

Document P

GUIDELINES: PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING PROCEDURES FOR THE EXPORT OF CITRUS FRUIT FROM RSA TO SOUTH KOREA

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 to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) website:

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

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1. **Citrus types allowed for export**

Sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), (Navels and Valencia cultivars), lemons (*Citrus limon*) and grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*) from all provinces are allowed, but no lemon orchards will be registered for the 2023 export season (cold treatment too harsh for lemons).

2. **Pests of Quarantine Importance - 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

Any mealybug other than *Planococcus citri*

Lepidodaphes beckii - Mussel scale

3. **Registration requirements with the DALRRD**

3.1 Annual registration of production units (PUCs) and pack houses (PHCs) on the PhytClean system:

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

3.2 DALRRD: Inspection Services (IS) will conduct verification for treatment and protocol compliance during the growing season for all registered production units.

3.3 Pack houses and storage facilities shall be disinfected regularly and be verified annually by the DALRRD: IS or PPECB.

3.4 Insect-proof measures need to be taken immediately after sorting for sorted fruits which will undergo in-transit cold treatment, and the fruits shall be kept in storage equipped with insect-proof facilities to prevent the entry of pests from outside.

3.5 Correct placement of traps for fruit flies and FCM outside of all pack houses. Minimum of one Fruit fly and one FCM trap. Larger packhouses need to have more than one trap.

3.6 Correct placement of insectors at all pack houses. Insecutors are to be placed inside every opening/entrance of the pack house.

3.7 Only PUCs that exported in the past 3 years and any new PUC with justification to export in 2023 shall be registered.

3.8 DALRRD to conduct investigations for PUCs intercepted with mealybugs as stipulated in item 15.1 – if investigations reveal blatant non-compliance, the entire PUC registration shall be revoked for the 2023 season.

4. **Requirements for the management of pests of quarantine importance (monitoring and control) in the orchards, (in accordance with the CRI Guidelines) and management principles under point 15, including sections A, B, and C**

4.1 Placing and weekly monitoring of bait traps for fruit flies and FCM.

4.2 Implementation of good agricultural practices (GAPs) for FCM, Mealybugs, and Fruit flies.

4.3 DALRRD will request a spray program with chemicals to be used and the timing of spraying from the grower to ensure compliance.

5. **Marking requirements for all cartons in the packhouses**

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

5.1 PUC, PHC, Orchard number as registered with DALRRD. Verify against the approved PUC/PHC database:

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

5.2 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>

5.3 An additional statutory sticker must be affixed on each and every carton, specifying the importer’s details (in Korean and English language), the commodity, and the production year.

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

5.5 Only new and clean cartons are allowed.

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

5.7 The net weight on the cartons should be the same as the net weight on the phytosanitary certificate (consider uniform weight for grapefruit as 16kgs, and 15kgs for oranges, to prevent phytosanitary certificates from being rejected for declaring incorrect weights).

Important: Under-declaration of weight on the phytosanitary certificate will result in rejection by DALRRD. For all packing types, the net weight on the phytosanitary certificate may not be less than the stated net weight on the cartons.

E.g. exporters to ensure the net weight is not less than 15 Kg (in the case of A15C cartons) in their IT system. Contact your IT service provider to amend the net weight if under 15 kg (for A15C cartons).

5.8 All exporters are to attribute a client code (importer code) in the inventory column of their stock system, according to the client (importer) details presented on the business side of the carton.

6. Marking requirements for all pallets in the pack house

- 6.1 Sticker with target market code “NI” (Not inspected) or “N8” must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet.
- 6.2 No other codes such as “N6” may be used for Korea on documents, pallets or cartons.
- 6.3 ISPM 15 - Mark must be legible and permanent with the correct treatment symbol.
- 6.4 ISPM 15 - Date code required on the pallet base.
- 6.5 No Bark and No Infestation on pallet base.
- 6.6 Non-compliance will be rejected at pack houses by PPECB and Ports by D: Inspections Services.

7. Consignment Size

- 7.1 Minimum consignment size - 5 pallets. Three (3) pallets must be homogenous, 2 pallets can be mixed with a maximum of 2 PUCs per consignment.

8. Documentation accompanying the consignments to the phytosanitary inspection points

- 8.1 Original sample accompanying document and original intake documents (consignment notes) - each intake document is to be accompanied by its own sample accompanying document.
- 8.2 Target market (NI) and target country (KR) must be indicated on intake documents.
- 8.3 No intake documents (consignment notes) can be issued and stamped by PPECB at the phytosanitary inspection points.
- 8.4 DALRRD will accept no late applications for phytosanitary inspections.
- 8.5 Information on the pallet and cartons must match the information on the documentation. Ensure correct documentation is presented.
- 8.6 Consignments from *Bactrocera dorsalis* (BD)-infested areas do require a removal permit according to Regulation R 110. Consignments from BD-free areas, do not require a removal permit according to regulation R 110.

9. Sampling Procedures

- 9.1 A 2% representative sample will be drawn per pallet at the phytosanitary inspection point.

10. Rejection Principles

- 10.1 Consignments will be rejected if any of the pests of quarantine importance are found during the phytosanitary inspection.
- 10.2 **Consignments shall be rejected if any mealybug other than *Planococcus citri* is found during the phytosanitary inspection at the port or at the PPECB inspection in the pack house.**
- 10.3 **Consignments will be rejected for incorrect carton marking requirements.**
- 10.4 Consignments will be rejected for missing information on cartons and non-complying documentation.

- 10.5 A three-strike system is applicable for marking requirements - implicated PHC will be suspended for the remainder of the season.
- 10.6 When a consignment is rejected, it may not under any circumstances be repacked and/or be represented for phytosanitary inspection for this market or any other special market.
- 10.7 Consignments will be rejected if the net weight on the cartons differs from the net weight on the phytosanitary certificate.
- 10.8 Consignments will be rejected if superimposing (e.g. no sticker on top of another sticker or dirty cartons or foreign objects in cartons are found).
- 10.9 Consignments will be rejected if Japanese cartons or cartons with stickers of other markets are found.

11. Cold Store facilities

- 11.1 Cold store facilities to provide temperature downloads to PPECB.

12. Labeling at the holding depot

- 12.1 After a joint South African and Korean phytosanitary inspection, each pallet shall be marked (by the depot) with a "KR" if passed and "PR" if rejected, by using a sticker on the pallet and by amending the electronic inventory system. Client (importer) code to be included in the electronic inventory system.

13. Shipping requirements

- 13.1 Pre-cooling storage of minus 0.6°C for 72 hours is a requirement before the commencement of cold treatment. Cold treatment conducted in-transit in containers with the pulp temperature at minus 0.6°C ± 0.6°C or below for 24 consecutive days. Cold treatment will commence at minus 0.1°C or colder. Should the temperature exceed 0°C, the temperature shall restart from day one after the fruit pulp temperatures have again reached minus 0.1°C or colder.

- 13.2 Containers and specialized refrigerated vessels are allowed.

- 13.3 Should multiple consignees be loaded in a container, exporters must ensure (to advise the port facility) that the last pallets in the container must be representative of all consignees.

14. Phytosanitary certificate

- 14.1 The net weight on the phytosanitary certificate must corresponds with the weights on all other documentation and packaging.
- 14.2 A phytosanitary certificate will be issued with an additional declaration and disinfection treatment: The consignment shall be cold treated at minus 0.6° or below for 24 consecutive days.
- 14.3 An in-transit cold treatment pre-cooling certificate shall be issued by the PPECB to endorse the start date and time of cold treatment on the Phytosanitary Certificate, as well as the container and seal numbers.
- 14.4 Documents required for issuing of phytosanitary certificates: PPECB original export certificate; PPECB signed and stamped addendum; DALRRD passed accompanying

document; Stamped and signed PPECB in-transit cold treatment pre-cooling certificate; Bill of Lading.

- 14.5** The sail date on the phytosanitary certificate must show the same date as the bill of lading.

Note: Multiple consignees for one container may cause delays in issuing of phytosanitary certificates. For issuance of the phytosanitary certificates, the 5-day rule will apply. All applications after 5 days, will result in no phytosanitary certificate issued.

- 15.** Continued access to the South Korean market is at risk due to problematic levels of mealybug rejections. Therefore, a set of requirements for the management of mealybugs for implementation by all role players were developed, as well as corrective actions to safeguard the South Korean market.

15.1 Requirements for the management of mealybugs on citrus fruit exported to South Korea

The aim is to provide a set of compulsory actions for all role players to implement.

Grower Responsibilities

- Growers must diligently follow GAPs for Mealybug control, as outlined in CRI Production Guidelines, which will be updated from time to time.
- Each grower producing fruit for export to South Korea must have a PUC-specific plan for mealybug management.
- Growers must keep records of mealybug monitoring data and control interventions applied.
- Growers must be selective about the orchards presented for registration verification to export to South Korea. Any orchards that have any infestation of any actionable mealybug species shortly before harvest must be withdrawn.
- During verification, scouting records must be presented, including noting the presence of any actionable mealybug species. Regular scouting in orchards must be undertaken as prescribed in the CRI IPM guidelines for mealybug (www.citrusres.com) and as reminded in CRI's Cutting Edge No 268.
- Within the last two weeks before harvest, an orchard inspection for mealybug infestation must be conducted. This must be conducted as per normal scouting but due to the critical importance of this inspection, the fruit should be removed from the tree, and the calyx must be lifted or removed from the fruit (inspecting both the underside of the calyx and on the fruit) and a magnifying glass must be used. Orchards with any mealybug infestation in this period must not be used to supply fruit to this program unless laboratory reports indicate the presence of only non-actionable mealybugs (*Planococcus citri*).

Pack houses Responsibilities

- Each pack house handling fruit for export to South Korea must have on record a plan detailing measures to minimise the risk of packing fruit infested with actionable mealybugs.
- On the first delivery of fruit from an orchard to the pack house, a sample of 100 fruit must be inspected for mealybugs. Inspection must also be conducted under the calyx of the fruit and a magnifying glass must be used. If the fruit are Navel oranges, the inspection must also be conducted inside the navel-end if there is any sign of residues or sooty mold on the fruit. If any infested fruit is found, the fruit in the delivery must not be packed for the South Korean market. If any actionable mealybug species are found, the orchard must not be packed for South Korea.
- Online graders and sorters must be alerted and trained to look specifically for mealybug-infested fruit, including any signs of sooty mold, on the packing line and to diligently remove any fruit suspected of being infested. Graders and sorters must immediately report excessive findings to the pack house manager.

PPECB Responsibilities

- PPECB must ensure that the pack house inspections are conducted with zero tolerance for live actionable and unidentifiable mealybugs.
- All mealybugs intercepted at the pack house must be submitted to the laboratory for identification. The consignment will be put on hold by PPECB pending the result. The exporter can decide to divert the fruit if they cannot wait for the laboratory results.
- Samples must be submitted to the DALRRD diagnostic lab in Stellenbosch or Citrus Research International's Laboratory in Nelspruit.
- Consignments will only be rejected in cases where live actionable mealybugs are found.
- If only non-actionable mealybug specimens are identified (*P. citri*), the consignment can be approved for export to South Korea.
- On the 5th interception of an actionable mealybug during PPECB pack house inspections, the implicated orchard will be disqualified for export for the remainder of the season. The implicated orchard will be flagged on PhytClean as "NP" - Not permitted for export to South Korea.
- PPECB must inspect and reject for non-compliance with South Korean marking requirements at the pack house.

Port Inspections

- All mealybugs intercepted at the port must be submitted to the laboratory for identification.
- The consignment will be put on hold by DALRRD pending the result. The exporter can decide to divert the fruit if they cannot wait for the laboratory results.
- Samples must be submitted to the DALRRD diagnostic lab in Stellenbosch or Citrus Research International's Laboratory in Nelspruit.
- Consignments will only be rejected in cases where live actionable mealybugs are found.
- On the second interception of an actionable mealybug during the phytosanitary port inspection, the implicated orchard will be disqualified for export to South Korea for the remainder of the season. The implicated orchard will be flagged on PhytClean as "NP"- Not permitted for export to South Korea.

15.2 Corrective actions to safeguard the future of the South Korean citrus export program

This is intended to describe the voluntary withdrawal of orchards by growers to minimize the risk of interceptions of mealybug on fruit intended for export to South Korea; describe corrective actions that will be put in place for PUCs and orchards, should unacceptable levels of mealybug interceptions be recorded in a particular season during phytosanitary port inspections of citrus fruit intended to be exported to South Korea; describe the corrective actions in the event of interceptions of wrong carton markings detected during phytosanitary port inspections of consignments of citrus fruit intended to be exported to South Korea; and to describe the corrective actions relating to repeated South Korean suspensions over consecutive seasons.

SECTION A - Mealybugs

Voluntary withdrawal

- a. The producer may voluntarily withdraw a Production Unit (PU) or orchards that are deemed to pose a mealybug risk.
- b. Withdrawn PUs/orchards will automatically be reinstated if registered for the next export season, provided the orchard withdrawal took place prior to a port rejection of any fruit from that orchard in the current season. The email used to request withdrawal will be used as the reference to reinstate the PUs/orchards for the next export season.
- c. Request for withdrawal shall be sent to DALRRD officials (PatrickMag@dalrrd.gov.za and TshivhidzoS@dalrrd.gov.za).
- d. Once a request for withdrawal for PUC/orchard is submitted, it may not be reversed under any circumstance. Therefore, a withdrawal is valid for the entire remainder of the export season.

Corrective actions

- a. On the second interception of an actionable mealybug during phytosanitary port inspections, the implicated orchard will be disqualified for export to South Korea for the remainder of the season. The implicated orchard will be flagged on Phytclean as "NP" - Not permitted for export to South Korea.
- b. Fruit from the implicated orchard that has passed PPECB inspection but has not been shipped, may still be shipped.
- c. The threshold for interceptions of actionable mealybugs during phytosanitary port inspections will be five (5) per PUC per citrus type. Citrus types are grapefruit, oranges, and lemons. A sixth (6) interception will disqualify the citrus type from the implicated PUC for export to South Korea for the remainder of the season. All the PUC's orchards of the implicated citrus type will be flagged on Phytclean as "NP" - Not permitted for export to South Korea.

SECTION B - Carton Markings

Rejection of a consignment due to wrong carton markings at the phytosanitary port inspections will trigger an urgent investigation of the pack house by DALRRD, or a party assigned by DALRRD. The reason for the occurrence of the wrong carton markings will be investigated, in conjunction with any measures that may be implemented by the pack house to avoid a recurrence. Based on the outcome of the investigation, DALRRD will decide if the pack house will be suspended from packing for South Korea for the remainder of the season. When a pack house is suspended, any fruit packed by the implicated pack house that has already passed PPECB inspection, may still be shipped.

The following will be regarded as wrong carton markings when detected during phytosanitary port inspections of fruit for export to South Korea:

- Superimposing of information on labels and cartons (e.g. no sticker on top of another sticker).
- Japan cartons.
- Cartons with stickers of other markets e.g. China or Taiwan.
- PU and/or orchard not registered and approved for export to the Republic of South Korea.

SECTION C - Implications of incurring rejections for consecutive export seasons (starting from 2021)

Production units that have been suspended or had orchards suspended for mealybug interceptions at phytosanitary port inspections for three (03) consecutive export seasons, shall not be allowed to register to export to South Korea in the fourth export season.

On the 1st and 2nd rejection in the port – an Email of notification will be sent to the implicated pack house to notify them about the non-compliance.

On the 3rd rejection - Implicated pack house will be suspended for the remainder of the season.

If a pack house is suspended, any fruit packed and already passed PPECB inspection, may still be shipped.