

# **PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPORT OF APPLE FRUIT FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PACIFIC NORTHWEST STATES OF WASHINGTON, IDAHO AND OREGON (PNW) TO SOUTH AFRICA**

In order to safely export apple fruit (*Malus* spp., hereinafter referred as “apples”) from the United States of America, Pacific Northwest States of Washington, Idaho and Oregon (PNW) to the Republic of South Africa (RSA), the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant health Inspection Service (hereinafter referred as USDA-APHIS) and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as DAFF), on the basis of pest risk analysis (PRA), exchanged views and reached consensus as follows:

## **ARTICLE 1 REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL**

1. The apples for export to South Africa must originate from the export areas of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) States of Washington, Idaho and Oregon in the United States of America (USA).
2. A list of the areas of the PNW which are considered free of *Rhagoletis pomonella* on the basis of official annual surveys will be made available to DAFF upon request.

## **ARTICLE 2 PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND GENERAL SURVEILLANCE**

1. The apples to be exported to South Africa from PNW must comply with the relevant phytosanitary laws and regulations of South Africa and shall be free from quarantine pests of concern to South Africa.
2. USDA- APHIS will ensure that:
  - i) Apples for export to South Africa must originate from production sites (orchards) that follow Federal/State Cooperative Extension Service Guidelines for pest management.
  - ii) Detection/monitoring for pests shall be conducted regularly in production sites (orchards). If new pest(s) of possible quarantine

concern to South Africa is detected, DAFF will be notified for appropriate action to be taken. DAFF will immediately notify APHIS of any quarantine action and subsequent changes to the pest list.

iii) Pest control, inspection and other relevant records and information should be made available for review upon request by DAFF.

### **ARTICLE 3 PEST FREE AREAS**

1. The Pest Free status in respect to the fruit fly *Rhagoletis pomonella* in the apple producing area (PNW) of the USA will be accepted as per current State quarantine regulations for *Rhagoletis pomonella*.
2. The area from which apple fruit is sourced (produced, handled and packed) for export to South Africa shall have a detection survey system, consistent with Federal/State recommendations, for *Rhagoletis pomonella* to verify the absence of this pest, and a pest monitoring system to verify that freedom from this pest has been maintained. Summary data including number and location of traps, data on trap catches, shall be made available to the DAFF inspector upon request.
3. USDA-APHIS must provide DAFF with the names of packinghouse(s) situated in *Rhagoletis pomonella* regulated areas<sup>1</sup> that will be used for apple exports to South Africa.
4. USDA shall notify DAFF within 4 business days when detections of *Rhagoletis pomonella* results in any expansion of regulated areas<sup>1</sup>.
5. USDA-APHIS will work collaboratively with DAFF to ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to mitigate the risk or that the pest free status is reinstated.

### **ARTICLE 4 “NON-HOST STATUS”**

1. APHIS must ensure maintenance of “Non-Host Status” of *Grapholita packardi* by continuous general surveillance programs. USDA-APHIS shall notify DAFF immediately of any change in the “Non-Host” status of *Grapholita packardi*.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **INSPECTION OF ORCHARDS**

1. APHIS must ensure orchard freedom of *Monilinia fructicola* and *Neonectria galligena* by continuous general surveillance programs. Surveillance records should be made available for review upon request by DAFF.
2. If *Monilinia fructicola* and *Neonectria galligena* are detected in any designated export orchard, fruit from that orchard will not be permitted entry into South Africa.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **POST-HARVEST MEASURES**

1. Only fruit sourced from production sites (orchards) that meet the export conditions set out in this protocol will be delivered to the packinghouses.
2. Consistent with industry practices, apples must be appropriately processed, inspected, packed, stored and transported, as to guard against re-infestation with live pests and commingling with apples destined for other markets not meeting the export requirements in this protocol.
3. Only mature symptomless fruit, regarding Fire Blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) shall be packed and allowed for export.
4. The apples will be selected, washed and/or brushed, culled and sorted to ensure that the fruits are free of any quarantine pests of concern to South Africa and without soil, sand, and substantially free from leaves and plant debris. There is a maximum average tolerance of two leaves (or equivalent) per box. This tolerance will be calculated by the number of leaves detected in the shipment sample divided by the number of boxes sampled.
5. The packinghouse and storage facility must be clean and maintained free of pests, soil, plant debris and discarded or infested fruit. Consistent with industry practices, packinghouses must be equipped to avoid fruit re-infestation by pests. Precaution will be taken to ensure apples destined for the South African market do not become commingled with those for other markets not meeting the export requirements in this protocol.

6. The apples will be effectively safeguarded from contamination from orchards or other crops in the vicinity during packing, loading and transportation.

7. The packing materials for apples destined for South Africa must be new and clean cardboard boxes/cartons. No packing material of plant origin, such as straw, must be used.

8. For the purpose of this protocol, a 'lot' is defined here as a number of boxes/cartons of apples, identifiable by its homogeneity of composition (refers to apple variety), forming part of a consignment; and a 'consignment' is a quantity of apples being moved from PNW USA to South Africa on one conveyance and covered by a single Phytosanitary Certificate.

9. Apples will be inspected at a rate of 600 fruit per lot containing more than 1000 fruit. The sample will be proportionately drawn from all lots in the consignment. Post-harvest inspection will be according to the following sampling regime examples:

i) If a consignment is comprise of 1000 pieces of Fuji apples and 1000 pieces of Red Delicious apples, Lot 1 will be the Fuji apples and Lot 2 will be the Red Delicious apples;

ii) The Fuji apples in Lot 1 is sourced from 3 different growers- 25% of the apples from growerA, 25% of the apples from grower B, 50% from growerC. The 600 unit sample from Lot 1 (Fuji) will be selected proportionately across the 3 growers, the number of fruit sampled per grower would be as follows.

- grower A - 150 fruit (25% of 600);
- grower B - 150 fruit (25% of 600);
- grower C - 300 fruit (50% of 600).

iii) The Red Delicious apples in Lot 2 is sourced from 5 different growers - 10% grower A, 10% grower B, 15% growerC, 15% grower D, 20% grower E, 30% grower F. The sample will consist of the following.

- grower A - 60 fruit (10% of 600);
- grower B - 60 fruit (10% of 600);
- grower C - 90 fruit (15% of 600);

- grower D - 90 fruit (15% of 600);
- grower E- 120 fruit (20% of 600);
- grower F - 180 fruit (30% of 600).

10. The sampling scheme will be implemented for a 1-year trial period during which time DAFF reserves the right to inspect up to 100% of the shipments and suspend the trial period at any time if pests of quarantine concern are discovered or if other import requirements are not met.

## **ARTICLE 7 LABELING**

1. Each carton (box) of apples will be marked in English to indicate grower lot number and packinghouse name.
2. Each pallet of apples will be marked on one side in English “For the Republic of South Africa”.
3. APHIS will ensure that each carton can be uniquely identified as to grower lot, packinghouse, and the date when the fruit was packed. USDA- APHIS will ensure trace back to the grower in the case of non-compliance.

## **ARTICLE 8 PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

1. An import permit is required in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983).
2. Upon completion of fruit sampling and inspection, a Phytosanitary Certificate will be issued by USDA-APHIS within 14 days prior to shipment. Entry of the consignment into South Africa will be subject to the availability of the original Phytosanitary Certificate. A Phytosanitary Certificate will only be issued for fruit that meets the requirements of this agreement.
3. USDA-APHIS will provide DAFF with a model of their Phytosanitary Certificate for confirmation and record keeping.
4. Each consignment of PNW apples exported to South Africa must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed as follows:

## **I. Additional Declarations:**

1. “The fruit in this consignment have been produced and packed in accordance with the import protocol agreed upon between DAFF and APHIS”.

And:

2. One of the following three additional declarations regarding *Rhagoletis pomonella*:

2.1 For states or provinces free from apple maggot:

“The fruit in this consignment originates in a state of the continental U.S. in which, on the basis of the official annual surveys, the apple maggot does not occur.”

OR

2.2 For counties within PNW which are free from apple maggot:

“The fruit in this consignment was grown in a county which has been surveyed annually in a manner which clearly establishes that the apple maggot does not occur and in addition this fruit was harvested a minimum of 1,6 km from any neighboring county infestations.”

OR

2.3 For commercial orchards free from apple maggot located within infested counties in PNW:

“The fruit in this consignment was harvested from a commercial orchard in the designated apple maggot free zone \_\_\_\_\_ (identification name or number) in the county of \_\_\_\_\_.”

## **II. Distinguishing marks:**

1. The name of the packinghouse, if the packinghouse is situated in a *Rhagoletis pomonella* regulated area<sup>1</sup>, will be included in the distinguishing marks section.

### III. Place of origin:

1. The county and state of production will be specified in the place of origin.

## ARTICLE 9 PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL

- 1) Ports of entry for the import of apple fruit in South Africa from PNW will be the following: seaports: Cape Town and Durban; Airports: O.R. Tambo International Airport and Durban International Airport, and the container depot in City Deep.
- 2) Once a shipment of apples arrives at the designated port of entry, DAFF will examine the relevant documents and markings.
- 3) Any ‘consignment’ with certification that does not conform to specifications and/or if apple fruit originate from unapproved *R. pomonella* free areas, the consignment will not be allowed entry.
- 4) On arrival of the consignment at the port of entry, a representative sample will be drawn and inspected for all listed quarantine pests (annex 1) and suspect fruit will be dissected to determine the status of infestation. If pests are found, samples will be sent for laboratory identification, and the shipment will be detained pending the result of laboratory identification. DAFF shall notify USDA-APHIS of interception immediately.
- 5) If *Erwinia amylovora*, *Monilinia fructicola* or *Neonectria galligena* infestation is detected on arrival, the consignment will be returned or destroyed and DAFF will immediately notify USDA-APHIS.
- 6) If *Rhagoletis pomonella* is detected on arrival, the consignment will be returned, treated or destroyed. DAFF will immediately notify USDA-APHIS by providing USDA- APHIS with a picture of the end panel of the carton. The export of apples from the pest free area (State, county or area within infested area) will be temporarily suspended while an investigation is carried out by USDA-APHIS. DAFF and USDA-APHIS will consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary. Fruit certified for South Africa prior to the date of suspension which are already at sea will remain eligible for export.

7) If live specimens of *Grapholita packardi* and/or *Grapholita prunivora* are detected on arrival, the consignment will be treated, returned or destroyed. DAFF will immediately notify USDA- APHIS by providing USDA- APHIS with a picture of the end panel of the carton. The export of apples from the relevant orchard(s) will be suspended while an investigation is carried out by USDA-APHIS. Fruit certified for South Africa prior to the date of orchard suspension will remain eligible for export.

8) If any of the listed quarantine pests (annex 1) other than those listed in paragraphs 5, 6, and 7 or any other quarantine pest(s) of concern to South Africa is detected, the fruit will be treated, re-exported or destroyed in accordance with relevant South African legislation. DAFF will immediately take the necessary corrective actions and notify USDA-APHIS by providing a picture of the end panel of the carton. DAFF and USDA-APHIS will consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary before commencement of next season.

9) If any pests are detected on apples from PNW that has not been categorized, it will require assessment to determine its quarantine status and if phytosanitary action is required. The detection of any pests of quarantine concern not already identified in the analysis may result in a review of trade to ensure that the existing measures continue to provide the appropriate level of phytosanitary protection for South Africa.

10) An orchard which has one rejection for quarantine pests other than those listed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 above will be permitted to submit further 'lots' for the remainder of the season. However, if a second rejection occurs during the same season, then that orchard will be withdrawn from exporting to South Africa for that season.

11) The importer is responsible for all costs relating to disposal, removal or rerouting, including costs incurred by DAFF to monitor the action taken. The DAFF will immediately advise USDA- APHIS of any pest interceptions and other instances of non-compliance with any condition stipulated in this protocol.

## **ARTICLE 10 VISIT BY DAFF**

1. As part of initial market access, DAFF will send two quarantine experts to the relevant apple producing areas in PNW to review the



quarantine status in cooperation with USDA-APHIS.

2. USDA-APHIS will maintain a list of participating packinghouses and submit a list of the *Rhagoletis pomonella* free areas which are considered free on the basis of official annual surveys before the initiation of the export program. In future, if the list is amended, USDA-APHIS will provide DAFF with an updated list before exports commence.
3. Based on the official documents and technical information provided by USDA-APHIS and the report of the South African experts, DAFF will approve initiation of this program.
4. After program initiation, when necessary and agreed by both sides (i.e. in light of any significant changes in pest status and/or detections or quarantine pests on arrival), DAFF may send quarantine officials to PNW to conduct on-site inspections.
5. The expenses for the above-mentioned visit in this article will be paid by the USA.

## **ARTICLE 11 IMPLEMENTATION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT**

1. USDA-APHIS and DAFF agree to make every effort to settle any dispute arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Protocol through bilateral consultation or negotiation.
2. This agreement is subject to review, revision, and amendment as necessary.

## **ANNEX 1: Quarantine pests of concern to South Africa**

1. *Alternaria mali*
2. *Anthonomus quadrigibbus*
3. *Argyrotaenia citrana*
4. *Choristoneura rosaceana*
5. *Conotrachelus nenuphar*
6. *Dasineura mali*
7. *Diaspidiotus ostreaeformis*
8. *Erwinia amylovora*
9. *Grapholita packardi*
10. *Grapholita prunivora*
11. *Monilinia fructicola*
12. *Neonectria galligena*
13. *Phyllosticta solitaria*
14. *Platynota idaeusalis*
15. *Pseudococcus maritimus*
16. *Rhagoletis pomonella*
17. *Spilonota ocellana*
18. *Taeniothrips inconsequens*
19. *Tetranychus mcdanieli*