Theft and be provided with sufficient locking devices to prevent unauthorized access to and withdrawal of fuel supplies of the Council.
- 6.4.6 Fuel and oils can only be issued to driver's official vehicles or Jerry Cans and an accurate record of all supplies issued shall be maintained and recorded.
- 6.4.7 A fuel purchases and issues register shall be maintained on a daily basis and the amount of fuel in fuel tanks shall be checked against the balance in the fuel register on a weekly basis any discrepancies shall immediately be reported to the Accounting Officer.

7. STOCK VALUATION

7.1 Stock Valuation Formula

- a) Stock is valued on the weighted average costing method per plant and is VAT exclusive.
 - b) In put VAT is claimed upon purchase and output VAT is accounted for at the time of issue according the Accounting Policy
- 7.2 Year-end review. Annually at year end the stock values must be reviewed in terms of paragraph 4.4 of the inventory management policy. Any impairments of inventory should be disclosed in terms of paragraph 8.3 of the inventory management policy.

8. REPORTING

- 8.1 A report must be submitted at least quarterly to the Chief Financial Officer and/or the Responsible Manager detailing the following:
- a) Any inventory shortages or surpluses and the reasons for such;
 - b) Any inventory deficits proposed to be written-off; and
 - c) Any obsolete inventory items.
- 8.2 Inventories purchased during the financial year must be disclosed at cost in the disclosure notes of the Annual Financial Statements of the Municipality.
- 8.3 In terms of GRAP 12 the financial statements shall disclose:
- a) the accounting policies adopted in measuring inventories, including the cost formula used,
 - b) the total carrying amount of inventories and the carrying amount in classifications appropriate to the entity,
 - c) the carrying amount of inventories carried at fair value less costs to sell,

- d) the amount of inventories recognized as an expense during the period in accordance with GRAP paragraph 43,
- e) the amount of any write-down of inventories recognized as an expense in the period in accordance with GRAP paragraph 43,
- f) the amount of any reversal of any write-down that is recognized as a reduction in the amount of inventories recognized as an expense in the period in accordance with GRAP paragraph 43,
- g) the circumstances or events that led to the reversal of a write-down of inventories ,and
- h) the carrying amount of inventories pledged as security for liabilities.

References

1. Msunduzi Supply Chain Management policy
2. Msunduzi Contract Management Policy
3. Municipal Finance Management Act, act no 56 Of 2003
4. Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations of 2005
5. Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, act no 5 of 2000
6. Municipal system Act, act no 32 of 2000
7. Contract Management framework issued by National Treasury

9. POLICY ADOPTION

This policy has been considered and approved by the Council of **The Msunduzi Municipality** on this day 30 of May 2021