

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE

Feedback of Packhouse Action Group meeting

Fresh Notes feedback of a recent Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting.

Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes

Moratorium on Hi-Cube Containers

Contact Jacques du Preez

A Department of Transport moratorium on the use of Hi-Cube containers is scheduled to end on 31 December 2018. This matter is receiving the attention of FSA, other stakeholders and politicians.

CA Research Facilities

Contact Richard Hurndall

Some of the equipment had been installed at Stellenbosch University, and other equipment is scheduled for arrival in April. The timing of installation is later than envisaged, though, and if there are no further delays, it will still be possible to test the Dynamic CA chlorophyll fluorescence versus the Respiratory Quotient method this season.

Plastic Pallets

Contact Koos Bouwer

With reference to the newly advertised plastic pallets, members noted that the specifications were not complete as the pallet had not been dynamically tested in the logistics chain.

Packhouse Benchmarking

Contact Dawid Malan

Feedback on benchmarking:

- Currently 9 packhouses participating, with others also wishing to participate
- A review session was held in 2017 and some changes will be implemented in 2018

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- The plan is to start fruit quality benchmarking
- Some packing operations are already using the benchmarks as a reporting tool

Packhouse Water Risk Management Project

Contact Eddie Vienings

Feedback sessions on this project were held in EGVV and Ceres on 14 March 2018.

Information will be circulated and a link to the report will be made available in due course.

PAG Feedback Seminar – May 2018

Contact Richard Hurndall

PAG discipline members will give feedback of their respective projects and achievements, and packhouses will be invited to raise issues affecting them.

Market Access Feedback

Contact Lindi Benic

DPA Feedback

The date for an EU decision to lower the DPA MRL to 0,05 ppm is expected in August 2019.

Mexico

The Mexican inspectorate had accepted an invitation to send an inspector. Initial indications from exporters/packhouses were for ±80 000 cartons in 2018.

Taiwan

The Taiwanese inspectors will hopefully be here from weeks 14 – 16. It was advised to make sure that packhouses adhere strictly to all the criteria (openings in packhouses sealed, etc)

India

The second in-transit cold treatment trial went ahead without any hitches. Word is still being awaited from the Indian authorities.

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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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