agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FRUIT FLY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
for export of fresh Citrus fruit produced in South Africa
(Citrus FF-MS) JANUARY 2025

A. Introduction and Summary

The Citrus Fruit Fly Management System (FF-MS) incorporates the Citrus Fruit Fly Systems Approach for Citrus besides (Other than) Lemons and Limes (Citrus FF-SAO) and the Citrus Fruit Fly Systems Approach for Lemons and Limes (Citrus FF-SAL). The Citrus FF-SAO and Citrus FF-SAL have been developed in accordance with relevant guidelines provided by the International Plant Protection Convention (https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispms/) and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), in particular ISPM 14 and ISPM 35. The Citrus FF-SAO and FF-SAL each integrate at least two independent measures such that certified export consignments comply with trading partner phytosanitary import requirements.

In the case of Citrus fruit exports to the EU, the compliance requirement is contained in Point 61 (d) of Annex VII of the Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019. The treatment data to be indicated on the phytosanitary certificates accompanying compliant consignments, will be as follows: "… the consignment complies with Annex vii, point 61 (d) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/ 2072, and has been subjected to an effective systems approach (citrus fruit fly systems approach) to ensure freedom from *Tephritidae* (non-European) to which those fruits are known to be susceptible."

The Citrus FF-SAO provides for risk management of fruit fly (FF) through three independent measures, namely: i) FF Good Agricultural Practice (FF GAP), ii) phytosanitary inspections of fruit packed for export, conducted by the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) and iii) post-harvest shipping conditions.

The Citrus FF-SAL provides for risk management of FF through two independent measures, namely: i) the non-host status of commercial export grade Lemons and Limes for the relevant fruit fly species and ii) phytosanitary inspections of fruit packed for export by the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB).

B. THE CITRUS FF-MS INCORPORATING THE CITRUS FF-SAO

1. Eligibility and registration for export of Citrus fruit other than Lemons and Limes to the EU

1.1 Citrus from all production regions is potentially eligible.

1.2 Each FF-MS participating orchard must be registered on the PhytClean data management system.

1.3 For each FF-MS registered orchard, the producer is required to: 1) comply with the Citrus FF-SAO protocol and provide accurate data; and 2) implement FF GAP procedures.

1.4 Packhouses, exporters, cold stores and freight forwarders handling fruit for export under the Citrus FF-MS must be registered annually with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development (DALRRD), via the PhytClean system.

1.5 Fruit from an orchard will not be inspected by PPECB for export under the Citrus FF-MS when PhytClean indicates that the orchard status is "NP" (Not Permitted).

2. Measure #1: Fruit Fly Good Agricultural Practice (FF GAP) with packhouse delivery inspection as the FF GAP endpoint

2.1 Monitoring and pre-harvest control of FF

2.1.1 FF traps shall be used. As a guideline for recommended FF trapping systems, trapping layout, trap servicing and trap thresholds, refer to the current CRI Production Guidelines for the Control of FF in Citrus.

2.1.2 Only registered (in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, Act no. 36 of 1947 as amended) monitoring systems are permissible.

2.1.3 The trapping information as follows must be recorded and safeguarded for inspection/auditing: trap location, trap and attractant type, trap number, inspection dates and number of catches of target fruit fly species.

2.1.4 If trap thresholds are exceeded, control measures must be intensified.

2.1.5 Control measures must be used in accordance with product Registration (in terms of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act no. 36 of 1947 as amended).

2.1.6 The treatment information must be recorded and safeguarded for inspection/auditing.

2.2 Orchard sanitation

2.2.1 Orchard sanitation is an important component of GAP for FF management.

2.2.2 Orchard sanitation entails the regular collection and proper disposal of damaged fruit, dropped fruit and fruit left over after harvest.

2.2.3 Orchard sanitation must be conducted weekly and continue until after harvesting has been completed, at which time the orchard should be cleared of the current season's fruit (both fruit on the tree and fallen fruit).

2.2.4 Removed fruit must be destroyed.

2.2.5 Orchard sanitation must be recorded and records must be safeguarded for inspection/ auditing.

2.3 In-orchard fruit culling

Fruit showing signs of potential FF infestation should be removed during the picking process within the orchard as far as it is feasible to do so, prior to delivery of the fruit to the packhouse. Culled fruit must be excluded from packing for export under the Citrus FF-MS.

2.4 Packhouse delivery inspection

2.4.1 On delivery of fruit to the packhouse, for packing under the Citrus FF-MS, a sample of fruit per orchard as prescribed by the Citrus False Codling Moth Systems Approach (Citrus FCMSA) must be inspected for FF infestation.

2.4.2 A fruit must be recorded as infested, if FF eggs or live FF larvae are found in the fruit.

2.4.3 If more than 1 infested fruit is detected in the sample, the orchard status on PhytClean will become “NP” (Not Permitted).

2.4.4 Since effective corrective treatment can be applied and monitored in the orchard, the packhouse delivery inspection process can be repeated 7 or more days after the previous inspection.

2.4.5 Fruit from the orchard shall not be packed for export under the Citrus FF-MS as long as the orchard status remains NP.

2.4.6 Results from all inspections must be recorded, reported on the official data management system (PhytClean) and the records must be safeguarded for inspection / auditing.

3. Measure #2: Packhouse grading and Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) inspection

3.1 Packhouse grading

3.1.1 Citrus fruit must be thoroughly graded on the packing line to remove fruit with blemishes that may be associated with FF infestation.

3.1.2 Packhouse graders must be trained to identify fruit with signs of FF infestation and the number of graders and conditions in the packhouse (eg. lighting) must be considered to optimize effectiveness of removing FF infested fruit during grading.

3.2 Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) inspection

3.2.1 PPECB shall inspect a 2% sample of Citrus fruit per pallet packed for export under the Citrus FF-MS

3.2.2 PPECB shall reject any pallet of Citrus fruit for export under the Citrus FF-MS if any live FF is detected during such inspection and the pallet of fruit may not be repacked for export under the Citrus FF-MS.

4. Measure #3: Shipping conditions

The shipping conditions as determined by the Citrus FCMSA will apply to each consignment of Citrus FF-MS qualifying export fruit.

5. Phytosanitary certification

For export consignments of Citrus fruit under the Citrus FF-MS, subject to compliance with the criteria set in the Citrus FF-MS, a phytosanitary certificate may be issued for export as being compliant with the relevant import requirements.

C. THE CITRUS FF-MS INCORPORATING THE CITRUS FF-SAL

1. Eligibility and registration for export of Lemon and Lime Citrus fruit to the EU

1.1 Lemons and Limes from all production regions are potentially eligible.

1.2 Export of Lemons and Limes with reliance on the Citrus FF-MS as assurance of compliance with FF phytosanitary import regulations, requires each participating orchard to be registered with DALRRD via the PhytClean System.

1.3 Packhouses, exporters, cold stores and freight forwarders handling Lemons and Limes for export under the Citrus FF-SAL must be registered with DALRRD, via the PhytClean system.

1.4 Fruit from an orchard will not be inspected by PPECB for export under the Citrus FF-MS when PhytClean indicates that the orchard status is “NP” (Not Permitted).

2. Measure #1: The Non-host status of commercial export grade Lemons and Limes

ISPM 37 defines a non-host as a plant species or cultivar that has not been found to be infested by the target fruit fly species or is not able to sustain its development to viable adults under natural conditions or under the semi-natural field conditions set out in this standard.

Commercial export grade Lemons as produced in South Africa have a non-host status for non-European Tephritidae species that may infest some other Citrus types in South Africa, as determined in a study conducted in accordance with IPPC guidelines contained in ISPM 37. Commercial export grade Limes as produced in South Africa are not known to be a natural host for the same fruit fly species in South Africa. Commercial export grade means the fruit is produced in orchards registered for export, produced in accordance with general good agricultural practice procedures which include: horticultural practices that achieve synchronised fruit set and fruit maturation; general orchard sanitation; harvest timing and packhouse fruit grading such that fruit is packed according to fruit maturity (colour) standards; and standard packhouse procedures to eliminate blemished and damaged fruit.

3. Measure #2: Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) inspection

The FF-MS provides for verification of the ongoing commercial export grade and non-host status of Lemons and Limes produced in South Africa, for export under the FF-MS, by inclusion of the PPECB inspection procedure.

3.1 In the packhouse, after grading and packing, PPECB shall inspect a 2% sample of Lemons and Limes packed for export under the Citrus FF-MS

3.2 PPECB shall reject any pallet of Lemons or Limes for export under the Citrus FF-MS if any live FF is detected during such inspection, the pallet of fruit may not be repacked for export under the Citrus FF-MS, and an investigation shall be conducted to determine the circumstances that gave rise to the detection and identify

appropriate remedial action.

4. Phytosanitary certification

For export consignments of Lemons and Limes under the Citrus FF-MS, subject to compliance with the criteria set in the Citrus FF-MS, a phytosanitary certificate may be issued for export as being compliant with the relevant import requirements.

D. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITRUS FF-MS INCORPORATING THE CITRUS FF-SAO AND FF-SAL

1. At endpoint phytosanitary inspection in South Africa any pallet of Citrus fruit including Lemons and Limes shall be rejected for export to the EU if live FF larvae are detected.

2. On receipt of an official notification of a live FF interception in the EU, DALRRD will notify the producer and packhouse of the intercepted orchard. An investigation will be conducted and will include the orchard, Packhouse, PPECB inspection, and the cold chain.

3. When compliance audits detect non-compliance, the corrective actions will be informed by the nature of audit findings and will be determined by DALRRD.