

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 29 October 2020

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

Moratorium on High-Cube Containers

Contact: Andy Connell

No further updates from the Department of Transport.

Load-out Temperatures

Contact: Johan Strydom / Bernard Henning

Applications for the following regulation change and dispensation applications have been made:

The PPECB has been requested to incorporate the load shedding dispensations for **apples and winter pears packed without plastic bags**, which are expiring on 31 December 2020, into the PPECB regulations.

To manage the possible build-up of uncooled or partially cooled **apples packed in plastic bags** at cold stores due to load shedding, the maximum loadout temperature for apples of +3.0°C be applied. (Presently set point plus 2.0°C which in practice normally equates to a maximum of +1.5°C).

To manage the possible build-up of uncooled or partially cooled **winter pears packed in plastic bags** at cold stores due to load shedding, the maximum loadout temperature for winter pears of +2.0°C be applied. (Presently set point plus 2.0°C which in practice normally equates to a maximum of +1.5°C)

Alternatives to SOPP

Contact: Bernard Henning

No further updates are available yet on a new pallet sanitising product.

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Logistics

Contact: Jacques du Preez

Considering major logistic issues in the supply chain, such as the Cape Town port berthing delays, due to staff capacity (Covid-19 infections initially), inefficiencies, equipment failure and weather, additional logistical capacity, under the auspices of FSA, will be created. Weekly in-season meeting with Transnet also commenced.

Packaging

Contact: Lindi Benic

L Benic reported on a WTO communication from the EU in June 2020, relating to adopted EU legislation in terms of their European Green Deal and Farm to Fork sustainable strategy. A Freshfel communication was also received indicating that in August 2020, the German Authorities notified the European Commission regarding draft national legislation which outlined restrictions on food contact materials and articles (FCM) with fibrous materials from waste paper/recycled paper with mineral oil components, at the level of detection for all food packages / food contact materials, and also indicating that Germany applies the precautionary principle by stating that there is no safe limit for these compounds. It sets an obligation to use a functional barrier in the production / placing on the market of food contact materials and articles (FCM) made of recycled paper or cardboard. The PAG will review relevant information regarding any likely future impacts, relating to packaging etc.

Packhouse Benchmarking

Contact: Dawid Malan

The following fruit quality benchmarking is an example of the outputs of this project for apples and pears, conducted in conjunction with Productivity SA:

Cultivar	Abate Fetel			
	1	2	3	4
Blemish	10.50	10.88	2.95	5.30
Bruising	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Corky spot	0.00	0.00	0.36	0.60
Decay	0.10	1.23	0.84	0.90
Injuries	1.80	7.24	4.21	11.60
Insect damage: All other	1.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
Insect damage : Codling Moth	0.00	0.34	0.19	0.30
Insect damage : Fruitfly	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.60
Insect damage : Snout beetle	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.06
Insect infestation	0.10	0.17	0.03	0.00
Malformation	12.80	1.56	0.49	0.30
Overripe	0.00	0.12	0.16	0.80
Russet - retiform	0.40	0.00	0.01	0.00
Russet - solid	0.80	0.53	0.01	1.40
Scald - sun	0.00	0.06	0.09	0.00
Scald - superficial	0.00	0.13		0.00
Shrivel	0.00	0.22	0.08	0.50
Stoney Pit virus	0.00	0.07		1.50
Sunburn	4.30	1.99	0.93	1.90

Packhouses are encouraged to participate – please contact Dawid Malan.

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Packhouse water management project

Contact: Eddie Vienings

Data collection is underway, and the Phase 3 report will be finalised in December.

Market Access Feedback

Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Kenya is in the process of becoming a special market due to phytosanitary registration requirements for codling moth.

CA Webinar Meeting

Contact: Richard Hurndall

A successful CA webinar meeting was held on 3 November. There were more than 70 registrations. The presentations were of a high standard, and there were two overseas presenters. The presentations will be placed on the Hortgro website (www.hortgro.co.za). A quick PAG link has been created on the Hortgro home page.

A meeting of CA operators will also be convened by means of a webinar, on a date to be advised.

PAG Disciplines and Coordinators

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

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

Engineering – Henk Ryke (henk@tad.co.za), **Koos Bouwer** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

Packaging – Dr Malcolm Dodd (malcolm@alaceraer.co.za), **Bryce MacIntyre** (bryce.macintyre@kaapagri.co.za)

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Packhouse Large – Dawid Malan (dawid@tad.co.za) / **Francois Malan** (francois.malan@cfg.co.za) / **Willem Coetzee** (willem@dutoit.com)

Packhouse Small – Hendrik Claassen (hendrik@bellafrutta.co.za), Vacancy

Post-Harvest Quality – Dr Elke Crouch (elke@sun.ac.za), **Henk Griessel** (henkg@tru-cape.co.za), **Jaco Moelich** (jaco.moelich@fruitways.co.za)

Logistics – Johan Strydom (pslog@mweb.co.za) / **Andy Connell** (andy@abarc.co.za)

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Hortgro – Jacques du Preez (jacques@hortgro.co.za), **Lindi Benic** (lindi@hortgro.co.za)

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