

“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 13 May 2020

Dear FPEF members,

Thank you once again for the COVID-19 information which you provide to us with regards to challenges and concerns which affect your operations. This information is being shared with the relevant COVID-19 structures which are able to do something about it. Some of the latest issues which have been resolved are:

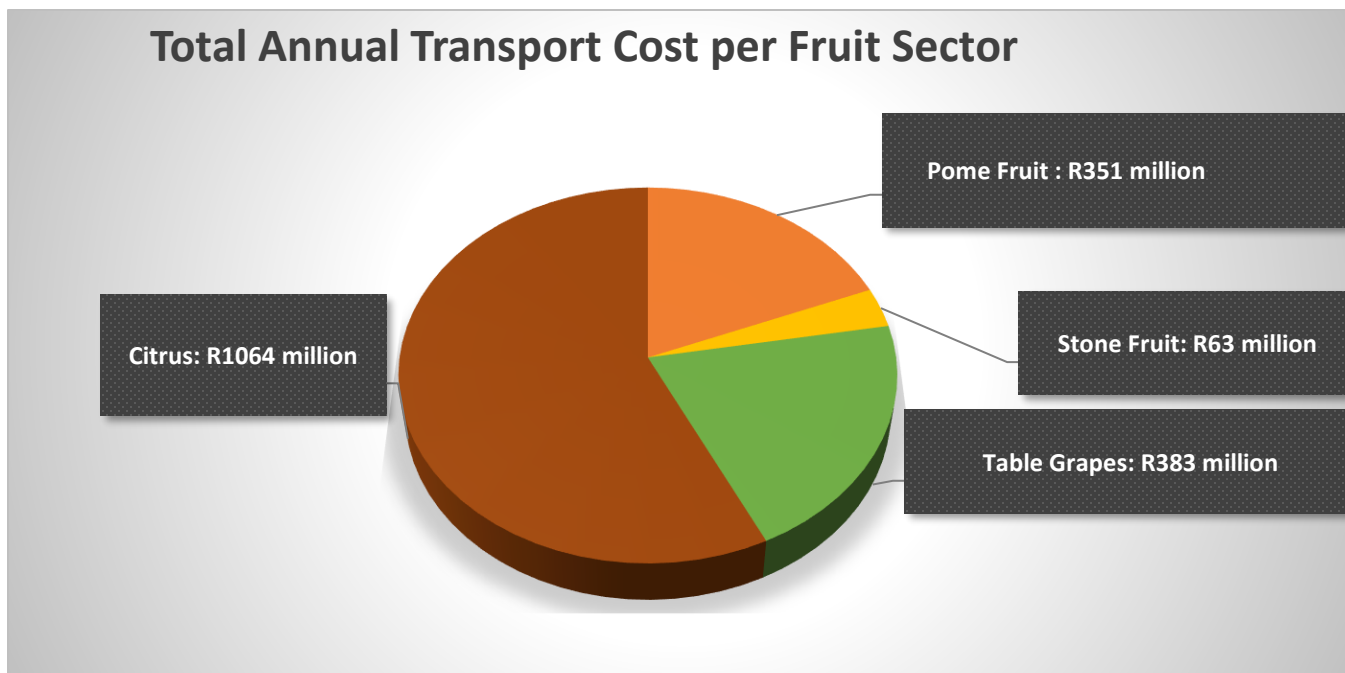
- Confirmation that **construction of agricultural infrastructure** may proceed,
- Clarification on the type of **face masks** which employers must provide for workers (must be cloth masks consisting of three layers).

Other Regulations relevant to our industry which have been issued and/or amended are:

Extension of the block exemption for the banking sector	Extension of block exemption for banking sector
Extension of the date for submissions for mandatory grants under the SETA regulations	Skills development levies direction
Exemption from municipal supply chain management regulations	Municipal procurement
Management of courts during the remainder of the national state of disaster	CJ directions on operation of courts during Level 4
Municipal operations and governance	Amendment of directions issued in terms of section 27-2
Entry and exit from the Republic	Entry and exit from the Republic
Release from social service institutions	Amendment to directives: Social development
Deletion of sections in the existing directions regarding communication and digital technologies	Amendment to directives: Communications and digital technologies
Commission for Employment Equity	Letter to all designated employers on the impact of Covid-19 on EE
Sale and repair of cars	Sale of cars and auto repairs
Permit requirements for small businesses	Permitting requirements for small businesses
Sale of clothing, footwear and bedding	Sale of clothing level 4
Opening of Deeds Office	https://www.gov.za/speeches/agriculture-land-reform-and-rural-development-opening-deeds-offices-across-country-11-may
Loan Guarantee Scheme	Covid 19 - Media Statement on Loan Guarantee Scheme Covid 19 - Loan Guarantee Scheme Opens - Q & A: 12th May

Amidst all the COVID-19 matters that need to be managed, other important matters continue to receive attention (where possible). One example is the *Transport Forum* of which the FPEF is a member. During the virtual meeting of the Forum on 7 May, we did a presentation on our industry – with a focus on the supply chain and our industry’s contribution to the income of the ports and transport industry in the country.

- R1,95 billion contribution to the transport industry (export, local and processed fruit).
- If one looks at the export of fresh fruit, the contribution is R1,61 billion, confirms the economic importance of our industry.
- The fruit industry’s annual contribution to service providers at our ports is R3,1 billion.
- As regards the volumes exported through the different South African ports, almost half (48%) of fresh fruit is being exported via the Port of Cape Town, with Durban accounting for 34% and Port Elizabeth/Nqura 18%.
- The transport cost per fruit type was also of big interest to the members of the forum.



The opportunity was used to (again) raise the issue of the high-cube containers - hopefully the abovementioned figures which show the important contribution of our industry to the economy (specifically the transport and ports sectors) will add to our efforts in finding a solution.

TRADE SHOWS

Asia Fruit Logistica 2020

Please note that Asia Fruit Logistica is rescheduled to take place from 18 - 20 November 2020 in Singapore. The dtic has not confirmed a new deadline for co-exhibitor applications yet.

Fruit Attraction Madrid 2020

According to the organisers this show is still going ahead until further notice. Fruit South Africa will have a stand at the show. If the show is cancelled due to COVID-19 all exhibitors will be fully refunded.

PORT OF CAPE TOWN - CHALLENGING TIMES DURING CRISES

Currently, on average, vessels outside the port have berthing delays of 4 to 5 days. Operations continued with 2 berths and 4 gangs during the level 4 lockdown period. This week a 3rd berth is to open with only 4 gangs which means only 2 berths can effectively be serviced with the staff capacity.

With the multiple COVID-19 incidents over the weekend, the port was closed for 12 hours plus on Saturday and re-opened at 02h00 on Sunday morning. Thereafter, it closed again for part of Sunday and re-opened around 18h00.

Monday, to keep fluidity inside the terminal, the terminal gates opened and closed periodically to increase operations incrementally. Monday evening had its own challenges. The all familiar Cape Town wind resulted in the port being wind bound for an extended time on Monday evening.

Tuesday, the terminal was busy bouncing back from all the delays over a 4-day period.

Wednesday, we received notice that only one berth is operating due to reduced staff numbers.



For the next three to four weeks, we are heading for challenging times in the port of Cape Town. COVID-19 positive testing results in the Western Cape, is not alleviating the situation. The work force is resilient however it seems that the labour force drove the decision to down tools amid the weekend's multiple COVID-19 cases in the port of Cape Town.

Industry is approaching peak pome and citrus volumes soon and the berthing delays might increase due to the delays. Lucrative export programs utilise Cape Town to export pome and citrus fruit during this time (e.g. USA export programme & EU/UK and Russia conventional vessels).

Certainly, industry is engaging with Transnet on a weekly basis. The effect of COVID-19 was previously only modelled, scenario planning anticipated and only now Transnet can react to the real situation. Transnet is working tirelessly to ensure efficient operations inside the terminal and to keep workers safe at all times.

Entering the new normal, FPEF continue to provide a service to the industry, engaging Transnet Port Terminals and various other stakeholders and supporting the fruit industry in the export process.

SUPPORT OF THE TRACKING UNIT REGISTER (TUR) INTEGRATION BY MEANS OF e-INSPECT (e-CERTIFICATION) AND THE MANUAL INSPECTION SERVICE (MIS) (TITAN)

DALRRD (e-Cert platform) and PPECB (TITAN platform) are striving to reach the goal of paperless systems. Many users are/were in the process of planning or moving onto these systems - which has now been delayed due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

DALRRD and PPECB will engage with industry and vendors to develop and agree on a schedule of onboarding the vendor systems, inclusive of tests with clients from **15 May** to ensure a fully integrated eco-system. Discussions in this regard took place from 11-13 May 2020.

Please Note: From 15 May 2020 the TUR (e-LOT pre-verification) is to be used for all citrus exports.



To assist clients, DALRRD and PPECB are working together and offering clients two interim solutions, whereby users will have the option to use either of the following:

1. The PPECB eINSPECT module (on the eCert Platform) whereby PPECB Inspectors will be able to perform inspections. The inspection results will be immediately available in the Tracking Unit Register (TUR) to all users.
2. PPECB Manual Inspection Service (MIS) and process will be available to use via PPECB for Inspections.

Please be informed that unfortunately, the **Fruit4Relief** initiative established to secure fresh fruit donations from



growers and exporters to contribute towards addressing hunger and food insecurity in South Africa’s vulnerable communities during the current COVID-19 lockdown, had to be cancelled. The initiative will not proceed further as the respective fruit role-players (growers, pack houses and fruit exporters) are already allocating their fruit towards supporting local organisations and communities with food donations and fresh fruit since the COVID-19 crisis emerged. It is therefore not viable to duplicate and/or “re-invent the wheel”. We are grateful and it is heart-warming that our industry is already involved in similar initiatives and contributing to existing feeding schemes in

the most vulnerable communities.

USEFUL LINKS – COVID-19

You can find relevant information about **COVID-19** on our website: www.fpef.co.za

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

All official government **regulations and guidelines** are available at <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>

Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999

WhatsApp Support Line: [0600-123456](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0029va10311111111111111111)

Be safe!

Kind regards

Anton

