11.2.1.H

**Summary of PPECB Procedure for Booking of Dual Temperature Plums**

*(Implementation Date: 12 December 2019)*

1. **Background**

Most South African plums need to be shipped at dual temperatures to ensure normal ripening on arrival in overseas markets. If these plum cultivars are kept for too long at low temperatures (below 2°C), internal breakdown may occur rendering the plums unsalable.

Plums are cooled to -0.4°C before it is loaded into containers. In the past the temperature was raised to +7.5°C 2 days after the vessel sailed and then cooled again to -0.4°C after a specified number of days. This warming duration was between 4 and 10 days depending on the cultivar and its maturity.

In recent years the delays in the ports (wind delays, etc) often lead to plums remaining in the stacks at -0.4°C for extended periods that exceeded the ‘safe’ period at low temperatures. Special measures had to be taken in such instances to raise the temperatures of plums in the stacks and not on the vessel.

Problems were also experienced when containers with plums were transshipped on to another vessel in a second South African port.

2. **New Procedure**

2.1 **Dual Temperatures**

To address the problem of unscheduled delays in the port, PPECB has introduced a new procedure whereby the exporter will advise PPECB and the shipping lines of the precise dates that the temperature must be changed at. Changes to temperature settings can thus be affected in the stacks, should delays occur.

The advice to PPECB will be in the form of a special Excel Spreadsheet. The Expected Time of Departure (ETD) of the vessel at the time of stuffing the container at the loading point will remain fixed and used as the date to determine when temperature settings should be changed. This temperature advice should reach PPECB at least 12 hours before stacks close. Only in exceptional cases will delays be accommodated.

PPECB’s Plum Shipping Regime Code List can be found on HORTGRO’s website (Stone Fruit Handling Protocols) and PPECB’s Regulation Schedule 1 - HP22 on their website (www.ppecb.com Documents).
2.2 Transshipments

To enable PPECB to manage containers destined for transshipment in another South African Port, the booking code for dual temperature plums will have to include a ‘T’ to highlight its intention for transshipment.

2.3 Inland Conditioning of Plums

Provision is now made for the practice of cooling plums inland for 2 to 3 days at temperatures below 3°C and then load out at a set point of +7.5°C. Please note that the **pulp temperatures of such plums must be below +3°C** at the time of stuffing the container.

In the Temperature Advice to PPECB only the date when the plum temperature setting must be reduced to -0.4°C has to be indicated.

2.4 New Temperature Booking Advice Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPORTER</th>
<th>SHIPPING LINE/VESSLE NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stuffing Date</td>
<td>Container Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 12 2020</td>
<td>MBRU12345678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 12 2020</td>
<td>MNRS87654321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 12 2020</td>
<td>SRXU43215678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 12 2020</td>
<td>BBMU3453451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘7.5’ Denotes inland conditioning

‘T’ Denotes container is destined for transshipment

For the purposes of the new procedure, this date will remain fixed

All dates must be entered in the correct date format

Step-up date = ETD(4/12) + 2 days

Step-down date = PD5 + Step-up date = 11/2