

“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 06 May 2020

Dear FPEF members,

We have been operating for about six days now on Level 4 of the COVID-19 restrictions since Friday the 1st, following the publication of the Risk Adjusted Strategy Regulations of 29 April. This is a new phase with some relaxation of measures, but also putting more responsibility on all of us to ensure adherence and compliance.

However, not all aspects and interpretation of the Level 4 Regulations were clear. We have thus sought clarification on those which have the biggest impact on our industry. Herewith, the issues and responses/clarifications:

- The **movement of seasonal workers** (the proposed protocol to be implemented nationally).
- **Construction** of certain food-related facilities urgently needs to be completed.
- The revised regulations allow for persons rendering an essential service, under cover of an Essential service permit, to **move between provinces**. Your company can issue this permit. It is advised that the employee gets screened before going, and that you have the permit co-signed by the SAPS, although this is not a requirement.
- Please note that the **curfew** (20h00 to 05h00) does not apply to those persons who perform essential services outside of the hours.
- **Permits for employees:** The original permit, that was issued under Level 5, is no longer valid and new permits need to be issued to employees on a new template, namely *Form 2*. We have sent you a template that can be used. The employee's residential address must now be included.

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Workplace protocols

SUMMARY ALERT LEVEL 4



- Employers must develop a plan for the phased return of their employees
- Stringent health protocols must be implemented at all workplaces
- Customers in retail stores must remain at least 2m apart

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Movement between provinces and districts

SUMMARY ALERT LEVEL 4



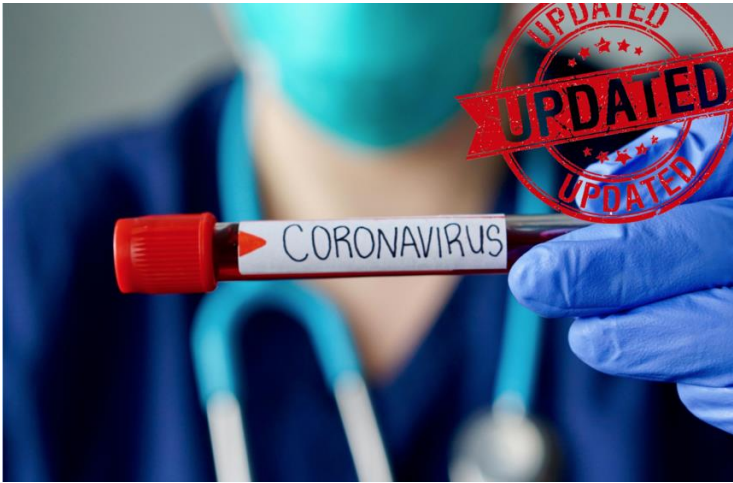
Movement between provinces, metropolitan areas and districts is prohibited, except in the following circumstances:



- Workers performing an essential or permitted service who need to commute to work
- Any person who has permission to attend a funeral
- Any person who was not at their place of residence before the lockdown period and who could not travel during the lockdown will be permitted, on a once-off basis, to return to their home

Other Rules and Regulations published during the past week are:

Risk Adjusted Strategy Regulations	:	Risk-adjusted strategy regulations
Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (TERS)	:	TERS Amendments
Health and Safety in the Workplace	:	Final OHS Covid-19 directive – 28 April 2020
New COVID-19 Regulations	:	Risk-adjusted strategy regulations
Guideline for Cloth Masks	:	Updated recommended guidelines: Fabric face masks
Once-off movement of people/transport	:	Once-off movement of persons Once-off movement public transport
New Transport directions issued	:	Validity of licences Interprovincial public transport Sea ports Air freight operations Railway operators Public transport Interprovincial public transport Air freight operations



It is also important to monitor regulations with South Africa's trading partners. As we at the FPEF become aware of such restrictions, those are brought to the attention of the relevant authorities to determine how and if it can be handled. Thank you to our members who have supplied information on challenges being experienced in certain markets. The majority of these challenges are with citrus exports:

- **China: Amended lemon protocol:**
 - The matter has been elevated to Ministerial level, especially in light of the challenges in other markets.
- **Korea: Pre-clearance inspections:**

DALLRD have received the all-clear from South Korea APQA to commence inspections and exports to South Korea.
- **Russia**
 - Acceptance of electronic phyto-sanitary certificates has been partially resolved after continuous engagement with DALRRD and assistance from the industry representative (Mikhail Fateev) in Moscow. From FPEF's side we have sent a letter to the head of the Phyto-sanitary service of the Russian Federation on 5 May, explaining the purpose and process of the electronic issuing of phyto-sanitary certification. We have requested that this be accepted by the Russian authorities before the first vessel arrives in St. Petersburg on 15 May.
- **Indonesia:**
 - Import Permits are still not being issued by the Indonesian Government. The South African Embassy in Jakarta is assisting us in trying to address the matter on a case by case basis. Seeing that there is no Agricultural representative in the Embassy, we are thankful to the Political staff who are handling this issue.



- **Sri-Lanka:**
 - Increased import tariffs.

I have just realised that it is the first time in the past seven years that I have been in South Africa during last week's public holidays - the other years I have been in India at the *Fresh Produce: India* trade show in Mumbai.

With regards to trade shows:

At this stage it seems that the following trade shows will still take place:

- The PMA's **Fresh Connections Southern Africa** on 19 and 20 August in Pretoria
- **Asia Fruit Logistica** in Singapore from 16 to 18 September
- **World Food Moscow** from 22 to 25 September
- **Fruit Attraction** in Madrid from 20 to 22 October
- **China International Import Expo** in Shanghai from 5 to 10 November.



As soon as the application dates have been confirmed, it will be communicated with you.

USEFUL LINKS

Please note that you can find relevant information about **COVID-19** on our website: www.fpef.co.za

Official SA Government information site: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>

Business for South Africa COVID-19: <https://www.businessforsa.org/>

Emergency Response number for COVID-19: 111

Be safe!

Kind regards

Anton

