agriculture, land reform & rural development
Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ANNEXURE E: WORK INSTRUCTION FOR ORCHARDS INSPECTION

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Approved & Endorsed by:	**Approved /Effective date**	**Signed Director: DIS**
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1. INTRODUCTION

The work instruction is intended to be used by the inspectors that have been appropriately authorised in terms of section 2 (2) (a) of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990).

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Pen
2.2 Identification cards
2.3 Magnifying glass
2.4 Knife
2.5 Sample Bag and Sticker
2.6 Diagnostic forms
2.7 Registration database for EU PUCs/Orchards and status
2.8 Inspection Request
2.9 Personal portable computer (laptop/ tablet/ mobile phone) e-Inspect.
2.10 Internet Data
2.11 Vehicle
2.12 Personal Protective Equipment for orchard inspection (safety shoes, sun hat etc.)
2.13 Gloves
2.14 Colour Plate

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 At the office

3.1.1 Ensure that the producer or their representative have submitted the application for orchard inspection no later than three weeks before the start of harvest, the inspection shall only be conducted two weeks or less before the start of harvest of the concerned orchard/s and that their account is up to date.

3.1.2 Ensure that the production unit and the orchard are registered and approved to export to the EU on PhytClean.

3.1.3 Confirm the date and time of inspection with the producer/ representative via email/ text and follow up telephonically.

3.2 At the Farm

3.2.1 Producers must make sure that measures are in place to ensure that the farm is safe for you to enter (i.e., dogs, long grass etc.).

3.2.2 Upon arrival at the farm, introduce yourself to the representative and indicate the reason for your visit.

3.2.3 Request the map of the farm for ease of locating orchard positions.

3.2.4 Request that there should be a representative to accompany you to the orchards.

3.2.5 Ensure that the orchard to be inspected is clearly marked with boards that indicate at least the PUC and orchard number.

3.2.6 Fruits from orchards that will not be degreened need to ripen naturally.

3.2.7 Orchards of fruit that will be degreened need to comply with the following:

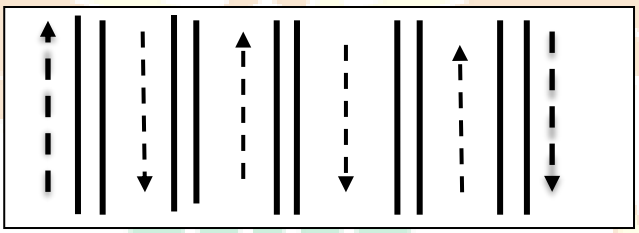
- Before the month of May: At least 30% of the fruit within the orchard must be on color plate 1-6.
- After the month of May: at least 50% of the fruit within the orchard must be on color plate 1-6.

3.2.8 The entire orchard needs to be inspected and priority/ emphasis should be given but not limited to the following condition/ parts of an orchard:

- Trees that show symptoms of stress (sickly, chlorosis, dead branches etc.);
- The North Westerly side / sunny side of the trees;
- Trees that are located in the water-logged parts of the orchards;
- Trees that are located at the edges of the orchards; and
- The lower outside portion of the tree canopy.

3.2.9 Method to be used to conduct EU orchard inspections:

- Walking straight within the orchard rows (every single row).



3.2.10 Inspection should be conducted as follows: -

- Each row of the orchard needs to be inspected for CBS;
- The patterns should be walked within each row however, if fruit with CBS symptoms are identified outside the pattern, they should be attended to;
- CBS is the only pest of concern that the orchards shall be rejected for;
- Finding of CBS symptomatic fruit within the orchard shall result in the rejection of the EU registered orchard.
- The inspection time is 30 minutes per hectare.
- However, if CBS is found before the end of 30 minutes within a hectare, inspection shall stop; and
- The lemon orchards need to be inspected every 90 days after the first orchard inspection.

3.3 Decision making

3.3.1 If the official finds fruit/s with suspected CBS symptoms, the grower/representative should be consulted for confirmation: -

- If the grower/representative confirms the symptoms as CBS, a rejection shall be recorded immediately, and the orchard shall be excluded from export to the EU for the remainder of the export season as well as the next export season.
- The inspector must report a CBS rejection to the Regional EU Coordinator, National Coordinator's and DPH using approved reporting template.
- If the grower / representative disputes the CBS symptoms, then the sample shall be packed and sealed for laboratory analysis. The CBS samples must be marked with a unique reference number. The diagnostic form must be completed in full and sent to the accredited laboratories for confirmation of CBS (at client's own costs) and the orchard shall be put on hold from packing to the EU; and
- In addition, disputes may not be lodged after the inspection report has been issued (since the sample is disposed of immediately after symptom verification by the grower/grower representative).
- In the case of a dispute, when the lab results are negative, the orchard must be re-inspected immediately in cases where the whole orchard was not inspected before the suspected CBS symptomatic fruit was found.

3.4 Completion of inspection status on e-Inspect.

3.4.1 The orchard inspection status on e-Inspect shall be completed in full and it must reflect the inspection outcome.

The Inspection status may take 3 structures as follows:

I. **Pass**: An inspection report (e-Inspect) must be completed for inspected orchards for the day that are free from CBS and the inspection status must be endorsed ‘’Passed”.

II. **Reject**: An inspection report (e-Inspect) must be completed for inspected orchards for the day where CBS were found and confirmed by producer/representative and endorsed “Rejected”.

Under rejection comment other reasons might be “CBS symptomatic fruit found or Orchard not ready for inspection or grass too long’’.

III. **On Hold**: An inspection report (e-Inspect) together with diagnostic form must be completed for disputed orchard and endorse “On Hold”. Under rejection comment state ‘’CBS symptom pending laboratory results’’.

3.4.2 The official shall ensure that the grower / representative verify the inspection report.

3.5 Reporting

3.5.1 Update on inspection outcome on e-Inspect same day after orchard inspection.

- Go to https://app.ecert.co.za/eInspect; and
- Log in and record the results.

3.6 Charging

3.6.1 The inspection fee shall be charged at the rate of 30 minutes per ha and part thereof in accordance with the latest Departmental tariffs.

3.6.2 Travelling time shall be charged at the rate of 30 minutes or part thereof calculated from departure from the office to arrival at the inspection destination in accordance with the latest Departmental tariffs.