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

Version: 2.1

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

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

1. Citrus types allowed for export

- 1.1 From all production regions, the following citrus types are allowed: Oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), Lemons (*Citrus limon*), Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*) and Mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*)
Limes (*Citrus aurantifolia* and *Citrus latifolia*) are not allowed to be exported
- 1.2 For sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*), the following common and cultivar names are allowed, i.e. Navel, Cara Cara Navel, Navelina Navel, Valencia, Midnight Valencia, Turkey Valencia. **Please note: It is recommended that any cultivar of oranges packed for Thailand should be indicated with the word Navel or Valencia following it. Alternatively, just indicate it as Navel or Valencia and as specified in the DALRRD minimum export quality standards for citrus**
- 1.3 For Mandarins (*Citrus reticulata*), the following common and cultivar names are allowed, i.e. Clementine & Satsuma cultivars, Nova Mandarin, Nadorcott Mandarin, Orri Mandarin. **Please note: It is recommended that any cultivar of mandarin group packed for Thailand should be indicated with the word Clementine, Satsuma or Mandarin following it and as specified in the DALRRD minimum export quality standards for citrus**
- 1.4 For Lemons (*Citrus limon*), the following common and cultivar names are allowed, i.e. Lemon, Eureka Lemon, Genoa Lemon
- 1.5 For Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*), the following common and cultivar names are allowed, i.e. Marsh, Rose, Star Ruby. **It is recommended that only these three (3) cultivars' names be used for Thailand**
- 1.6 **A plant import permit is required** from the Thailand Department of Agriculture (DOA) per importer and is to be presented to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Directorate: Inspection Services (DALRRD: D: IS) at the phytosanitary inspection point at the time of inspection

2. 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 (Medfly)
Ceratitis rosa - Natal fruit fly
Thaumatotibia leucotreta - False codling moth
Asynonyhus cervinus - Fuller's rose weevil
Paracoccus burnerae - Oleander mealybug
Pseudococcus longispinus – Long-tailed mealybug
Tortrix capensana - Pear leaf roller
Scirtothrips aurantii - Citrus thrips

3. Registration requirements with DALRRD

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

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

3.2 The DALRRD: IS to conduct mandatory orchard inspections, and only after successful orchard inspections, the status of the PUCs on DALRRD's website shall be changed from "pending" to "true"

Note: Only PUCs, PHCs, orchards, and varieties on the final approved citrus database (PUC/PHC) for export to the Kingdom of Thailand, will be allowed to export in the 2023 season.

4. Requirements for the management of pests of quarantine importance (monitoring and control) in the orchards and pack house

4.1 Mandatory implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) for FCM, Fuller's rose weevil, fruit flies, and other listed quarantine pests

4.2 Pack houses must have a well-documented Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describing in detail all processes related to the grading, handling, and packing of citrus fruit

5. Marking requirements for all cartons

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

5.1 Product of South Africa, Name of exporting company, name of fruit (common name and cultivar), PUC; PHC, orchard number, and packing date. 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>

5.2 For cartons exported by air freight - boxes must have no holes. If it does, the holes must have screens of which the diameters are to be not more than 1.6 mm

5.3 For cartons that are shipped in pallets - only a sticker stating, "EXPORT TO THAILAND" must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet

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

5.5 For the fruit in loose cartons (that is not going to be shipped in pallets), the following additional information must appear on each carton "EXPORT TO THAILAND"

- 5.6 Superimposing of information on labels on cartons will not be allowed (e.g. no sticker on top of another sticker)
- 5.7 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>

6. Marking requirements for pallets

- 6.1 Sticker with target market code "NI" (Not inspected) must be affixed on all four sides of each pallet or "N8" (Not phyto inspected with Citrus Black Spot) and target country code "TH"
- 6.2 ISPM 15 - Mark must be legible and permanent with the correct treatment symbol
- 6.3 ISPM 15 - Date code required on the pallet base
- 6.4 No Bark / No Infestation on pallet bases
- 6.5 Non-complying pallets will be rejected at pack houses by PPECB and inspection points by DALRRD: IS

7. Means of conveyance

- 7.1 Citrus fruit can be exported to a designated port in Thailand by sea cargo (containers only)

8. Consignment Size

- 8.1 Minimum consignment size - 5 pallets with maximum 3 PUCs per consignment; 3 pallets must be homogenous (1 PUC per pallet), and 2 pallets may (if needed) be mixed with the 3 PUCs
- 8.3 High cube pallets must be packed at the pack house

9. Sampling Procedures

- 9.1 A 2% sample shall randomly be drawn per consignment at the phytosanitary inspection point, from each pallet and each PUC and orchard number

10. Documentation accompanying the consignments to the phytosanitary inspection points

- 10.1 Original sample accompanying and original intake documents (consignment notes)
- 10.2 Intake document must indicate the target market (NI) and target country code (TH)
- 10.3 No intake documents (consignment notes) are allowed to be issued and stamped by PPECB at intake points, ports or phytosanitary inspection points
- 10.4 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
- 10.5 Import permit issued by Thailand Department of Agriculture
- 10.6 DALRRD will accept no late applications for phytosanitary inspections
- 10.7 Information on the pallets and cartons must match the information on the documentation. Ensure correct documentation is presented

11. Rejection Principles

- 11.1 Consignments shall be rejected in South Africa if any of the quarantine pests (alive) are found during the phytosanitary inspection, for non-complying documentation, and for non-complying marking requirements on cartons and pallets (e.g. orchard numbers on documentation not matching orchard number on cartons)
- 11.2 When a consignment is rejected, it may not under any circumstances be repacked and/or represented for phytosanitary inspection for this market or any other special market
- 11.3 **Consignments shall be rejected, and imports shall be suspended in the Kingdom of Thailand if:**
 - Any live FCM and/or fruit flies are found during the phytosanitary inspection
- 11.4 **Consignments shall be rejected in the Kingdom of Thailand if:**
 - 11.4.1 Any of the quarantine pests (alive) other than FCM and fruit flies are found during the phytosanitary inspection, and for non-complying marking requirements on cartons and pallets
 - 11.4.2 Cold treatment was unsuccessful
 - 11.4.3 Container doors are not completely closed
 - 11.4.4 Container seal is broken or replaced or does not match the number on the phytosanitary certificate

12. Shipping requirements

- 12.1 Fruit must be continuously pre-cooled in approved cold treatment facilities for a minimum time period of 72 hours until innermost fruit pulp temperatures reach minus 0.55°C or colder before loading of the container can commence. Additional hours pre-cooling are also acceptable
- 12.2 Calibration of temperature sensors and the loading of the containers must be conducted by the PPECB in the presence of DALRRD: IS
- 12.3 The cold treatment to mitigate fruit flies and FCM shall commence once all fruit pulp temperatures are at or below minus 0.55°C. The cold treatment should be maintained for a minimum of an uninterrupted exposure time of 24 days
- 12.4 If the temperature exceeds minus 0.27°C, the treatment shall be extended for at least 8 hours for each day or part of a day the temperature is above minus 0.27°C. If the exposure period is extended, the temperature during the extension period must be 1.11°C or colder. If the temperature exceeds 1.11°C at any time, the treatment is nullified

13. Phytosanitary certificate

- 13.1 A phytosanitary certificate must accompany every consignment and shall be issued with the following additional declaration and Disinfection Treatment:

“The consignment of citrus fruit was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the conditions for the import of citrus fruit from South Africa to Thailand”

If the consignment is subjected to in-transit cold disinfestation treatment, the PC shall also bear the following additional declaration: “DALRRD has supervised the calibration and the placement of fruit sensors into the fruit within the container(s) in accordance with the conditions for the import of citrus fruit from South Africa to Thailand and cold disinfestation treatment has been initiated”
- 13.2 Documents required for issuing of phytosanitary certificates: PPECB original export certificate; signed and stamped PPECB addendum; DALRRD passed accompanying document; PPECB in-transit cold treatment certificate stamped and signed by DALRRD.
- 13.3 PPECB in-transit cold treatment certificate with the temperature downloads and Q31 - PPECB loading report should be submitted to your nearest DALRRD: IS office before you submit a phytosanitary certificate
- 13.4 Common name and cultivar of the citrus fruit as well as the seal number, container number, and import permit number must be inserted on the phytosanitary certificate