

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 4 August 2022

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

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

Top downloads for the period March – July 2022:

- ▶ [Container Handling Procedures](#) 143 downloads
- ▶ [CA Manual Revised \(31 January 2019\)](#) 132 downloads
- ▶ [Fresh Notes 182 – PAG Feedback \(November 20\)](#) 128 downloads
- ▶ [Fresh Notes 186 - PAG Feedback \(March 21\)](#) 112 downloads
- ▶ [Jaco Visagie - Trends in Container Technology and Supply](#) 107 downloads

- ▶ 244 page views of which 210 were unique page views.
- ▶ This page has a bounce rate of 62,34% .
- ▶ We also have a 03:35 minute average page view for the PAG.
- ▶ In comparison the other Hortgro page views average is 2 minutes.
This page still performs well. The average page view has increased. The bounce rate has dropped 12%, which is good and is still within normal range. The bounce rate indicates that most people specifically search for this page and stay on it, rather than find it by chance and leave soon after to go view another page on the site.

Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies

Contact: Jacques du Preez

J du Preez provided the following feedback:

Hortgro, SATI, FPEF appointed consultant to act as single point of entry for CT port. Continuous engagement with Transnet and related government departments concerning short-, medium- and long-term strategies and operational issues

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Issues getting attention over the short term:

- Information – From and to Transnet and others
- 9th Crane to be moved from Durban to CT (operational Oct?) – 3 berth operation
- Extra berth at Multi-Purpose Terminal
- Equipment – RTG's, Feeders, Mooring, Maintenance
- Belcon – Inland terminal
- Booking System and Operations
- Staff and Labour Matters – Sharing, incentive, leave
- TNPA – Tugs, Pilot boats, helicopter, etc
- Shipping – Vessels omitting CT
- Cost of shipping – Current lines as well as potentially bringing another line in
- Combine & Coordinate efforts
- Private Sector Participation – Medium to longer term strategy. Most likely first on equipment.
- Legislation & Policy
- Legal Framework & Accountability
- Can again create the opportunity to facilitate more bulk reefer vessels. Is there an appetite?

Plastics Strategy Contact: Dr Malcolm Dodd / Bryce McIntyre

Compostable PLU stickers

Suppliers are migrating to compostable PLU stickers.

Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR)

If a supplier is registered to supply plastic packaging material, they would include the levy in the price for exported plastics. The producer is responsible to paying the levy for packaging used on the local market. Further clarification is being sought.

30% Plastic recyclability tax by UK retailers

If fruit is delivered to a depot in the UK, the terms of trade specified that the SA Exporter is classified as an importer and is thus liable to pay the tax. This arrangement came in force on 1 April 2022 and applies if more than 10 tons of plastic are exported annually. The rate is £200 per ton of plastic and equates to 18 – 34 c/carton. Bubble wrap contributes the highest cost of the plastic material used.

Recyclability versus Compostability

Fruit South Africa is committed to the Plastic Pact, which places emphasis on recyclability (pome fruit). There are no large-scale composting facilities for compostable plastics in South Africa. Of the UK retailers, only Tesco required compostable packaging material.

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Fire Risk Project Contact: Koos Bouwer

A mechanical engineer, Pierre Goosen, specialising in fire protection, has been appointed to manage the project. He would like to interview packhouses, and the Chairman appealed to packhouses to make time available for this, and to volunteer participation on this project.

A report will be available in due course.

Market Access Feedback Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

- No pears shipped since regaining access
- Interest this season
- However Mexican inspector has to come to SA for pears
- Request for in-transit cold treatment denied

There was an enquiry about the possibility of using fumigation on fruit destined for Mexico. While fumigation is approved in the protocol, fumigation is not approved yet. Exporters should express their interest in using fumigation and a formal request could be submitted to DALRRD. The appetite for fumigation will be tested at the next Joint Marketing forum.

Taiwan

- Continuous request for more info received from Taiwan
- Final info has been sent.
- Waiting on feedback from Taiwan.
- Will do registrations before end 2022 for 2023
- PHC's & PUC's HAVE to comply with the requirements of protocol before registration
- Stricter enforcing of registrations and protocol
- Central training course to be compiled
- Fixed deadlines for PUC's and PHC's
- Training related information was also required this year
- Non-compliance regarding interceptions required monitoring, chemical spray and training records; producers need to take responsibility for supplying the appropriate information timeously, as requested by Taiwan

India

- 60-day WTO notification completed
- Next step is for Indian government to gazette
- Hopefully will be done in the next month, but no guarantee

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China

Struggling with the requirement: “If packaging boxes have air holes, insect-resistant gauze (the mesh size is less than 1.6mm) should be used to cover them to prevent pests from entering.”

Three options available currently:

1. Use cartons with no holes
2. Cartons that do have holes, covered with gauze stickers
3. Gauze shroud over the whole pallet – working on trial shipment, prototype and acceptability to China GACC.

First container to be shipped in the next week or two.

Thailand

- Finally received communication from Thailand on PRA
- Technical response sent

Kenya & Cameroon – SGS inspections

- Engaging DALRRD on strategy and options
- A collective investigatory meeting regarding Kenya and Cameroon export requirements would be held with DALRRD-FSQA, towards discussing pome fruit exporter concerns relating to the SGS inspections. The possibility for DALRRD/SA to engage with Kenya/Cameroon, towards recognition of SA’s system, with PPECB as the government assigned inspection body, regarding provision of the required certificate of conformance would also be discussed.

PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

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

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

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