

# FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



**PACKHOUSE**  
**ACTION GROUP**

## Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 05 August 2021

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

### Feedback on PAG web page on the Hortgro Website Contact: Elise-Marie Steenkamp

The PAG site is the most visited page on the Hortgro website.

These are the top downloads:

1. Container Handling Procedures 111 downloads
2. Jaco Visagie - Trends in Container Technology and Supply 103 downloads
3. Fresh Notes 182 – PAG Feedback (November 20) 99 downloads
4. Fresh Notes 186 - PAG Feedback (March 21) 79 downloads
5. CA Manual Revised (31 January 2019) 77 downloads

The Hortgro data base is in the process of being updated. The Fresh Notes is sent via the 'newsletter' system with the most up-to-date stakeholder information and gives Hortgro good management and user-tracking. One can see who received it and who read etc.

### Moratorium on High-Cube Containers

Contact: Jacques du Preez

The previous moratorium was not gazetted but had expired in June. Agbiz and the Department of Transport (DoT) had formed a work group to address the challenges and find solutions. DOT were concerned with Hi-Cube containers, but acknowledged that they were the future. They recommended lower trailers and were talking of a road to rail option. This is a challenge for industry since loading infrastructure is designed for a certain height and there may be challenges with back-freight if a lower trailer is used. A technical team will be tasked to review the suitability of extending the moratorium for a number of years vs a complete exemption vs the use of lower trailers.

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## Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies

Contact: Jacques du Preez

The recent unrest and cyber-attacks had severely disrupted the ports logistics chain, and daily meetings were now held with Transnet. Pome fruit lost one weeks' shipping, but was otherwise not too badly affected compared to the citrus industry. The Cape Town port came online again on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July. A temporary dispensation to extend the 35-day re-inspection period was activated

## Alternatives to SOPP

Contact: Prof Wiehann Steyn

Awaiting updates from Citrus Research International.

Members are advised to test their pallets, especially from non-regular suppliers. An alternative is to source kiln-dried pallets.

## New Environmental Act

Contact: Bryce McIntyre

**The New SA Environmental Act is scheduled for November 2021. All suppliers to a packhouse/s are required to comply with the Act.**

Definitions:

- "brand owner" means a person, category of persons or company who makes and/or sells any products under a brand label;
- "extended producer responsibility" means that a producer's responsibility for their product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle;
- "packaging" means any material, container or wrapping or corrugated cases, used for the containment, transport, handling, protection, promotion, marketing or sale of any product or substance, which may be primary packaging, containing the actual product or secondary packaging or tertiary packaging, typically containing products already packaged in primary packaging
- "producer" means any person or category of persons or a brand owner, who is engaged in the commercial manufacture, conversion, refurbishment or import of new and /or used products, paper, packaging and some single -use products as identified by the Minister by Notice in the Government Gazette in terms of section 18(1) of the Act;

**The UK Environmental Act will become effective 1 April 2022.**

## Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

DALRRD performed inspection functions for Mexico, China and Taiwan. Online inspections of orchards and packhouses for the Chinese programme were successful. Only 9 containers were sent to Mexico, and there were no rejections. Taiwan is still using the old lists although

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the new lists have been circulated by DALRRD. New lists were expected soon from China. Producers are advised to register all their orchards, even newly planted orchards.

There is no movement yet on in-transit cold treatment to India, despite contracting a facilitator. PPECB are testing land-based cold treatments in containers in a container depot in conjunction with DALRRD.

There is no progress on access to Thailand yet. PPECB is working on clarifying and correcting the Thailand (table grapes) and China (apple) protocols together with DALRRD.

Fifteen containers were exported to USA, with an 8% rejection rate.

## Local Market Requirements

Contact: Jacques du Preez

Clarification on the interpretation of the local marking standards for pre-packs, such as cultivar and size etc. is required for the local market. Pre-packs for export is not required. Members were of the opinion that this would add extra costs, and that the same standard should be applied as for exports.

## CA Meeting / Hortgro Post-Harvest Symposium

Contact: Richard Hurndall / Prof

Wiehann Steyn

The annual CA Meeting and the Hortgro Post-Harvest Symposium will be combined as a webinar on 30th November.

## PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

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

**Chairman – Koos Bower** ([bouweb@orangenet.co.za](mailto:bouweb@orangenet.co.za))

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