agriculture, land reform & rural development

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

PROCEDURE TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE FOR EXPORT OF FRESH CITRUS FRUIT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM AREAS WHERE CITRUS BLACK SPOT (CBS) IS PRESENT IN SOUTH AFRICA JANUARY 2025

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1. **Definitions**

In these conditions any word or expression or acronym to which a meaning has been assigned in this procedure shall have that meaning, and unless the context indicates otherwise:

"Citrus black spot" means a fungal disease caused by *Phyllosticta citricarp*a (McAlpine) Van der Aa;

"Citrus fruit" means grapefruit, kumquats, lemons, limes, oranges and, pummelos (Shaddocks) as well as soft citrus (satsumas and mandarins);

"interception" means the detection of CBS symptomatic citrus fruit during official inspection on arrival in the EU.

"inspector" means the officer designated under section 2 of the Act.

"inspection" means official visual examination of plants, plant products or other regulated articles to determine if pests are present or to determine compliance with phytosanitary regulations.

"orchard" means a site or a piece of land where citrus fruit is produced which is registered with the DPH and distinguishable from the other sites or land pieces within the registered Production Unit.

"rejection" means the detection and disqualification of CBS symptomatic citrus fruit in South Africa during official inspections, in the field or the packhouse.

Acronyms:

CBS: Citrus Black Spot
DALRRD: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
DIS: Directorate Inspection Services
DPH: Directorate Plant Health
FBO: Food Business Operator
NPPOZA: National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa
EU: European Union
PPECB: Perishable Products Export Control Board
PU: Production Unit
PUC: Production Unit Code
Act 119 of 1990: The Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990).

2. Scope

This procedure shall relate to citrus fruit from specified areas where citrus black spot is present in respect of which approval for the export thereof to the EU is required in terms of section 4 of the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act 119 of 1990).

PART A: RESPONSABILITIES

3. Producer

a. Shall have a registered PU that is justified by defined geographical barriers as outlined by the FBO registration guidelines.
b. Shall register orchards annually with the NPPOZA within prescribed date and time.
c. Shall not rename rejected orchards.
d. Shall comply with the application of CBS control measures which must be in accordance with the registration of the products used and shall keep retrievable records of all CBS pest risk management activities.
e. Shall ensure that the fruit is protected from the risk of CBS infection from the onset of the fruit infection period until the end of the fruit susceptibility period.
f. Shall ensure that orchards found not compliant with paragraphs (d) and (e) during verification will result in orchard/s not being registered for export to EU.
g. Shall request inspections for orchards that will ripen naturally and orchards that will be degreened. Inspections for orchards that need to be degreened should be conducted when ≥30% of the orchard is on color plate 1-6. After the month of May, inspections for orchards that need to be degreened will only be allowed when ≥50% of the orchard is on color plates 1-6.
h. Shall request the official orchard inspection by using the e-Inspect function. The request should be made no later than 3 weeks before the start of harvest to allow sufficient time for the inspection before the start of harvest of the concerned orchard/s.
i. Shall only harvest citrus fruit from orchards that have been inspected and approved.
j. Shall re-apply for inspection for lemon orchards after 90 days, since the inspection report shall be valid for only 90 days.
k. Shall not supply/pack fruits from orchard where CBS symptomatic fruit is detected or mix fruit from rejected orchards with fruit from approved orchards.

l. Shall apply a marking to orchards that are registered for export to the EU which should indicate an orchard number.
m. Reserves the right to de-register the EU approved orchard during the export season. The de-registered orchard cannot be re-registered for the remainder of the export season. De-registration of the orchard cannot be done on or during any official inspection.

4. Packhouse

a. Shall register annually to participate in the citrus export to the EU within prescribed date and time.
b. Shall attend a compulsory annual pre-season workshop training on EU regulatory procedures conducted by the NPPOZA and PPECB.
c. Shall ensure that the packhouse samplers undergo the relevant training.
d. Shall have relevant orchard inspection reports/updated electronic status for every orchard by the time fruit is delivered at the packhouse before packing citrus fruit for the EU market.
e. Shall ensure that orchard numbers are present on all cartons and should not be part of the date code.
f. Shall not superimpose labels on cartons of consignments that are intended for export to the EU.

5. Inspection points, loading facilities, inland storage facilities, port storage facilities and cold stores

a. Shall be registered annually to participate in exports within the prescribed date and time.
b. Shall ensure that a representative of the facilities attends the compulsory annual pre-season workshop training on EU regulatory procedures that is offered by the NPPOZA and PPECB.
c. Shall comply with requirements for phytosanitary inspections, as per the relevant checklist.
d. Shall ensure that traceability of consignments is maintained from the packhouse.

6. Exporters

a. Shall register annually to participate in the EU export program within the prescribed date and time.
b. Shall attend a compulsory annual pre-season workshop training on EU regulatory procedures by the NPPOZA and PPECB.
c. The NPPOZA shall issue phytosanitary certificates for floating consignments including those that are partly made up of fruit from an orchard that has been subject to a CBS rejection or interception that occurred after loading. The NPPOZA shall not issue Phytosanitary certificates for consignments at the port that are not yet stacked.
d. Shall not load any consignments to the EU from orchards that are “on hold” (awaiting laboratory results for CBS).
e. Shall immediately stop exporting to the EU from an orchard when fruit from that orchard is rejected for CBS.

7. Responsibilities of the NPPOZA and PPECB

7.1 Verification of phytosanitary pre-harvest treatments; the NPPOZA shall

a. Conduct verification of treatment for the orchards that have applied to export to the EU.
b. Conducts phytosanitary inspections on all approved orchards that are registered for export to the EU.
c. Issue inspection reports (valid until 1 complete harvest of inspected fruit from the specific crop cycle). However, NPPOZA reserves the right to conduct re-inspections if deemed necessary.

7.2 Latency Expression test of Valencia

a. Ensure that all Valencia orchards that are registered undergo compulsory CBS symptom expression treatment before export to the EU (Annexure A).

7.3 Packhouse inspections by PPECB

a. Oversee the sampling of at least 200-400 fruits per lot of specified fruits; and the findings must be recorded.
b. Inspect along the line between arrival and packing in the packing facilities, of at least 1 % of specified fruits; and the findings must be recorded.
c. Inspect at least 2 % of specified fruits from every pallet using the latest updated version of the approved PUC and orchard list for the EU.
d. Ensure that the detection of CBS symptomatic fruit during the above inspections constitutes a rejection.
e. In the case of rejection, endorse the consignment note, the packhouse to co-sign and the rejection shall be reported immediately to DPH.
f. Reject consignments whose marking requirements are not compliant.

7.4 Phytosanitary certification

a. The NPPOZA shall issue phytosanitary certificates for fruit consignments exported to the EU that are compliant with the stipulated conditions.
b. The NPPOZA reserves the right to recall phytosanitary certificates or refuse the issuance of phytosanitary certificates for non-compliant consignments.
c. Only lemons, limes (C. *aurantifolia*) and kumquats shall be allowed transit through airfreight.

8. Disputes

a. The producer/packhouse or exporter may dispute a CBS rejection and request an official laboratory test. In this case, the sample needs to be sealed by the PPECB or under the supervision of PPECB and the affected consignment/s of the orchard shall be put “on-hold” and not be exported to the EU pending the final results from the laboratory.

b. However, where there are no disputes, the orchard shall be rejected, and the fruit sample shall not be kept. It is therefore the grower’s responsibility to ensure

that a knowledgeable representative accompanies the DIS official during orchard inspections. 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).

9. Lodging an appeal

a. Any person may lodge an appeal against a decision or direction of the Executive Officer or assignee in terms of section 10 of the Act, to the Director-General.

PART B: DISQUALIFICATION OF ORCHARDS FROM EXPORT TO EU

10. Disqualification system for CBS rejections and interceptions of citrus fruit destined for export to EU:

10.1 CBS rejection/interception:

The detection of CBS symptomatic fruit either during official inspections in South Africa or upon arrival in the EU shall disqualify the implicated orchard from exporting to the EU for the remainder of the export season, as well as the next export season.

10.2 Inspection activities that may result in CBS rejection:

a. Orchard inspections
b. 200 to 400 fruits per lot inspection upon arrival at the packhouse
c. 1% inspection along the line between arrival and packing at the packhouse.
d. 2% post-packing inspection before departure from the packhouse
e. Fruit age re-inspection
f. Valencia symptom expression tests
g. Regulatory Audits

PART C: CITRUS PRODUCTION AREAS WHERE CBS IS PRESENT

11. CBS Presence Areas

a) Limpopo Province
b) Mpumalanga Province
c) KwaZulu Natal Province
d) Northwest Province (except for magisterial districts of Christiana and Taung)
e) Gauteng Province; and
f) Eastern Cape Province

PART D: DOCUMENTS THAT ARE LINKED TO THIS PROCEDURE

Annexure A: Procedure for latency expression test for Valencia
Annexure B: Approved Laboratories
Annexure C: Procedure for 1% inspection along the line in the packhouse
Annexure D: Procedure for the inspection of fruit upon arrival at the packhouse
Annexure E: Work instruction for orchard inspection