

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 1 August 2018. Contact details are listed at the bottom of the Fresh Notes

Moratorium on High-Cube Containers Contact Andy Connell

The Cape Chamber of Commerce will submit a document containing solutions for amending the regulation or extending the moratorium on high-cube containers. The proposed submission to take place in September.

Revised cold steri market protocols for newer cultivars Contact H Griessel

It has been observed that some of the newer cultivars are sensitive to the cold steri protocols, which were originally established for the standard varieties. A work group will investigate and make recommendations.

CA Research Facilities Contact Elke Crouch

All the CA equipment has now been installed at Stellenbosch University, and an initial trial is underway. Feedback will be given at the CA meeting on 6 November (save the date).

Packhouse Benchmarking Contact Dawid Malan

Feedback on benchmarking:

- Some packing operations are already using the benchmarks as a reporting tool
- More packhouses are welcome to participate
- Four packhouses have started defect analysis benchmarking on one cultivar

Last-mentioned is important for developing an industry benchmark for research priority purposes.

Packhouse Water Risk Management Project

Contact Eddie Vienings

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Information was published in the June / July issue of SA Fruit Journal.

Packaging problem statement Contact Johan Strydom / Bryce MacIntyre

It was noted that all industries except citrus are very individualistic in terms of their packing specifications, and this creates a proliferation of packaging formats. Deciduous packaging guidelines with minimum specifications on the Hortgro Web will be updated in due course.

<https://www.hortgro.co.za/science-tech-hub/pome-stone-handling-protocols/#1480340735428-dc63e891-94da> Point 5.5.1

Market Access Feedback Contact Lindi Benic / Jacque du Preez

DPA Feedback

The EU has voted for a reduction of the DPA MRL from 0,1 to 0,05 ppm. The earliest implementation date is expected to be April / May 2019.

Mexico

The Mexican programme had been completed with 28 000 cartons being exported (rejections 7 000), instead of the envisaged 50 000 – 80 000 cartons. The total costs were more than R500 000. Members commended PPECB and DAFF on the execution of the programme. Ideally Mexico should sign off the inspections to PPECB / DAFF, as one inspector was insufficient for the programme. This would be raised at a bilateral meeting.

Taiwan

The Phytclean programme is on track. Damage assessments are still necessary.

India

India is awaiting access to SA for certain of their products.

Listeria

DAFF's intention is to conduct a once-off testing of export produce from all PUC's. DAFF was requested not to duplicate suppliers' existing test results.

Insurers' requirements for smoke detectors/sprinklers in packhouses and CA stores
Contact Richard Hurndall

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It was reported that re-insurers now view fruit packing operations as high risk structures, and are insisting on fire-prevention systems at enormous costs, including sprinkler systems in CA stores, where the internal risk of a fire is inherently low due to the lack of oxygen. It was noted that fire engineers were now required for new installations. One way to mitigate against these measures is to have a fire plan in place with fire walls and adequate spaces in place e.g. for bin storages.

Any packhouse that experiences these restrictions from local insurers should supply Hortgro with specific information to provide an industry motivation to insurers if appropriate.

Verification of conformity (additional inspections) – Ivory Coast, Kenya

Contact Jacques du Preez

Notifications from inspection bodies for additional inspections are opportunistic certification efforts, and should be referred to government to government arrangements. The issue will be raised at the DAFF market access work group.

Marking Requirements for Special Markets Contact Werner van Rooyen

Be aware that DAFF is mulling over a strike system for marking transgressions for special markets. FPEF will mentor frequent offenders.

Circulation to Packhouse Interested Persons Contact Richard Hurndall

Due to the Pome Packhouse list becoming somewhat outdated, it was circulated to regional offices for updating. One of the difficulties with circulation lists is that the contact person changes without providing notification, or does not always forward the information to interested parties. If you come across this information and would like to receive it first-hand, please let us know.

Project applications for 2019:

Water management round 2 including survey on recycling / purification systems
Benchmarking
Logistical strategy

Strategic Objectives for 2019:

- Logistical co-ordination
- Revised steri market programmes
- Minimum packaging specifications
- Plastics strategy

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PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

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

Chairman – Koos Bouwer (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

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