

# “Keeping it Fresh”

News from the FPEF – 27 May 2020

Dear FPEF members,



So, here we are – on our way to Level 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions, based on the *Risk Adjusted Strategy*. This move to Level 3 will bring about another round of changes to regulations, rules and ways in which businesses and individuals operate. From the FPEF's side we will continue to inform you of the latest developments as soon as possible. We continue to be involved in various structures dealing with COVID-19 in order to ensure that the fresh produce export industry's voice is heard, our concerns and challenges tabled in order to receive attention and to share information about our industry (including the international market conditions).

The BFAP (Bureau for Agricultural Policy)'s web-based monitoring and reporting system, which was developed to inform Government of challenges/hindrances/constraints experienced, was communicated to you a while ago. The FPEF forms part of this initiative and we have the opportunity to log our issues via this web-based system. Initially, the BFAP reports were compiled every 48 hours, but it has now changed to once a week. The information is being captured in a report which goes directly to the Task Team which deals with the agricultural food value chain. In order to utilise this opportunity to the utmost, we rely on you as our members to provide information regarding the challenges/hindrances encountered - including who should be responsible for finding a solution. It would be appreciated if information could be sent to me: [anton@fpéf.co.za](mailto:anton@fpéf.co.za) if and when you identify a challenge.

We rely on your input and support to have our issues addressed as quickly as possible at the highest level.

## Level 3 lockdown

Here's what is allowed under South Africa's Level 3 Covid-19 restrictions.

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### WHAT'S ALLOWED



Domestic air travel for business travel will be allowed



Sale of liquor will be permitted under certain times



All construction will now be allowed



All clothing sales



All household appliances sales



No more restrictions on outdoor exercise. People will be allowed to exercise any time during the day



Wholesale and retail, including spaza shops, will be allowed to completely reopen

Source: National Coronavirus Command Council

Graphic: RUDI LOUW

Herewith, a summary of the COVID-19 Regulations and Directives issued during the past week:

<b>Transport: Validity of licences, etc.</b>	<a href="#">Extension of validity of licences</a>
<b>Public transport of essential service employees</b>	<a href="#">Additional directions relating to public transport 220520</a>
<b>Frequently asked questions regarding health and safety protocols</b>	<a href="#">linked here</a>
<b>Minister of Health</b>	<a href="#">Disaster Management Act 57-2002 – Amendment to the directions 260520</a>
<b>Temporary Employee / Employer Relief Scheme</b>	<a href="#">TERS amendment</a>
<b>Amendment to the directives relating to the biodiversity sector</b>	<a href="#">Biodiversity amendment</a>

## **OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

### **Port of Cape Town:**

The biggest risks and challenges for our industry at this stage are still the ports. A daily report is now being compiled jointly by the FPEF and CGA with regards to the status and operations in the ports and this document is not only being shared with you, but also with the national COVID-19 management authorities. The Western Cape Government is also assisting on Ministerial level with regards to the operations in the Port of Cape Town. Weekly meetings with Transnet are ongoing to address specific concerns regarding the reduced staff numbers during the past weeks and inefficiencies that led to between 8 and 12 days in vessel berthing delays. The urgent intervention required in the port of Cape Town, has been escalated to Agbiz, of which the FPEF is a member. Agbiz will be meeting with Minister Pravin Gordhan on Friday for a resolution. Should you experience any challenges/hindrance or constraints, please inform the FPEF.





### **Supply Chain Optimisation Tool - Agrihub Inform:**

FPEF in collaboration with *Agrihub*, and in partnership with the Western Cape Government are exploring new opportunities for supply chain efficiency. The first steps have been taken to analyse data from the container terminal and collect data from the rest of the port, as well as from fruit exporters. Each node in the supply chain is of crucial importance. The proposal for a supply chain optimisation tool for stakeholder decision making, called ***Agrihub Inform***, presented by the FPEF, is now being considered by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Western Cape. The proposal is in the final stages of the funding process. We hope to start with development as soon as the funding proposal is successful. The focus will first be on the port of Cape Town and when successful, the tool could be rolled out to the other ports.

### **International market issues:**

**India:** The port of Chennai is still closed and some of our members' fruit is not moving through the terminals. Please take caution when exporting to India.

**South Korea:** The Korean authorities have indicated that they will accept citrus exports from South Korea without an inspector physically present for pre-clearance inspection, as part of the phytosanitary protocol, until 31 May. Thereafter the procedure will be reviewed. In light of this, the FPEF has engaged with DALRRD asking their Korean counterparts whether the procedure could continue. At the time of writing, we have not received a response from the Korean authorities.

### **TRADE SHOWS AND CONFERENCES**

The *Produce Marketing Association* (PMA)'s ***Fresh Connections Southern Africa*** event, which was to take place in Pretoria on 19 and 20 August, has been postponed until 2021. However, the organisers are working on a digital event, providing the connections to people and ideas to help the entire produce industry continue the road to revitalization.



At this stage, the following trade shows are still scheduled to take place:

- **WorldFood Moscow:** 22 – 25 September 2020
- **Fruit Attraction Madrid:** 20 – 22 October 2020
- **China International Import Expo (CIIE):** 5 – 10 November 2020
- **Asia Fruit Logistica:** 18 – 20 November 2020

It is however not clear if the dtic will still be funding South African National Pavilions at Asia Fruit Logistica and the CIIE. The dtic still needs to confirm application dates for *WorldFood Moscow* and *Asia Fruit Logistica* - should it be funded by them. Participation in *Fruit Attraction* will have to be funded by the FruitSA members (FPEF, CGA, HORTGRO, SATI, SUBTROP) – and a decision on participation should thus be made by 30 June.

### **NEWS FROM THE PMA**

The *PMA Southern Africa* has a new manager, Lianne Jones who joined PMA on 1 May. Her background includes nearly 20 years of marketing, sales, category management, account management and business development with companies such as Zespri International Limited, the Chilean Fresh Fruit Association, and Asda/International Produce Ltd., a UK subsidiary of Walmart. As PMA's new Country Manager in South Africa, Jones will focus on providing member value, attracting and retaining members, and building strategic partnerships to help grow the produce and floral industry. Jones will oversee all PMA events and activities in South Africa, including Fresh Connections: Southern Africa, PMA Fresh Talks initiatives, and will support the execution of Fresh Summit, the PMA's annual convention and expo which takes place in various locations in the United States.



### USEFUL LINKS – COVID-19

You can find relevant information about COVID-19 on our website: [www.fpef.co.za](http://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**

Be safe!

*Kind regards*

*Anton*



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**South Africa will be placed on alert level 3 from 1 June**

**This means that all economic activity is allowed to resume, except for:**



Consumption of food and alcohol in restaurants, bars, shebeens and taverns



Cinemas, theatres, museums and entertainment venues



Hotels and accommodation for leisure



Gyms and fitness centres



Personal care services, where social distancing is not possible



Conferences, events and gatherings

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