



- The Cape Town port improved vessel berthing delays considerably during this time – down to between 5-7 vessels waiting to berth outside the port.
- This will incrementally improve with the current six-gang operations.
- The additional gangs allocated from TPT Durban supporting the Cape Town Container Terminal operations process, significantly contributed to the success of operating a six-gang operation again at the Cape Town container terminal. Good strategic insight from TPT (Transnet Port Terminal) and the bravery and willingness of personnel is commendable.
- Last week Cape Town TPT lost 44 hours due to weather delays, however our fruit export volumes were less during this time. The truck protest action might also explain the lower fruit export volumes through the terminal. Some exporters made the decision not to convey any cargo during the peak of the protest action. Unfortunately, this put added pressure on the availability of cold storage space.
- We definitely foresee a spike in reefer cargo in the coming weeks (mainly Soft citrus: Wk31/32) and (mainly Oranges - Wk35/36).
- Three straddle carriers equipment has been commissioned and the fourth straddle carrier will be utilised inside the terminal from next week.



Durban Port:

- Heavily hit by Covid-19 positive cases and cold stores are experiencing a build-up in stock.
- The trucking protest action/unrest is causing major disruptions in transport towards the port and cold stores.
- Vessel berthing delays are amounting to almost 14 days.

OTHER MATTERS

- A shortage of **security paper to print phyto-sanitary certificates** was experienced due to challenges at the Government printing works. The FPEF intervened and the paper is now available again – albeit still in smaller volumes. We continue to monitor the situation and engage with DALRRD on a continuous basis. For the longer term it is foreseen that e-Cert will be able to use white paper for this purpose.
- With regards to exports to China, information was received that each consignment must now be accompanied by a letter/certificate that the fruit is free from COVID-19. The South African Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is of the opinion that it is not an official requirement from the Chinese government and that as such, DALRRD is not in a position to issue such a certificate. We have engaged with our Australian and New Zealand counterparts to establish how they handle this and the outcome is that the FPEF and FruitSA will provide a generic certificate in this regard which all our members can use.

TRADE SHOWS 2020

- The recent survey conducted amongst our members regarding participation in virtual/digital trade shows and events indicated that 70% of FPEF members who have responded will not participate in a virtual trade show. Most of the 30% who have indicated that they would consider participating in such events, stated that the maximum duration should be two days (limited to only two to three hours per day). They are willing to pay only a limited amount to participate (not the same fee as attendance in person). 36% of participants indicated that they would be interested to have their company logo/name displayed at such a virtual event.
- Please note that the survey was only conducted with regards to trade shows. There may be some virtual trade missions where members will have the opportunity to engage in B2B meetings (virtual) with potential clients. As soon as information is available, it will be shared with you.

- The latest status of the international trade shows for the remainder of the year are:
 - The **PMA's Fresh Summit** in October in the USA has been cancelled.
 - **Fruit Attraction in Madrid** (October): The FPEF/FruitSA will not participate.
 - **World Food Moscow** (September): According to the organisers the show is still going ahead. The dtic still need to confirm if they are going ahead with the national pavilion and in which format.
 - **Asia Fruit Logistica** in Singapore (November): According to the organisers the show is still going ahead. The dtic still need to confirm if they are going ahead with the national pavilion.
 - **China International Import Expo** in Shanghai (November): No information available yet.
- Locally, the PMA's Fresh Connections will take place from 18 to 20 August as a **virtual conference with free registration**.



APAC REGISTRATION

Quite a number of you have received letters from APAC (Agricultural Produce Agents' Council) regarding re-registration. Some concerns were raised – including requests or clarification on some aspects of the Rules for Export Agents. We thus had two meetings with the Registrar who has compiled a document addressing these. The document was distributed by us to our members. If you have not received it, please contact Claudia at our office: claudia@fpéf.co.za. A summary of the most pertinent aspects on which the Registrar provided more information and/or clarification are:

- **Who is regarded as an agent that must undergo APAC prescribed training?**
Administrative and other personnel that are not "*acting on behalf of a grower*" are not required to register. At least one director of the agency must register and undergo the training in every 2-year cycle.
- **New registrations in the period (18 May 2018 – 31 May 2020)**
All registrations in the period 18 May 2018 to 31 May 2020 will remain intact for a period of 2 years (from date of registration) before reregistration is required. Such a registration will be exempt from training and vetting (as contemplated for new registrations from 1 June 2020) for the remainder of the 2-year period.
- **Must the on-line exam be done with every re-registration?**
Yes, in the cycle of registration every 2 years, at least one additional director should be trained (pertinent to the new rules) until all directors have undergone the training. Once the online training is successfully completed by all directors, it will be regarded as adequate until either the Act or the Rules are changed or updated.
- **Accounting Records and Auditor's Report**
This aspect will be implemented on 1 January 2021(unchanged) and will for the interim require as minimum requirement, a **review** of accounting records.
- **Criminal background check on company directors**
No registration certificate will be issued to any person who does not comply with the provisions of section 16(6) of the Act. To ensure compliance to this legislative requirement, criminal background checks are done on all company directors when they reregister (in every 2-year cycle).
- **Bank Account information to be submitted to APAC**
It is also compulsory according to rule 41(1) that an export agent open and keep a cheque account at a commercial bank.

Furthermore, rule 42(1) states that an export agent must open and maintain a customer foreign currency account for all income received in foreign currency of which the Council [in rule 41(3) & 42(2)] shall within 5 (five) business days be provided with the particulars of these bank accounts.



At the core of these is that the Act needs to be amended. This is however a difficult and lengthy process.

As was previously communicated, we are involved in developing the **Agricultural and Agro-processing Masterplan (AAMP)** and as such participate in both the fruit and vegetable value chain groups. The consultative meetings are still taking place. Each industry association was requested to nominate two people to represent the industry and seeing, that there is a big focus on Transformation, our Transformation Manager (Johannes Brand) joins me as the other FPEF representative on the team.

TRANSFORMATION MATTERS - AGRISETA GRANTS

Please note that the deadline for submission of WSP's/ATR's for the 2020/21 financial year has been extended to **31 July 2020**.

SAVE THE DATE: AGBIZ CONGRESS 2021



In April 2021, the Agbiz Congress 2021 will bring together more than 400 stakeholders – including CEOs, senior management and board members, as well as key delegates from government, producer organisations, processors, academia and various other major role players in the southern African agriculture and agri-food industry.

Receive maximum exposure, connect with, and showcase your company to this large and diverse audience representing the food, feed, fibre and wine sector of South Africa.

Booking enquires: Marija Spasevski, Tel: 011 463 5085 / email: marija@soafrica.com

Herewith, a **summary of the rules and regulations** which have been published in the Government Gazette since the previous edition of *Keeping it Fresh*:

Level 3 regulations amended	Level 3 revision of regulations
National State of Disaster Extended	Extension of National State of Disaster
Deployment of human resources	Health direction – 20 July 2020

Kind regards
Anton

