



fresh NOTES feedback on the Packhouse Action Group meeting earlier this month

Container Checklist / Manage breaks in cold chain

PPECB is responsible for time temperature tolerance (TTT) management. PPECB can ascertain the container arrival time but not the time the container was plugged into the stack, as this was a Transnet responsibility. The next step in the process is for PPECB to have a meeting with Transnet.

Contact: Bernard Henning (bernardh@ppecb.com)

Mandatory Container Weight Verification

It was reported that the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) requirement for weighing containers was generally proceeding without hitches in other industries. The method of weighing pallets was often preferred.

Contact: Werner van Rooyen

Cold Sterilisation - Nigeria

While there did not seem to be too much interest from exporters in changing the Nigerian protocol in the past season, exporters are encouraged to renew their efforts.

Contact: Bernard Henning (bernardh@ppecb.com)

CA & Postharvest Group

Superficial scald has proved to be a major problem this year. Some of the non-EU markets, particularly those with warm ambient temperatures, are requesting DPA treatments. The DPA focus group convened and recommended that an emergency registration for DPA thermofogging be expedited, as the preferred method of DPA application from a cross-contamination management point of view, would be to use thermofogging in isolated or dedicated cold rooms and facilities. Fungicides could be included in this treatment method.



CA Research Facilities

The National Research Foundation (NRF) advertised a funding call for high-end capital research facilities. ARC and Stellenbosch University submitted applications. Budget quotes are being obtained for a CA research starter kit involving three parties – Gas at Site, Van Amerongen and International Controlled Atmosphere.

Packhouse Bench-marking update

A meeting with Productivity SA and 7 packhouses was held to identify measurements for benchmarking.

Contact: Dawid Malan

Feedback – Confronting Climate Change

The programme has been running for 8 years now. There was good participation from the pome industry, including packhouses. There has been a complete revamp of the data base and web application. Issues receiving attention are the carbon tax, carbon sequestration and climate change. The programme could also accommodate water data. Other industries such as meat and grain were also being included. The report can be viewed at www.climatefruitandwine.co.za.

PPECB Act

Consultation had taken place and amendments to the Act were made. A further round of consultation will take place. The process is expected to be completed in August / September 2017.

Contact: Andy Connell

Packhouse Energy Management Systems (EMS) Training

PAG has identified a lack of uptake of EMS applications compared to other industries. There were only 6 participants for the training in early November, and the course had to be postponed. The timeframe for the course will be May – August.

Contact: Koos Bouwer



Projects for 2017

Feasibility study for improved logistics co-ordination
Container checklist continued
Steri workgroup continued
Packhouse benchmarking Productivity SA continued

PAG Disciplines and coordinators

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

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