

GUIDELINES: PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING PROCEDURES FOR THE EXPORT OF CITRUS FRUIT FROM RSA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

Version: 3

Updated: 23 March 2023 by Fruit Industry Workgroup (CRI, DALRRD, FPEF, PPECB)

Disclaimer: This document serves only as a guideline. It is the responsibility of the user to consult the complete compliance regulation of the concerned country (protocol, import permit, directive, etc.), for further clarification. Refer Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DALRRD) website:

<http://www.old.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Plant-Health/Exporting-from-SA/Special-export-protocols>

1. Commodities of citrus allowed

The following citrus types are allowed for export from Citrus Blackspot (CBS)-free areas:

Clementines (To include):

Clementines - *Citrus reticulata*

Mandarins - *C. reticulata*

Satsumas - *C. unshiu*

Grapefruit - *C. paradisi*

Lemons - *C. limon*

Minneolas - *C. paradisi* x *C. reticulata*

Sweet Oranges (To include):

Navel orange - *C. sinensis*

Valencia orange - *C. sinensis*

(Including Delta Seedless and Midnight)

2. Export regions – CBS-free areas

Magisterial districts within Provinces that are officially approved CBS-free areas:

Western Cape magisterial districts:

Bellville, Bredasdorp, Caledon, Cape, Ceres, Clanwilliam, Goodwood, Grabouw, Heidelberg, Hermanus, Hopfield, Kuilsrivier, Ladismith, Malmesbury, Mitchell's Plain, Montagu, Moorreesburg, Paarl, Piketberg, Robertson, Somerset–West, Stellenbosch, Strand, Swellendam, Tulbagh, Villiersdorp, Vredenburg, Wellington, Worcester and Wynberg, Van Rhyndorp, Trawal and Vredendal

Northern Cape magisterial districts:

Warrenton, Hartswater, Kimberley, Gordonia, Hay, Herbert, Hopetown, Kenhardt, Prieska, and Namaqualand

Free State magisterial districts:

Koffiefontein, Philippolis, Barkly West, Boshof, Fauresmith and Jacobsdal

North West magisterial districts:

Christiana and Taung

3. Critical Quarantine Pests - consignments will be rejected by DALRRD if any of these live pests are found during phytosanitary inspections (for the complete list – consult the official protocol)

Ceratitis capitata - Mediterranean fruit fly

Ceratitis rosa - Natal fruit fly

Thaumatotibia leucotreta - False Codling moth (tolerance of 1 live FCM larva per carton or a total of 6 live FCM larvae per consignment will be allowed)

Macchiademus diplopterus - Grain chinch bug

Delottococcus aberiae - Mealybug

Nipaecoccus vastator - Mealybug

Paracoccus burnerae - Mealybug

Theba pisana - Snail

4. Registration requirements with DALRDD

Annual registration of production units (PUCs) and pack houses (PHCs) with the Directorate: Plant Health (D: PH) on the PhytClean system:

<https://app.phytclean.co.za/Citrus/Citrus/GetRegistrations>

5. Requirements for the management of pests of quarantine importance (monitoring and control) in the orchards (in accordance with CRI Guidelines)

Mandatory implementation of good agricultural practices (GAP) for critical quarantine pests - FCM, fruit flies, mealybugs, and the other listed quarantine organisms

6. Marking requirements for all cartons in the pack houses

The following information must be on the business end of each carton:

PUC and PHC. Verify against the approved PUC/PHC database (link below):

<http://www.old.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Plant-Health/Exporting-from-SA/Producers>

Superimposing of information on labels and cartons will not be allowed (e.g. no sticker on top of another sticker)

All information stipulated as marking requirements in the DALRRD document “Part 1 General Standards and Requirements regarding control of export of citrus fruit”

<http://www.old.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Food-Safety-Quality-Assurance/Export-Standards/Citrus-and-Subtropical-Fruit/Citrus-fruit>

No Japan cartons or cartons with stickers of other markets are allowed

Only clean and new cartons are allowed

7. Marking requirements for all pallets in the pack house

Sticker with target market code “NI” (Not inspected) must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet

All pallets must comply with the USA Export Pallet Specification – 2022 as published by Summer Citrus

Non-complying pallets will be rejected at pack houses by PPECB and inspections points by D: IS

ISPM 15 - Mark must be legible and permanent with the correct treatment symbol

Date code required on the pallet base

No Bark and No Infestation on pallet base

8. Consignment size

Soft citrus:

The minimum size of a consignment (including the sample pallets) to be submitted for phytosanitary inspection is 10 pallets

Maximum consignment size is 11 920 cartons

Maximum of 4 PUCs per consignment

High cube pallets (if required) must be packed at the pack house

Hard citrus:

The minimum size of a consignment (including the sample pallets) to be submitted for phytosanitary inspection is 18 pallets

Maximum consignment size is 56 pallets (11 920 cartons)

Maximum of 4 PUCs per consignment

High cube pallets must be packed at the pack house

Smaller consignments will be considered at the beginning / end of a season but will require prior arrangement with the DALRRD inspector

No consignment exceeding the number of cartons will be inspected

9. Sampling procedures, marking, and palletizing requirements of sample cartons

Sampling is based on a biometric procedure to ensure a 95% confidence level that an infestation of quarantine pests of 4% or more will be detected

The biometric sample size is 75 cartons

Most popular count packed per day divided by 75

More than one PUC to a maximum of 4 PUCs may be sampled as a lot

Calculation of the sampling interval is based on the total volume of the consignment as well as the volume of the popular count

Sample cartons must be drawn directly from the packing line of the popular count per PUC

Sample cartons must be drawn numerically, marked, and palletized as they come from the packing line

Sample cartons must be clearly marked with the correct number (according to the biometric sampling procedure) on the side of the carton with a permanent pen (sticker)

Only sample cartons of a consignment need to be marked

Sample pallets must be marked with the sticker "USA SAMPLES" on all four sides of the pallet

Sample pallets must be marked on the accompanying documentation

10. Documentation accompanying the consignments to the phytosanitary inspection points

Original sample accompanying document and original intake documents

Intake document must indicate target market (NI) and target country code (US)

Document indicating the popular count, total volume and sampling interval, date code

No intake documents (consignment notes) are allowed to be issued and stamped by PPECB at the phytosanitary inspection points

DALRRD will accept no late applications for phytosanitary inspections

Information on the pallets and cartons must match the information on the documentation. Ensure correct documentation is presented

11. Marking requirements for pallets approved and rejected at the phytosanitary inspection point

An USDA Passed sticker will be affixed on two sides of the pallets passed at the phytosanitary inspection point

All the pallets in consignments rejected for USA shall be marked with stickers reading PR on all four sides of the pallet

12. Rejection Principles

Consignments will be rejected if one of any of the quarantine pests (live) (excluding FCM) is found during the phytosanitary inspection

For FCM, a tolerance of 1 live FCM larva per carton or a total of 6 live FCM larvae per consignment will be allowed

Consignments will be rejected for the presence of weed seeds

If any inconsistencies are found with the biometric sampling procedure (sampling interval)

If any inconsistencies are found with the accompanying documentation

When non-homogenous consignments (more than one PUC/consignment) are rejected, the strike will only be recorded against the applicable PUC, although the fruit from all the other PUCs will be rejected

The total program (Western Cape) will be suspended if the running average exceeds 20% over a 21-day inspection period

The total program (Boland) will be suspended if the running average exceeds 20% over a 21-day inspection period

The total program (Orange River) will be suspended if the running average exceeds 20% over a 12-day inspection period

13. Shipping requirements

Fruits will be subject to a 3-day (72-hour) pre-cooling period at minus 0.55 °C and colder

Loading of the fruit can only commence when the fruit pulp temperatures have been recorded for the last 24h continuously at minus 0.55 °C or colder

Cold treatment conducted in-transit in containers and specialized refrigerated vessels (bulk shipments) with the pulp temperature at minus 0.55°C or below for 22 consecutive days

14. Phytosanitary Certificate

Documents needed for Bulk shipments: Phytosanitary certificate and a PPQ 203

Documents needed for each Container: Phytosanitary certificate, 556-Calibration report, approved inspection report (Accompanying document), and a signed PPECB addendum plus a PPQ 203

A 556 calibration report issued by PPECB will be attached to the Phytosanitary certificate as an addendum