

FRESH NOTES

A TECHNICAL UPDATE PUBLISHED BY HORTGRO SCIENCE



PACKHOUSE
ACTION GROUP

Fresh Notes feedback of a Packhouse Action Group (PAG) meeting held on 9 Mar 2023

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

Feedback on visits to PAG quick link on the Hortgro Website Contact: Elise-Marie Steenkamp

These were the top downloads:

- ▶ [CA Manual Revised \(31 January 2019\)](#) 1298 downloads
- ▶ [Fresh Notes 182 – PAG Feedback \(November 20\)](#) 1105 downloads
- ▶ [Container Handling Procedures](#) 1377 downloads
- ▶ [Jaco Visagie - Trends in Container Technology and Supply](#) 2459 downloads
- ▶ [Fresh Notes 186 - PAG Feedback \(March 21\)](#) 964 downloads

For the period November 2022 – February 2023 this page had:

- ▶ 272 page views of which 164 were unique page views.
- ▶ This page has a bounce rate of 75%.
- ▶ We also have a 02:11 minute average page view for the PAG.

This page still performs well. The average page view has increased. The bounce rate has remained the same. The bounce rate indicates that most people specifically search for this page and stay on it, rather than find it by chance and leave soon after to go view another page on the site.

Update on Logistics Chain Efficiencies Contact: Jacques du Preez

Wind played a major role in the port backlogs of 2 weeks. In February more than 200 hours were lost, and more than 500 hours in the previous 3 months. Lack of experience and expertise was hampering catch-up in the ports. The shipping lines are now finally also voicing their displeasure, as is the case with producers, exporters, logistical service providers and industry associations. It was hoped to advance equipment procurement programmes, specifically rubber tyred gantries. Meetings were held with Transnet and the issue of Public Sector Participation (PSP) was raised.

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PPECB Operational Dispensations Contact: Bernard Henning

Temperature dispensation for loadshedding stages 4 and higher are:

3 °C for winter pears
5 °C for apples

Additional dispensations for Gala/Royal and Big Bucks were approved (5.4kg vs 5.9kg pressure).

Plastics Strategy Contact: Dr Malcolm Dodd

See link to plastic packaging component matrix (green, amber, red) in pome protocols.

<https://www.hortgro.co.za/download/plastic-components-list/?tmstv=1679486102>

Environmental Producer Responsibility (EPR) Contact: Bryce MacIntyre

The POLYCO EPR plastic fee applies to locally produced as well as imported plastic. If plastic packaging (as identified in the EPR regulations) is manufactured / converted and sold into the South African market locally, then the pay point in the value chain will be the packaging manufacturer / converter.

If plastic packaging (as identified in the EPR regulations) is imported, then the pay point will be the importer of the packaging. This includes primary, secondary, and tertiary packaging as identified in the regulations and sold into the South African market.

The roles and responsibilities of each party:

Packaging Manufacturer / Converter

Raise the EPR fee, ensuring that the EPR fee is included in the invoice at the point of sale of the packaging product to your customers down the value chain.

This may be as a separate line item or included in the price.

Commit to declaring to Polyco all imported, and locally produced packaging sold into the South African market monthly and pay the EPR fee directly to Polyco on a monthly basis.

This shall be done by completing Polyco's Tonnage Declaration form monthly (<https://www.polyco.co.za/member-epr-declaration-form>).

Credit the customer (brand owner/retailer/distributor) based on the packaging that they exported, based on auditable proof.

To include in their procurement policy that they will ensure that all packaged products and packaging utilised in the business has been covered by an EPR Scheme and that they have checked compliance with all their suppliers.

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Potentially what is required of Exporter/Packhouse

Packhouses should check compliance with all their suppliers - "suppliers in good standing" with different PRO providers.

Different products have different providers e.g., Paper, metal, plastic.

Don't limit above exercise to "Fruit Packaging" only – other products used are packaged.

It looks as if Exporter/Packhouse wants to claim a refund, it needs to be done monthly.

Check procurement procedures cover the requirements.

Based on calculations, it would appear not be worth the effort to submit claims.

Packhouse Water and Energy Management Projects

Contact: Eddie Vienings

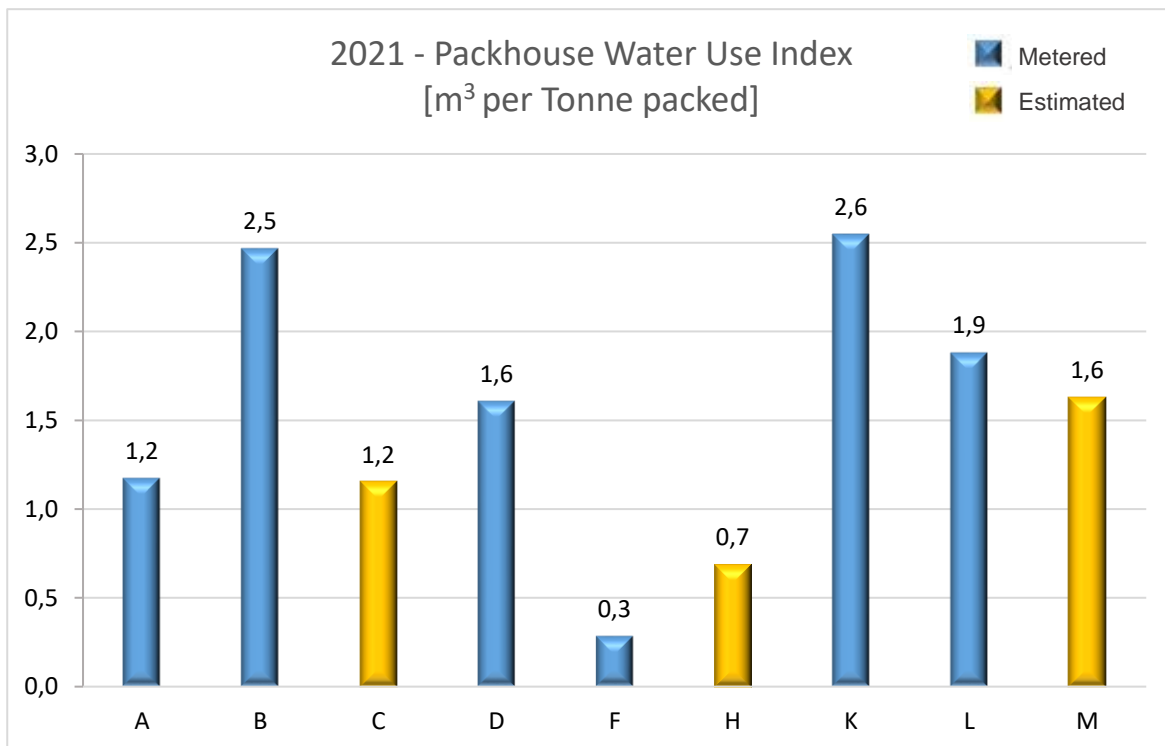


Figure 2: Overall pome fruit packhouse water use indexes



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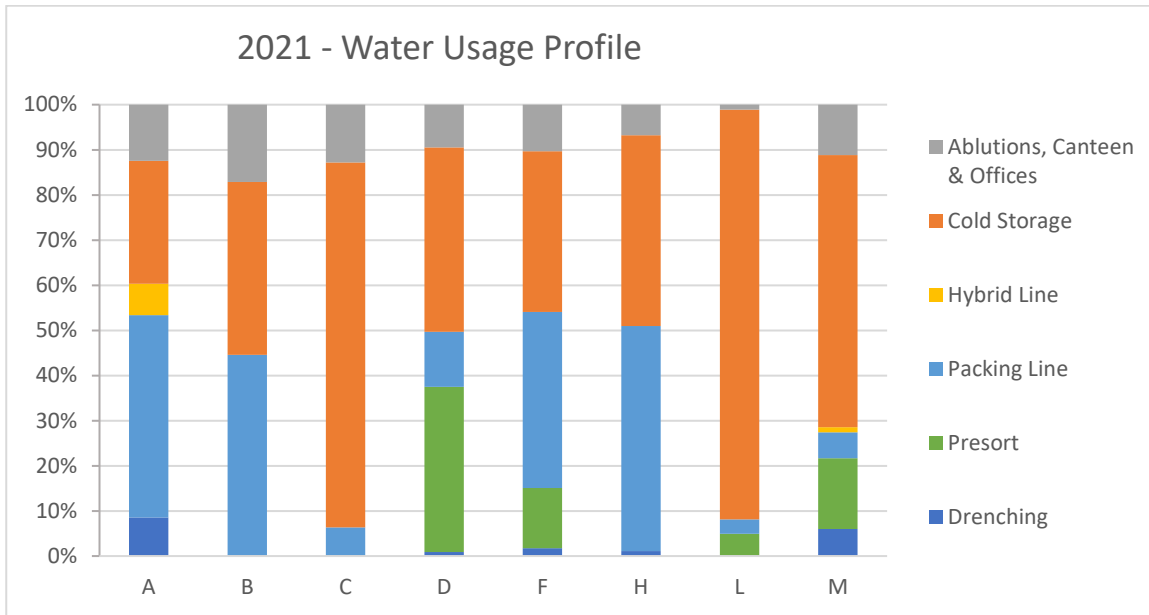


Figure 3: Water use profiles of the packhouses

Please find the full water benchmark project at this link:

[PAG Water Project Benchmark Results Phase-5 Final Report.pdf](#)

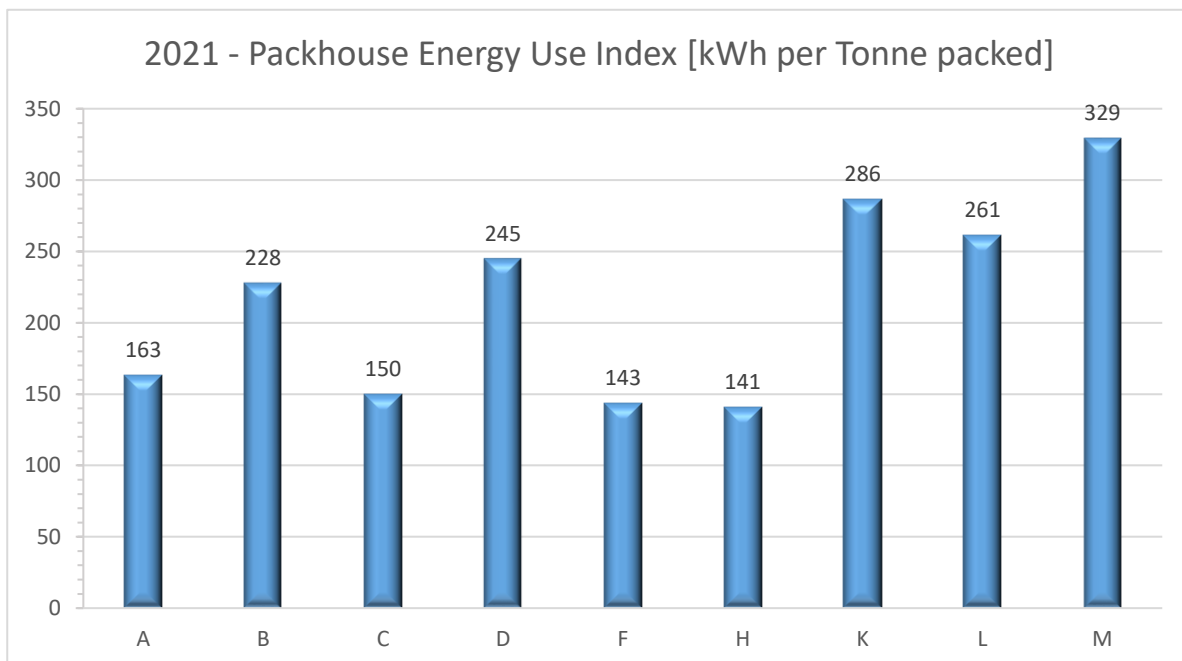


Figure 4: Overall packhouse energy use indexes

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Figure 5: Rand per kWh electricity cost benchmarks

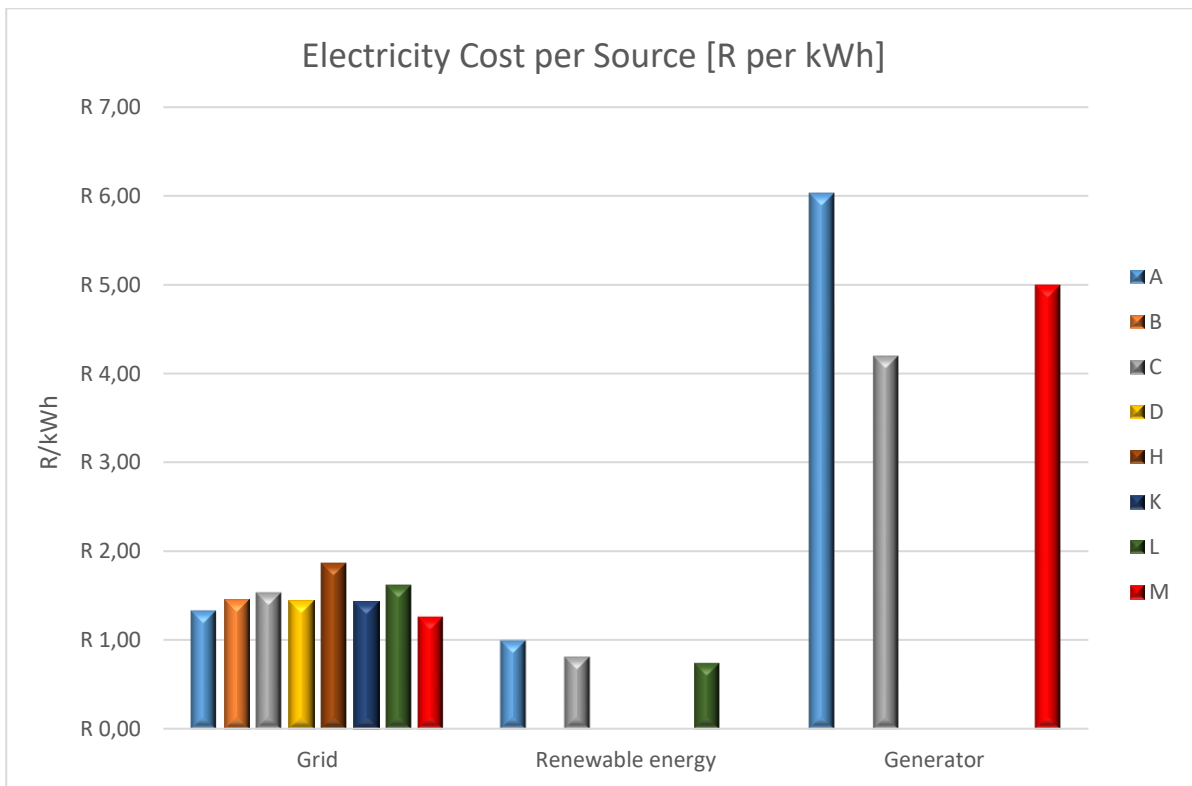


Figure 6: Cost per electricity source for each packhouse

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Please find the full energy benchmark project at this link:

[PAG Energy Project Benchmarks Phase 2 -Final Report V2.1.pdf](#)

With reference to the [SIZA Environmental Standard](#) requirements:

Code requirement 3.1: (c) Water consumption is measured at the main point of abstraction and/or disposal (using metered records) and does not exceed water allocation figures. Where feasible water consumption for major water consumption points (orchards/vineyards, packhouse, infrastructure, etc.) should also be monitored.

Code requirement 3.2: (a) A data collection tool is in place as the start of an annual recordkeeping process for all direct energy usage.

Market Access Feedback Contact: Jacques du Preez / Lindi Benic

Mexico

The inspector is scheduled to arrive in week 15 and stay for 5 – 6 weeks.

Taiwan

The inspector is currently in the country. It is permissible to pack 2023 fruit according to the 2022 lists.

India

In-transit cold sterilisation was now in operation. Additional DALRRD capacity is required for special markets.

China

Three options are available for insect proofing packaging; cartons with no holes, gauze placed over the holes and pallet shrouds. Packhouses need to be more proactive in placing their orders as Hortgro had to fund the manufacture of an additional round of pallet shrouds to ensure timely availability.

Thailand

Market access information was submitted to Thai authorities during February. Hortgro is hoping to engage a Thai national to facilitate the process.

USA

It is not permitted to load containers with different fruit types or packaging conformations.

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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@fad.co.za), **Koos Bouwer** (bouweb@orangenet.co.za)

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

Environmental Footprint – Eddie Vienings (eddie@bluenorth.co.za) / **Hugh Campbell**
(hugh@hortgro.co.za)

Packhouse Large – Francois Malan (francois.malan@cfg.co.za) / **Willem Coetzee**
(willem@dutoit.com) / **Fanie Grundlingh** (fanieg@lanko.co.za)

Packhouse Small – Hendrik Claassen (hendrik@bellafrutta.co.za), **Thinus Look**
(thinus@jjlook.co.za)

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)

Communication Strategy – Richard Hurndall (hurndallr@gmail.com) / **Koos Bouwer**
(bouweb@orangenet.co.za) / **Elise-Marie Steenkamp** (elise-marie@hortgro.co.za)

PPECB – Bernardus Henning (bernardush@ppecb.com)

FPEF – Werner van Rooyen (werner@fpof.co.za)

DALRRD – Director: Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Billy Makhafola, (BillyM@daff.gov.za)
DALRRD – Regional Manager: NPPPIS WC Directorate: Inspection Services, Gcobani Tsako
(GcobaniT@daff.gov.za)

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

Research – Prof Wiehann Steyn (wiehann@hortgro.co.za)

SIZA – Alistair Galloway (alistair@siza.co.za)