



fpef
 SOUTH AFRICA™
 FRESH PRODUCE
 EXPORTERS' FORUM

“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 15 April 2020

Dear FPEF members,

So, we initially thought, that at midnight tomorrow, the COVID-19 Lockdown would have been a thing of the past, but as things developed since the lockdown was introduced, the possibility of extending the lockdown began to surface - and here we have at least another 14 days of lockdown. Since the extension was announced there have been meetings and discussions (since Saturday) on the conditions and risk management measures of the extended lockdown. Our industry was (and still is) part of these discussions and we utilise the information provided by you via our weekly survey and other questionnaires in these engagements.

Although most efforts are focussed on managing the current situation, we all know that life before COVID-19 will not be the same when COVID-19 is gone. From the FPEF's side we are already engaging with experts such as BFAP to use their modelling knowledge and capacity to develop scenario's/models with regards to our industry (specifically fresh produce exports) post-

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT WEEK
10-16 April

If we reach more than 90 new cases per day, lockdown will continue.
 (Average new daily cases last week was 67)

STAY HOME
 SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

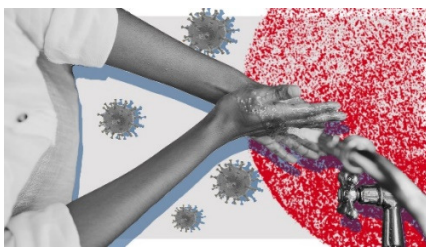
TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

COVID19 - but not only post the event; also now when we are still in the extended period. We are also actively engaging with the dtic (Department of Trade, Industry and Competition) on financial aid. Our engagements also include other government departments and entities in an effort to obtain assistance for our members which will enable you to continue operating in a sustainable way.

As was mentioned previously, the FPEF conducts a survey every week amongst our members to obtain information on the impact of the COVID-19 situation on their operations which is being shared with Government. It is therefore important to obtain as much quantified information as possible. The information includes aspects such as conditions in the receiving markets, constraints/challenges within South Africa, quantification of losses, proposed solutions (where applicable and possible) and general information.

A reminder of the measures to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19:

- Everyone in South Africa should wear cloth facemasks when in public.
- Members of the public should not use N-95 and surgical masks. These medical masks remain reserved only for healthcare workers.
- The main benefit of everyone wearing a facemask is to reduce the amount of Coronavirus or Influenza virus being coughed up by those with the infection thereby reducing its spread through droplets. Since some persons with the Coronavirus may not have symptoms or may not know they have it, everyone should wear a facemask.



- Handwashing and social distancing remain the most important prevention strategies for Coronavirus infection since there is little evidence at this time that facemasks protect people against getting infected with the Coronavirus.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE NUMBER: 111

The Covid-19 helpline can be reached by dialling 111 even if there is no airtime on a cell phone.

LOGISTICS & OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Ports:

On Tuesday 14 April, the Cape Town Container Terminal experienced high levels of concerns amongst staff surrounding the Covid-19 situation which resulted in a work stoppage from 06:00 until 16:00. At 13h05, the MPT (Multi-Purpose Terminal resumed operations with the CTCT (Cape Town Container Terminal) starting again at 16h00.

Vessel Delays:

It is important to monitor vessels closely that are calling at all three ports, (Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth) such as the vessels servicing EU/UK/NWC. During the lockdown period, this is and will have a significant impact on our exports going forward and the situation will take time to stabilise. Exporters are advised to consult berthing schedules and stack dates continuously and load at the last port of call.

- The Santa Rosa 201B (SAECS Service) - bypassed Cape Town on 23 March and delays accumulated to +/- 22 days, which normally take 10 days.
- The MSC Florentina – arrived in Cape Town on 21 March and departed from Cape Town 28 March. It arrived in Coega on 29 March and departed on 31 March. It arrived in Durban on 2 April and departed on 12 April. The vessel was due to arrive in Cape Town on 14 April and depart on 18 April, which leads to an accumulative 28 days; under normal circumstances it should be an accumulative 10 days in South African waters.

POSSIBLE CARGO FLIGHTS

The South African Embassy & Consulate in Abu Dhabi/Dubai are currently working on getting an Etihad OR Emirates flight organized from the UAE to repatriate South Africans currently stuck in the UAE due to COVID-19. This flight will leave sometime next week. Further details will be provided. The Embassy would like South African exporters to take this opportunity and export their goods as Cargo on these flights when it returns to the UAE. Therefore, please get in touch with your importers/distributors to take orders, and in parallel, please contact the local South African office of Emirates or Etihad Cargo and inform them of your interest to send Cargo to the UAE whenever such a flight arrives in South Africa.



Enquiries can be directed to **Mr Sid Mehta, e-mail: marketingofficer@thedti.ae, Tel: (+9714) 3709901**

Other than the repatriation flight which is being planned for the coming week; Emirates Cargo is scheduling passenger freighter aircraft operations on Thursday and Saturday operated by a B777-300ER aircraft with belly hold capacity. Below are details of the Cargo Manager - South Africa:

Shawn McGuinness

Cargo Manager - South Africa

email: Shawn.M@Emirates.com

T +27 11 979 4950

M +27 62 468 7331

Please reach out to Shawn directly for a quote and further details for these scheduled cargo flights.

We (FPEF) have requested the *dtic* to ask the South African embassies in other countries where similar flights are being planned, to do the same - if possible.

DOCUMENTATION

Some countries are now accepting scanned copies of phyto-sanitary certificates. However, the matter of some countries insisting on original Customs documentation is still being addressed. The European Commission has indicated on 14 April that EU member states will be allowed to accept documentation which is sent electronically - subject to specific conditions.

MARKETS

South Korea: DALRRD has been approached to contact South Korea in order to make an arrangement for pre-clearance, now that the extended lockdown has been confirmed. It is hoped that similar arrangements to the USA and Japan pre-clearance programs can be made with regards to South Korea.

ASIA FRUIT LOGISTICA 2020

The FPEF requested the *dtic* to move the deadline of applications (16 April 2020) to a later date after lockdown. The *dtic* confirmed that the deadline will be moved and this will be communicated once it is clear when the lockdown is over.

Please note that you can find relevant information on COVID-19 on our website:

www.fpef.co.za

Kind regards

Anton

