

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held in November 2024

Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes.

Hortgro Website: Packhouse Action Group and Pome Protocols downloads:

PAG Web Page

Views	Active Users	Views per Active User	Average engagement time
186	138	1,35	56s

Pome & Stone Handling Protocols

593	284	2,09	1,39
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Downloads

PAG Water Project Benchmark Results – Phase 5	1185
PAG Water Project Benchmark Results Phase 4	967
CA Manual Revised	906
PAG Water Project Benchmark Phase 5 Final Report	887
FN 201 PAG Feedback	864

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Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies

Contact: Jacques du Preez

While there have been incremental improvements in port equipment availability and productivity, exporters will have to consider alternative ports, as well as using specialised reefer vessels in the coming season. Wind delays have been significant to date this year.

Cape Town Container Terminal KPI Performance Quarter One 2023 Vs 2024



CTCT KPI	2023/2024	2024/2025	Status
Volume (TEUS)	164 458	151 271	▼
GCH (Container Moves per Hour)	12	13	▲
SWH (Container Moves per Hour)	25	26	▲
Weather Delay Hours	390.1	472.6	▼
STS Availability	8	7	▼
RTG Availability	16	24	▲

Medium Term Initiatives (1-2 years)

The below initiatives will ensure the terminal's operating fleet is restored; this will assist in the terminal improving their performance
(Terminal Ops and planning will be engaged going forward to provide targets)

Red Shading	Initiative Delayed
Amber Shading	Initiative On-track
Green Shading	Initiative Complete
Grey Shading	Initiative Cancelled

TRANSNET

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
47 Replacement trailers received Sept 2023 - Done 7 x Second hand RTGs Acquisition - 10 December 2023 delivery - Done - Leasing of ECH x 3 – One ECH delivered, second one on route – April 2024 - Done - Leasing of forklifts x 3 1 Nov 2023 – Done - Acquisition of RTG Engines x 7 – 31 Oct 2023 - Done - OEM appointment for STS cranes technical support 1 Nov 2023 - Done - STS and RTG long term Spares contract 1 July 2023 - Done - Long term OEM partnership in place December 2023 - Done - Placed order for 27 x new RTGS 6 December 2023 - Done	09 new RTG's delivery – 24 Feb 2025 4 x Additional new Straddles – December 2025 2 x Replacement Empty Handlers December 2024 2 x Replacement new Reach Stackers 10 April 2024 - Done 47 x Replacement Haulers July 2024 8 x Forklifts acquisition December 2025 - STS Midlife refurbishment starts June 2025 10 x DBN Haulers - Fully serviced (mech / electrical) - VMTs fitted 24/6 - Radios fitted 26/6 - Operational 28/6	9 RTG's – second batch - 11 Aug 2025 - STS Midlife refurbishment continued 10 RTG's – second batch - 20 Nov 2025	- Phase 2 B Expansion Project - STS Replacement – Project approved



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Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

Contact: Nitasha Baijnath-Pillay

The ESG Work Group will focus on:

- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) compliance & risks
- Environmental sustainability (including resource efficiency)
- Plastics and Packaging waste
- Food Waste
- Water resources and quality
- Climate Change response and mitigation – including footprinting

Hortgro **sustainability footprint webinars** will also feature compliance and sustainability challenges in the packhouse sector, among other topics that support pome and stone. The purpose is to enhance industry's good agricultural practices and address existing challenges.

Shipping Container Temperature Monitoring

Contact: Bernardus Henning

Some exporters monitor onboard container temperatures, though participation is low.

Packhouse Benchmarking Project

Contact: Francois Malan / Hendrik Claassen / Wardo Conradie / Chris Petzer

Positive feedback has been received from participants. Frudata is upgrading the integrity of the benchmarking system and is addressing the different standards and their interpretation in the packhouses, with the view of standardisation.

Packhouse Water and Energy Management Projects

Contact: Dianca Yssel / Eddie Vienings

Blue North is currently busy with phase 7 of the water project and phase 4 of the energy project. The data collection input tools are being upgraded to accommodate water recycling and the viewing of previous season's data.

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Industry Recommendations for Pallet Dimensions and Colour Contact: Bryce MacIntyre

Pallet			
Length	Width	Slats	Colour
990	1190	10	Purple
1000	1200	E	White
1000	1200	E 10	White
1200	1000	EC 10	White
1000	1200	USA	USA
1010	1210	CRI	CRI
1125	960	9	Green
1125	960	14	Green
1165	1000	9	Black/Grey/Pink
1165	1000	14	Black/Grey/Pink
1190	990	8	Purple
1190	990	9	Purple
1190	990	11	Purple
1190	990	13	Purple
1190	990	16	Purple
1190	990	ACGS	
1190	990	Hexkoel	
1190	990	Lidl	Purple Lidl
1200	800	7	Euro
1200	1000	8	White
1200	1000	9	White
1200	1000	11	White
1200	1000	13	White
1200	1000	16	White
1200	1000	Bama	
1200	1000	Bama	
1200	1000	Hexkoel	
1200	1000	Lidl	White Lidl

Exporters can specify/approve a pallet which is suitable for the specific functionality.

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CA Manual Artificial Intelligence (AI) Podcast

Contact: Henk Griessel

<https://filegpoi.co.za/get2/8953bde00cc8345f121d5e934a25a917/Ca+Manuel.wav>

The podcast takes a few minutes to download, and the podcast itself is 34 minutes long. It is amazing what AI can do. It focusses heavily on the historical CA origins in SA, perhaps at the expense of more weighty CA issues, and certainly blows the trumpet of the SA Pome CA industry. It does refer in detail to the important safety protocols. Braeburn and Fuji best practices are also included. It will be useful for the lay person and as an induction to new CA operators.

Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

Discussions regarding approval for fumigation and facilities are ongoing. PPECB is conducting cold room inspections.

Taiwan

This market has been closed recently due to the discovery of a live codling moth larva in one of the consignments. SA is currently suspended, pending an investigation. Future market access to this market is uncertain.

Thailand

Thai inspectors visited South Africa and held meetings with PPECB and DALRRD during March. It is hoped that market access for apples will be granted soon.

Philippines

Philippine authorities are conducting pest risk assessments for apples and pears. An on-site visit is anticipated early next year. Market access is potentially expected in 2026.

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PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

Please contact the relevant person if you have any queries regarding the PAG.

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