

Container Loading

Con Louw
Ceres Fruit Growers Limited



Role players in container loading

Harbour

Empty container
depots

Transporters

PPECB

Forwarding agencies

Exporters

EMPTY CONTAINER DEPOTS

Queuing at empty container depots

- ▶ Differences in morning & afternoon shifts
- ▶ Differences in closing times of empty container depots
- ▶ No correlation between opening times of empty container depots & harbour



Container cable theft & PTI stickers not on containers

- ▶ Loading point checks
- ▶ Where does cable theft occur?
- ▶ Empty container depot check



Rejection of pre-cleared containers at loading point

- ▶ Wrong set points
- ▶ Cuts & tears on inside of container

LOADING POINTS

Simultaneous loading of containers without PPECB officials

- ▶ Smaller loading points
- ▶ Delays are costly
 - Scheduling
 - Standing time for transporter
- ▶ Pre-staging of pallets outside cold rooms

Lack of cooled airlocks prevents effective pre-staging

- ▶ Loading effectiveness
- ▶ Effective communication
- ▶ Accountability for overloading of containers



Accountability for container condition & fruit protocols

- ▶ PPECB vs loading points
- ▶ Restricted access to container exterior
- ▶ Standard to be supplied with regards to cosmetic vs functional damage

Plugs not available for container temperature setpoint checks

- ▶ Installation of power plugs at loading points

Inaccessibility for random access to individual pallets

- ▶ Early specifications of what needs to be loaded
- ▶ Effective specified pallet replacement procedure (between loading point & exporter)
- ▶ Sound cold store management
- ▶ Full cold stores

Ineffective handling of hi-cube pallets

- ▶ Older generation cold stores
- ▶ Configuration of most export pallets



Cold-sterilisation

- ▶ Increasing requirements
- ▶ Installation of special equipment
- ▶ Special loading procedures
- ▶ Trained PPECB officials
- ▶ Early advice to PPECB is crucial



IT systems & stock management

- ▶ Compatible IT systems between exporter & cold stores
- ▶ Accurate stock holding



Final product inspection & marketing requirements

- ▶ Should be performed prior to loading
- ▶ Communication of marketing changes of product requiring markings/stickers



Peak season cooling capacity

- ▶ Effective communication to exporters
- ▶ Effective capacity planning by loading point

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Workable
solutions
will only be
achieved
when all
stake-
holders
work
together

