



INVENTORY MANAGEMENT POLICY 2026/2027 FINANCIAL YEAR

INDEX

	Page No.
1. Definitions	3
2. Objective	5
3. Scope	5
4. Legal Framework	5
5. Inventory Procedure	7
6. Inventory Records	11
7. Reporting	12
8. Policy Adoption	13

ANNEXURES

Annexure A: Summary of Inventory Procedures	14
Annexure B: Handing Over Certificate	19
Annexure C: Inventory Count Certificate	20
Annexure D: Purchasing Requisition Form	22
Annexure E: Stock Issue Note	23
Annexure F: Bin cards	25

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

“Cost” shall comprise costs of purchase, costs conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition

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

“Good received voucher” means a document which is used to acknowledge the receipt of goods in good condition and correct quantities which is system generated.

“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

“SCM Practitioner & Disposal Management” shall mean the person appointed as SCM Practitioner & Disposal Management.

“Municipality”	shall mean the Harry Gwala District Municipality;
“Net Realisable Value”	Is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of operations less the estimated costs of completion and estimated costs necessary to make the sale exchange 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;
“Stock Requisition & Issue Note”	means a written request to the Inventory Supervisor to supply specified inventory;
“Responsible manager”	means the official responsible for the budget of an organizational unit in the municipality, directorate or institution;
“Store”	means a place where inventory is stored and reserved for future use, or a source from which supplies may be drawn;
“Store clerk/Stores Controller”	means the official responsible for the requisition, receipt, issue, recording, safeguarding of inventory and cost-effective and efficient management of inventory.
“Stock issue and issue note”	means a document which is used to authorize the removal or issue of stock items from stores premises.

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 Harry Gwala District Municipality's inventory which is kept for the maintenance of operations and fulfilment of service delivery of the Municipality.

3.2 This policy specifically excludes:

- a) Pharmaceutical inventory, livestock and face value forms; 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 unauthorised, 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

MEASUREMENT AT RECOGNITION

4.2.2 Inventories that qualify for recognition as assets shall initially be measured at cost

4.2.3 Where inventories are acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, their costs shall be their fair value as at the date of acquisition

MEASUREMENT AFTER RECOGNITION

4.2.4 Inventories shall be measured at the lower of cost or net realizable value.

4.2.5 Inventories shall be measured at the lower of cost or 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.

RECOGNITION AS AN EXPENSE

4.2.6 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.

4.2.7 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 authorized 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 Accounting Officer must appoint, in writing, officials to perform the duties of a Stores 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 Ordering of Inventory

- 5.3.1 The stores department must set the Inventory reorder levels for all items in consultation with the user departments, the inventory levels must indicate the minimum and maximum inventory that can be maintained.
- 5.3.2 Due diligence and care shall be exercised in identifying low value and high value items of inventory
- 5.3.3 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.
- 5.3.4 A reorder listing should be printed by the Store clerk/Stores Controller and reviewed weekly by the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal.
- 5.3.5 The Storeman must use the listing as a primary source of information to generate the purchase requisition of stock on the financial system.
- 5.3.6 The SCM unit will be responsible for the procurement process in line with the SCM policy and then generate a purchase order form to the most responsive bidder.
- 5.3.7 A copy of the purchase order form will then be forwarded by the procurement department to the Stores Unit (receiving department) for the receiving Store clerk to match with goods delivery note once goods are delivered.
- 5.3.8 Purchase orders must thereafter be filed so that suppliers can be traced for delivery to avoid long outstanding orders.

- 5.3.9 This file must form the basis for follow up of orders and for matching goods that are delivered to the stores premises.

- 5.3.10 The orders file should be reviewed weekly by the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal and any orders, which have not been delivered as per the agreement with the buyer, must be followed up immediately by the Stores Clerk.

5.4 Receipt of Inventory

- 5.4.1 The quantity and quality of the inventory received from suppliers must be according to specifications and information on the order form.
- 5.4.2 The Stores Clerk must compare the delivery note to the purchase order before accepting the goods.
- 5.4.3 The invoice or delivery note must match the supplier name and order number.
- 5.4.4 The Storeman must prepare the Goods Received Voucher to record all the inventory items ordered and received in good condition
- 5.4.5 The Stores Clerk must ensure that:
- a) All delivery notes are signed by him/her and the driver
 - b) All incorrect delivery items are rejected and clearly identified on both copies of the delivery note; and
 - c) The supplier signs all amendments
- 5.4.6 The inventory received must be transferred to the secured store by the General Worker with the signed Delivery Note,
- 5.4.7 The inventories must be stored in their respective sections once they have been received.
- 5.4.7 The inventory record/register/database or system must be updated on the day the goods are received, by the Stores Clerk.

5.5 Storage of Inventory

- 5.5.1 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.
- 5.5.2 The area must be used exclusively for the storage of inventory, with limited authorized access only.
- 5.5.3 Inventory must be positioned to facilitate efficient handling and checking.
- 5.5.4 All items must be stored separately, with proper segregation and labelling.

- 5.5.5 Inventory must be clearly labeled for easy identification and to aid in the physical verification of the items.

- 5.5.6 Where possible, all items of the same type and reference must be stored together as per the description on the inventory records.
- 5.5.7 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.
- 5.5.8 Due diligence and care must be exercised to prevent damage of, or deterioration of inventory.
- 5.5.9 Due regard must be given to any safety standards which may apply to the storage of certain inventories.
- 5.5.10 Steps must be taken to ensure safe custody of items, including precautions against loss or theft.
- 5.5.11 The SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal 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.
- 5.5.12 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.
- 5.5.13 No unauthorized persons/officials shall obtain entry to premises, buildings or containers where inventory is kept, unless accompanied by the responsible Stores official.
- 5.5.14 Whenever a change in the Stores official occurs, a random inventory count must be conducted.
- 5.5.15 Where possible 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.
- 5.5.16 Should the above not be complied with, the official taking over shall be liable for any discrepancies.
- 5.5.17 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.

5.6 Issue of Inventory

- 5.6.1 Only the Stores official performing stores duties during that particular shift is authorized to issue inventory from the storeroom.
- 5.6.2 Inventory must only be issued in terms of the approved requisition form of the Municipality.
- 5.6.3 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.
- 5.6.4 The Stores official responsible for the issuing of stock must sign on the relevant section of the Stock Requisition and Issue Note once stock items to be issued have been picked up from the shelves.
- 5.6.5 The official receiving the inventory must acknowledge the receipt of stock items requested, by signing the Stock Requisition and Issue Note.
- 5.6.6 Inventories must be issued and used for official purposes only and the relevant authorities from the requesting department must ensure monitoring and verification of this to ensure that all items are used in the best interest of the Municipality.

5.7 Obsolete inventory

- 5.7.1 The preparatory work for the disposal of obsolete inventory must be undertaken by the SCM Practitioner: Logistic and Disposal management and verified by the SCM Manager.
- 5.7.2 The Accounting Officer or delegated authority must coordinate the disposal of obsolete inventory.
- 5.7.3 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 specialised 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.
- 5.7.5 All disposed of items must be updated in the inventory records/register/database for the purposes of proper management and control.

5.8 Inventory count

5.8.1 Items must be subject to an inventory count on a monthly basis.

- 5.8.2 Where the quantity of inventory is too large for the count to be completed on a single occasion, inventory counts may be carried out on a rotational basis with a full inventory count at the end of each financial year.
- 5.8.3 All approved Municipal procedures and processes must be complied with during the inventory count.
- 5.8.4 The SCM practitioner: Logistics and Disposal management must document and report to the SCM manager and CFO after investigating any discrepancies between the inventory records/register/database, inventory labels and the physical inventory.
- 5.8.5 The SCM Manager/CFO must submit a report with the findings to the Accounting Officer, in order to have the matter reported to the Finance Portfolio Committee of the Municipality for the write-off of any inventories losses, or the write –up of surpluses.
- 5.8.6 A thorough investigation and the appropriate disciplinary action must be instituted when it can be proven that a case of theft or negligence has occurred resulting in inventory loss.
- 5.8.7 The inventory record, register, database or system must be updated accordingly for any inventory write-off.

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) Order number/date;
 - b) Item description;
 - c) Quantity and value of stock on hand;
 - d) Quantity and value of stock received;
 - e) Quantity and value of stock issued;
 - f) Re-order level;
 - g) Optimum inventory level;

- h) Quantity and value of obsolete stock; and
 - i) 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.

7. REPORTING

- 7.1 A report must be submitted on a monthly basis 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.
- 7.2 Inventories purchased during the financial year must be disclosed at cost in the disclosure notes of the Annual Financial Statements of the Municipality.
- 7.3 In terms of GRAP 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,
 - e) the amount of any write-down of inventories recognized as an expense in the period,
 - 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,
 - 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.

ANNEXURE A:**PROCEDURES FOR ORDERING, RECEIPT, MAINTENANCE, ISSUING AND
DISPOSAL OF STOCK**

NO.	PROCEDURE	FREQUENCY
-----	-----------	-----------

DRAFT POLICY

1.	Ordering of Stores:	
1.1	Stores reorder levels must be set for all items by the Stores clerk/Stores Controller which will be as follows: • Reorder Level • Maximum Level • Minimum Level • Emergency Level	On-going
1.2	A reorder listing should be reviewed by the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal before the requisition is filled in.	On-going
1.3	The Stores clerk: • Must use the listing as a primary source of information to complete the purchase requisition; and • Physical inspection of stock on shelves shall be conducted before the requisition is filled in • Should also consult the User Departments about inventory required for planned maintenance.	On-going
1.4	The purchase requisition must be generated on the financial system and forwarded to the buying section.	On going
1.5	A copy of the purchase order form will then be forwarded by the buying section to the stores section.	Ongoing
1.6	The order must be matched to the requisition copy to verify that the correct quantities and correct items have been ordered.	On going
1.7	Orders must thereafter be filed in order to do follow ups.	On going

NO.	PROCEDURE	FREQUENCY
1.8	This file must form the basis for follow up of orders and for matching goods that are delivered to stores	On going
1.9	The orders file should be reviewed regularly by the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal and any orders, which have not been delivered as per the agreement with the buyer, must be followed up immediately.	On going
2.	Receipt of Stock:	
2.1	Goods will be delivered to the receiving area where the documentation will be recorded and then forwarded to the Storeman or his supervisor.	On going
2.2	The stores official receiving the goods must match the delivery note to the purchase order and sign the delivery note.	On going
2.3	The Stores Controller / Store-man must compare the delivery note to the relevant order before accepting the goods.	On going
2.4	The delivery note must be signed by the Stores Controller or stores official receiving the goods as proof of acceptance of the goods.	On going
2.5	A computerised Goods Received Voucher and Stock Requisition or Issue Notes which reflects full particulars of receipts and issues must be maintained by the Stores Clerk or Storeman and updated immediately when goods are received or issued.	On going
2.6	Goods that are unused after the completion of the work or the fulfilment of the purpose for which they were issued, must be returned to the store and must be included back in stock.	Periodically
2.7	Goods Returned Note shall be filled in if stock is returned by the department to the warehouse. The Goods Returned Note shall be prepared by the Responsible Official and signed by the Responsible Manager	Periodically
2.8	The Stores clerk shall acknowledge the receipt of goods from the department by signing the Goods Returned	Periodically

	Note	
3.	Maintenance of Stores:	
3.1.	Inventory and equipment belonging to the Council must be	On going

NO.	PROCEDURE	FREQUENCY
-----	-----------	-----------

DRAFT POLICY

3.2	clearly marked/ bar-coded as such, to indicate ownership.	
	Inventory belonging to the Council shall be kept in a place approved of by the Manager: SCM and CFO, subject to the conditions he or she determines.	On going
3.3		On going
3.4	No municipal official shall request inventory in excess of its normal requirements for that specific job, as may be determined by the relevant user departments.	Monthly
3.4.1	The Manager: SCM shall ensure that at least once every month, stock-taking of all stores of the Council takes place as follows:	Monthly
3.4.2	The monthly stock take will take place on the last day of the month or as close to that date as possible.	Annual
3.4.3	All Heads of Sections and the Council's external auditors must be notified of the date of the annual year end stock take.	y
3.4.4	Stores must be closed at noon the day before stock take. A notice to this effect must be prominently displayed on the stores notice board.	Annually
3.4.5	In the case of an emergency, stock items may only be issued on the explicit authority of the relevant managers.	Annually
3.4.6	Prior to stock take, the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal must ensure that all transactions up to the date of stock take, have been recorded. All goods received notes, requisition issues and goods returned notes should be captured onto the stores computer system.	Annually
3.4.7	An official delegated the responsibility, shall make available stock take listing sheets to auditors for recording the physical count figures.	Annually
3.4.8	Stock items must be counted in an orderly fashion from one end to the other, using the two count method by a store-man and by persons not dealing with stock on a regular basis.	Annual
	Stock that has been drawn for use at a later date should	y

	be	Annual y
--	----	-------------

NO.	PROCEDURE	FREQUENCY
3.4.9	included in the stock-count and not expensed. Consumables should also be included in the stock-count and not expensed.	Annually
3.4.10	After each item is counted, they must be marked with a sticker to indicate that they have been counted.	Annually
3.4.11	After each item is counted, the total must be entered onto the stock sheets.	Annually
3.4.12	Stock sheets must be signed by counters and checkers.	Annually
3.4.13	On completion of the count, all stock sheets must be handed to the SCM Practitioner.	Annually
3.4.14	Physical count figures will be verified to the computerised listing. The Stock Controller should not be involved in any aspect of this verification.	Annually
3.4.15	Should any discrepancies arise, a recount of the product is done, and the requisition entries are re-checked.	Annually
3.5.16	All write-offs of obsolete or damaged stock should be authorised by the CFO.	Annually
3.5.17	The Manager: SCM shall submit a report stating the quantity and value of any surplus or shortage of stores revealed by the stock-take, together with the possible reasons for this.	Annually
3.6	The CFO shall then report such surpluses and shortfalls to the Council for further steps to be taken, if necessary.	Annually
	A thorough internal control system must be established by the CFO to ensure that when a change of officials responsible for stores and equipment takes place, accountability with regard to losses and deficits can be clearly established.	Annually

4.	Issue of Stock:	
4.1	Only the Stores clerk are authorized to issue goods from the General stores.	On going
4.2	Goods should only be issued in terms of a properly authorised requisition form.	On going

NO.	PROCEDURE	FREQUENCY
4.3	Specimen signatures of all persons authorized to sign requisitions shall be supplied to the SCM Practitioner: Logistics and Disposal.	On going
4.4	If the signature is not of an authorised official, the requisition should be sent back to the respective section.	On
4.5	The Responsible Manager must verify that the correct vote is entered on the requisition for the type of goods requested and that there is sufficient budget provision against the vote.	going
4.6	A Stock Issue Note must then be completed in duplicate.	On
4.7	Control of the issue book is the responsibility of the Stores clerk	going
4.8	The Stores clerk and recipient of goods must agree that the goods requisitioned, agree to the goods drawn from stores, which is consistent with the Stock Issue Note.	On going
4.9	The recipient must sign the issues note/book as evidence that the goods stated on the issue note, have been received.	On going
4.10	Once the stores have been issued, the requisition is captured into the computer system and updated by the data capture clerk.	On
	The issue note and the requisition must be filed in sequential order.	going
		On
		going

5.	Disposal of Goods:	
5.1	The CFO must furnish the Council with a list of goods to be disposed of, together with the reasons for their disposal.	Periodicall
5.2	The goods disposed of in the instance referred to above may only be handed over to the purchaser on full payment of the purchase price, or when other satisfactory arrangements for payment have been made with the CFO.	y Periodicall y
5.3	Stores may be disposed of by public auction provided that the approval of Council is obtained.	Periodically

APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

This Policy shall come into effect on 01 July 2026 once approved by the council.

Policy section:	ASSET MANAGEMENT
Approval by council:	

