

“Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 20 May 2020

Dear FPEF members,

We all have and still are adapting to new and different ways of doing things during the COVID-19 period, and thus the FPEF Board had its first-ever virtual meeting via ZOOM today.

On Thursday evening last week I chaired a meeting of SHAFFE (Southern Hemisphere Association of Fresh Fruit Exporters) in my new capacity as President of SHAFFE – and the value of these virtual meetings were highlighted by this, as participants from various countries and across various time zones were able to join. At the end of the meeting, all participants agreed that the SHAFFE meetings for the rest of the year will be virtual meetings. Having experienced many other meetings since March being conducted via ZOOM and/or MS Teams, it seems that this technology will be used more and more in future – and thus will have a positive impact on travelling expenses as well as contributing to more environmentally friendly ways of operating. However, there will still be a need and opportunity for some face-to-face meetings.



Coming back to the SHAFFE meeting: it was interesting to note that all SHAFFE members more or less share the same challenges with regards to COVID-19. It was also noted that in all these countries, the industry and Government are working together to jointly find ways in which to manage the disease, but at the same time ensure that an essential service, such as export of fresh fruit can continue.

As regards our situation, the big challenge is still inconsistencies in terms of the interpretation and enforcement of some regulations and rules. From FPEF's side we want to assure you that we are engaging constantly with the relevant authorities to try and resolve these matters.

We would like to remind you to please email anton@fpéf.co.za with information regarding challenges and hindrances you experience. This will then be escalated to the BFAP (Bureau for Agricultural Policy) web-based monitoring and reporting system once a week. We rely on your input and support to have issues addressed as quickly as possible at the highest level.

The latest Regulations and/or amendments which have been published since 14 May:

<i>Allowances and permits for persons to travel over provincial, district and metro boundaries</i>	COGTA directives 140520
<i>New directives on e-Commerce issued for Level 4</i>	E-commerce directives 140520
<i>New directions issued for level 4 with regards to: Transport, Labour, the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries</i>	TERS amendment 150520 Gautrain resumption of services Permits under the NEMA: Biodiversity Act Recycling and waste pickers Permits under Marine Living Resources Act
<i>New directions issued for level 4: Mineral Resources and Energy</i>	Meaning of public works in the context of energy

TRANSFORMATION

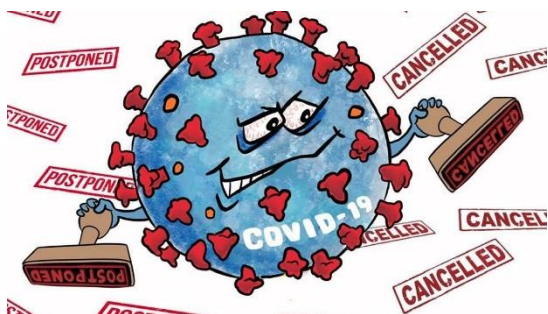
The FPEF, together with the four grower associations, is a member of the *Fruit Industry Value Chain Roundtable (FIVCRT)*.

One of the Work Groups of the FIVCRT is the one for Transformation - where our Transformation Manager, Johannes Brand, plays a vital role. The 2019 report of the Work Group is hot off the press and has been distributed to our members as well as the relevant government departments.



TRADE SHOWS

During the SHAFTE meeting, most members mentioned that they will not travel internationally for the remainder of the year - and will therefore not attend trade shows such as *Asia Fruit Logistica* in Singapore (November), *Fruit Attraction* in Madrid (October) and the *PMA's Fresh Summit* (Houston) in October.



November 2020 in Singapore.

Asia Fruit Logistica 2020

The dtic confirmed that as soon as information is available about the new deadlines for applications to be co-exhibitors on the South African National Pavilion (if there will be a Pavilion), they will communicate it to us.

Please note that *Asia Fruit Logistica* has been rescheduled to 18-20

Fruit Attraction Madrid 2020

According to the organisers this show is still going ahead in October. *Fruit South Africa* preliminarily reserved a stand, but we are monitoring the situation closely. If the show is cancelled due to COVID-19 reasons, all exhibitors will be fully refunded.

Agri-Link Philippines

The Agri-Link 2020 trade show in Manila has been postponed to 7-9 October 2021.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Ports: Current status in the Terminals

Cape Town Container Terminal	- 3 berths / 3-4 gangs variable [16-hour total shift time]
Cape Town Multipurpose Terminal	- 1 berth / 2 gangs
Coega Container Terminal	- 2 berths / 4-5 gangs
Port Elizabeth Container Terminal	- 1 berth / 3 gangs
Durban Pier 1 Terminal	- 2 berth / 4-5 gangs
Durban Pier 2 Terminal	- 4 berths / 10 gangs
Durban Multipurpose Terminal	- 2 berths

Cape Town

The Cape Town Container Terminal suffered a second Covid-19 case which resulted in more stoppage time to disinfect facilities. With the reduced amount of labour, the terminal is now running only 16 hours per day until today (20th May). Berthing delays are averaging in excess of 6.5 days and we expect the figure to increase due to less working hours.

Durban

Durban Truck Booking System

During discussions between Industry (FPEF and CGA) and Transnet, plus other port stakeholders, it was agreed to prioritise reefers when truck bookings are made at Pier 1. From 19 May 2020 to 30 September 2020 Transporters requiring appointments at Pier 1 for EXPORT REEFERS ONLY must send an e-mail to Pier1TruckAppointments@transnet.net with the words 'PIER 1 – MANDATORY TRUCK APPOINTMENT' REEFER EXPORT in the subject heading and copy TPTDCKAM@transnet.net

The following information must be included in your request:

- Trucking company Name
- Truck Registration number
- Container number
- Category Export Reefer
- Date and Time slot required



Documentation: Vietnam

The constraints on international trade brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, has driven various trading partners to reconsider the use of hardcopy trade documents and therefore requested export documentation, including phytosanitary certificates, to be transmitted via e-mail. The on-site human resource capacity at various international ports of entry, as well as the limited availability of courier services and flights, renders it challenging to continue using the hard copy documents. The FPEF (*Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum*), together with the *National Plant Protection Organisation of South Africa* (NPPOZA) have addressed this situation in various countries where these challenges are being experienced.

Subsequently, the FPEF together with the support of the South African Embassy in Vietnam, followed the same approach and engaged the *Vietnam Plant Protection Department* (PPD) to accept export documentation electronically. Official written communication from the FPEF to both the Embassy and PPD highlighted our concerns and the urgent action required. In addition, the NPPOZA have also been notified to officially engage with the PPD. Once successfully accepted, Vietnam should be added to the list of countries accepting electronic transmission of export documentation.

A SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON YOUR BUSINESS

It is just over a month from the first survey the dtic conducted about the impact of COVID-19 on businesses. They are now conducting a second assessment to guide them further in any support schemes/projects, they may have to institute to address some of the effects of the lockdown on the South African economy.

The dtic is using the following link for the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dticExporterSurvey>

Your urgent attention to this matter is appreciated. Please submit your information by the latest, Friday 22 May 2020.

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>

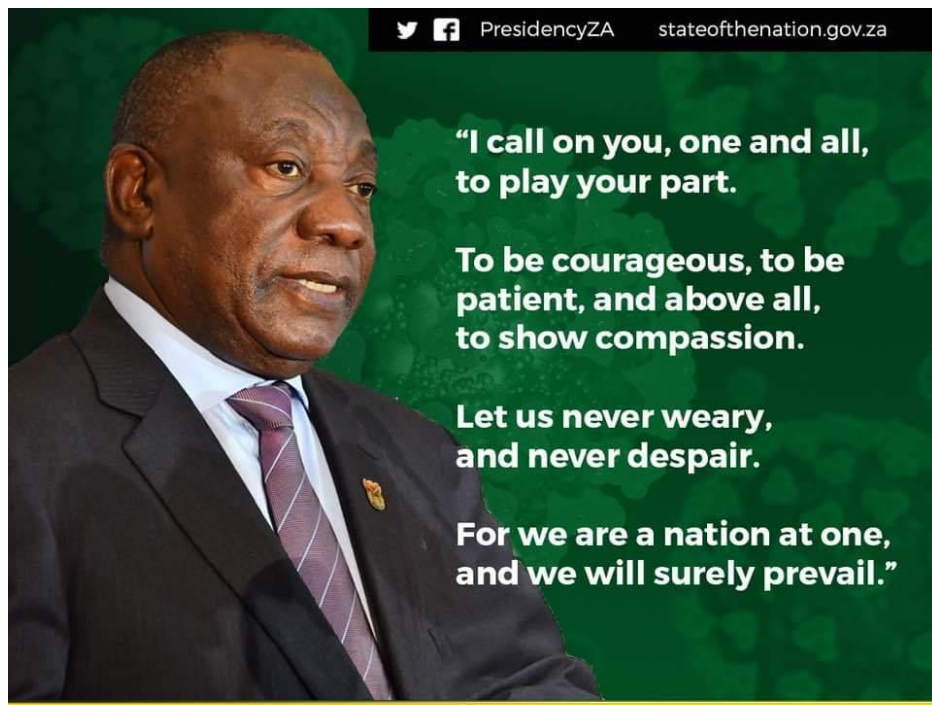
Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999

WhatsApp Support Line: [0600-123456](https://wa.me/0600123456)

Be safe!

Kind regards

Anton



WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0600 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
sacoronavirus.co.za

