

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 5 March 2020

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

Moratorium on High-Cube Containers

Contact: Andy Connell

The Department of Transport must still conduct the relevant research.

Revised steri-market protocols for newer cultivars

Contact: Henk Griessel

The current load-shedding protocol has addressed this point, and the plan is that it will become a regulation when the dispensation expires on 31 December 2020.

SOPP

Contact: Bernardus Henning

SOPP is very volatile and can cross-contaminate packaging material. CRI is investigating alternatives for pallet sterilisation, and Hortgro plans to participate in their process.

Blupro and Antiblu are interim alternatives, though they are not environmentally friendly.

Packhouse Benchmarking

Contact: Dawid Malan

Please note the positive improvements in the benchmarking statistics over the years, below.

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Langtermyn "Benchmarking" berekeninge				
	Bedrysgemid 2019	Bedrysgemid 2018	Bedrysgemid 2017	Bedrysgemid 2016
Kg vrugte getip/ Totale persoon /uur	65.00	57.61	52.89	47.81
Kg gepak/ Totale Persoon/ uur	44.91	42.78		
Kg pere getip/ pakhuispersoon /uur	66.95	64.03	42.22	40.28
Kg appels getip/pakhuispersoon/uur	79.71	73.46		
Kg pere gepak/pakhuispersoon/uur	50.58	51.82		
Kg appels gepak/pakhuispersoon/uur	55.64	54.45		
% Pere	41.46%	23.71%	12.96%	19.98%
% Appels	80.12%	77.42%	87.01%	80.02%
Afwesigheid %	5.11%	5.18%	4.75%	4.71%
Bestuurstaantyd%	6.00%	5.87%	5.29%	6.74%
Elektriese staantyd%	1.03%	0.77%	0.63%	1.25%
Meganiese Staantyd%	2.90%	2.22%	1.39%	1.77%
Totale Staantyd%	10.71%	9.78%	7.73%	10.50%
PPECB Afkeuring %	2.60%	3.82%	2.55%	2.90%
Totale afkeurings	4.28%			
Karton waste %	0.48%	0.52%	0.94%	0.96%
Sakkie & flowrap gepak %	30.31%	31.85%	31.30%	25.22%
Sakkie waste %	0.59%	0.88%	1.27%	1.73%
Flowrap waste %	7.10%			
Gewegde gemid appel massa (g)	124.29			
Gewegde gemid peer massa (g)	168.46			
% uitpak appel	69.94%			
% uitpak pere	76.03%			

The quality benchmarking parameters are still in the development process and testing.

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Feedback of an Eskom key Customer Meeting

Contact: Henk Ryke

- For Eskom to become viable they need an increase in 25% - 30%.
- Business separation: Generation, Transmission, Distribution will go ahead (already started)
- Load shedding:

50% of needed maintenance has been approved. Therefore the 18-month period in which load shedding will take place to accommodate repairs and maintenance.

Four Power Stations: Medupi, Arnot, Tutuka and Kendal contribute 50% of all power generated.

There are 17 Power Generation Plants.

- Coal contributes 80% of all power generated. 50% of all coal is being exported.

A reduction in coal mining has been forecasted from now to 2038. Contracts end and the big worry is if Eskom will be able to get coal and will there be mines in operation.

COAL STOCK

November 2018 - 22 days stock

January 2020 - 49 days stock

- Previous management philosophy “run to break”

This strategy has changed, therefore the need to load shed due to do the planned maintenance.

- Previous Peak time slots to be re-structured (alternate morning and evening slots)

Winter and Summer rates (Low & High Season) to be altered, not sure if it will be for certain. Tariff Structures only or across all structures.

- The reliability of wind and sun electricity generation that could change in a matter of minutes is a problem during generation periods causing sudden changes in the load pattern making the system unstable and difficult to manage.

Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

The Mexican inspector is scheduled for 14 April – 5 June. Discussions with DAFF on methyl bromide fumigation are ongoing. It is hoped to include the 40 day phytosanitary period in both land and in-transit shipping. False Bay Fumigation is an approved fumigation facility.

Taiwan

An attempt to get the inspector earlier was not successful.

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India

India was delaying the in-transit phytosanitary sterilisation.

China

The corona virus has delayed the signing of the protocols.

Saudi Arabia

A workable solution has allowed PPECB to issue verification before the DAFF certificate is issued.

Thailand

Work in progress.

CA Engineers meeting

Contact: Richard Hurndall / Henk Ryke

A meeting of CA operators is scheduled for 7 May 2020, though the timing may be subject to developments in the country. The plan is to hold it somewhere central in the production area, so venue offers will be welcomed. Please express your interest in attending this meeting, and provide topics of discussion.

Fire Risk Insurance

Contact: K Bouwer

K Bouwer gave feedback on the Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) meeting that he attended.

GCCA provides advisory services to industries. World-wide natural disasters have depleted re-insurers coffers. They have rules to protect themselves, and which filter down to insurers. Cold stores are regarded as non-standard construction, and are grouped with food processing operations which carry a higher risk. It would assist the industry if they can be grouped as a separate category.

In the opinion of one of the panellists, sprinklers don't mean much for cold stores. Polystyrene panels are regarded as highly flammable. Flame retardant panels just delay burning.

CA stores can be divided into different risk periods – operational and non-operational. The latter can be higher depending what is stored in them. Risks are also related to what is stored alongside and on top of cold stores.

The next step is to see if there is sufficient interest in creating a separate category for cold stores.

Research Priorities

Contact: Prof Wiehann Steyn

A call for new research projects for the 2020/2021 season would be circulated shortly. Two plastic projects have been identified previously. The knowledge review on plastics may identify further projects. The deadline is 6 April.

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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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