



# KEEPING IT FRESH **fpef** fresh produce EXPORTERS' FORUM SOUTH AFRICA

News from the FPEF – 23 February 2022

**Dear FPEF Members,**

Herewith, another edition of our newsletter which contains a summary of communication with you during the past two weeks, as well some snippets of new information which came to the fore after this newsletter was distributed.

One such piece of information is about the **APAC Amendment Bill**

As you are aware, we have nominated a few FPEF members, as well as one non-member (who was previously employed in the industry), to represent the Export Agents on the APAC.

After a lengthy period, we have now received information that the following people have been appointed by Minister Didiza (DALRRD) to serve on the Council, representing Export Agents, for three years:

- **Aileen Zulch:** Tru-Cape
- **Liezl Gelderblom:** Producer Ally
- **Angelo Petersen:** Independent Consultant. Previously employed by Capespan. He was also APAC Chairman about 10 years ago.

I wish to congratulate them on these appointments and thank them for their willingness to serve our industry in this capacity.

Also, a big word of thanks and appreciation to the outgoing representatives:

**Anton van Zyl**  
**Danie Kieviet**  
**Mark Jensen**

Next steps:

1. A meeting will be arranged between our previous and the representatives as well as members of our APAC Workgroup (which includes our legal advisor) to ensure a smooth hand over.
2. The DALRRD Portfolio Committee will meet on 8,15 and 22 March to discuss the Bill. The Secretary of the committee still needs to inform us on which date and time we can do our oral presentation.

## **PORT OF CAPE TOWN**

The FPEF's continuous engagement with Transnet remains a priority for efficient supply to our trading partners. The weekly deciduous logistics integration meetings with TPT are still ongoing, where all FPEF members are welcome to join voicing operational challenges experienced at the terminal. The past two weeks FPEF has been actively involved in addressing the challenge of reefer container temperature spikes inside the terminal. New insights provide us the opportunity to engage Transnet and reduce this inefficiency within the terminal. Secondly, the delivery of reefer containers to the terminal, during the night shift, is a top priority and we have seen increases from 3% to 5% and to recently 16% utilisation of the night shift. This is one approach where industry can stand together and alleviate congestion in the port of Cape Town.

Over the past two weeks, throughput in the terminal was high, with almost 20 000 TEUS handled two weeks ago and last week around 17500 TEUS were handled at the Cape Town Container Terminal. The Netherlands Stream, a specialised reefer vessel, loaded approximately 8000 pallets, mostly under deck, together with larger EU vessels working away the backlog in fruit exports. We have seen the benefit of utilising specialised reefer vessels as shipment option. There was a reduction in the average days of berthing delays, yet ship delays between Durban and Cape Town is still evident with delays specifically experienced on the SAECS and MSCM services. Table grape and pome fruit export volumes will significantly increase in the coming weeks. Terminal operations will become under immense pressure during this time.

### **FPEF meetings the past two weeks regarding the port of Cape Town operations:**

- Daily Transnet operational meeting
- TNPA Stakeholder Engagement meeting
- BELCON facility Meeting – Value proposition/Demand Requirement and Capacity
- TPT Deciduous Logistics Integration weekly meeting
- Transnet SOC Ltd discussion with agricultural sector, focussing on the Western Cape region

## **MARKET ACCESS**

Unfortunately, there is still no decisions with our applications. Some technical work is however being conducted by the industry to assist DALRRD with the applications.

Most countries insist on physical verification visits, but the Covid related measures and restrictions render it mostly impossible at this stage.

## **EXPORT DIRECTORY 2022**

The FPEF Export Directory for 2022 will be available on the FPEF website from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2022. Hard copies will also be available at Fruit Logistica Berlin, and copies will be sent to all members in due course

## **FRUIT LOGISTICA BERLIN 2022**

An update on South Africa's participation in Fruit Logistica Berlin 2022:

- The deadline to book a stand was missed by the dtic and thus the big space, which was originally reserved for South Africa, was awarded to another exhibitor
- Due to our relationship with the organisers, we have managed to obtain a space of 100m<sup>2</sup>. It will be a basic stand without meeting rooms and will be funded by the FPEF, HORTGRO, SATI, SUBTROP, BerriesZA and the CGA.

Marletta obtained the following information **regarding Covid regulations and requirements:**

For access to Fruit Logistica, one of the following three conditions must be met (according to Fruit Logistica's website)

- **Vaccination:** Vaccinated persons must present official verification of complete vaccination (14 days after receipt of the second vaccine with a vaccine recognised by the European Union). In the case of EU residents, this proof must be digitally verifiable (QR code). A list of approved vaccines can be found on the websites of the [Paul Ehrlich Institute](#) and [EMA](#).
- **Recovery:** Admission requirements for recovered persons: Recovered persons whose COVID-19 infection was no more than three months in the past must present a positive PCR test result as well as proof of at least one vaccination with a vaccine approved by the European Union that was received at least 14 days prior. If the infection was verified at least 28 days and no more than three months prior, presentation of the positive PCR test result suffices.  
Participants from EU countries must present digitally verifiable proof of recovery from COVID-19 at admission. Exhibitors and trade visitors from non-EU countries currently must only present official proof of their status. They do not currently require an EU certificate.
- **Testing:** An antigen test must be no older than 24h, and a PCR test no older than 48h. You can find test centres in Berlin at: <https://map.schnelltestportal.de> (as search criteria, please select Digital Covid Certificate).

The identity of the persons named on the verifications will be checked against photo identification. Furthermore, ticket sales and gift card redemption are conducted solely online. This ensures quick, contact-free admission to the event premises.

### **For access to Germany**

- Only fully vaccinated visitors are allowed to enter Germany.
- Currently airlines require that passengers must provide a negative PCR test not older than 72 hours at the airport when traveling to Germany, but also when you travel back to South Africa. If you test positive you are not allowed to travel. This might change at a later stage, but currently this is the regulation.



## REVISED EU FCM REGULATIONS:

South Africa communicated the effectiveness of the systems approach to the EU. However, given the persistence of interceptions of the identified pest (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) during Union territory border controls, the EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) found it appropriate to change the conditions set forth in Annex VII to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. According to the EFSA, the unique conditions pertaining to the freedom of the location of production, the use of post-harvest treatments, and the systems approach, in particular, should be revised to provide stronger assurances of pest-free fruit commodities traded. A draft revised regulation was received from the EU. Industry and DALRRD are investigating the specific measures applicable to the various fruit types. The various fruit types implicated in the draft regulation: fruits of *Capsicum* (L.) (Red peppers or Chili pepper), *Citrus* L. (Lemons), *Citrus sinensis* Pers (Oranges), *Prunus persica* (L.) (Nectarines and Peaches), Batsch and *Punica granatum* L (Pomegranates). The final date for comments is 11 April 2022 with a proposed date of adoption/publication between April-May 2022. Proposed date of entry into force is six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): The twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, as communicated via the World Trade Organisation Notification G/SPS/N/EU/545.

## TRANSFORMATION

The FPEF's popular **Top-of-the-Class** training program will be presented again this year.

**fpef**  
**FRUIT EXPORT TRAINING**  
INTERACTIVE ONLINE FORMAT

**TOP OF THE CLASS PROGRAMME (TOC)**

The course content covers the fruit export value chain from field to fork and is aimed primarily at employees in junior to middle management positions within fruit export companies, packhouses and logistics companies. It is also a valuable training tool for emerging farmers and exporters. Participants will gain an excellent understanding of the whole value chain and additional knowledge and insight in their own area of responsibility. Topics covered include; quality management, compliance, cold chain management, primary production, packing and packaging, road, sea and air freight, documentation, consumers, markets and the role of exporters.

The full programme will be covered in 3 blocks of 2 days each (total 6 days).

**When**  
The programme will be offered twice this year.

1st training	2nd training
11 - 12 May	28 - 29 Sep
25 - 26 May	12 - 13 Oct
8 - 9 June	26 - 27 Oct

**Where**  
Interactive online format

**Cost**  
R3 800 / person ex VAT for the full 6 days

For further information or to book please contact **Johannes Brand**  
[johannes@fpef.co.za](mailto:johannes@fpef.co.za)  
**071 688 1888**

Book as a group or an individual to be grouped with other participants

**TOC**  
TOP OF THE CLASS  
Transforming the SA Fruit Industry

Stay safe!

Anton