

WORKPLAN FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FRESH CITRUS FRUITS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA INTO THE PHILIPPINES

I. VARIETIES FOR EXPORT TO THE PHILIPPINES

Sweet Orange *Citrus sinensis* L.,
Grapefruit *Citrus paradisi* Macf.,
Lemons *Citrus limon* L., and
Mandarins
Citrus reticulata Blanco,
Citrus unshu Marcow,
Citrus nobilis Lour,
Citrus deliciosa Tenore

II. QUARANTINE PESTS OF CONCERN

Insect Pests

Aspidiotus nerii (Bouche)
Ceratitis capitata (Wiedemann)
Ceratitis quinaria (Bezzi)
Ceratitis rosa (Karsch)
Ectomyelois ceratoniae (Zeller)
Pantomorus cervinus (Boheman)
Paracoccus burnerae (Brain)
Thaumatotibia leucotreta (Meyrick)

Pathogens

Alternaria citri (Ellis & N. Pierce)
Geotrichum candidum var. *citri-aurantii* (Ferraris) Sacc. & Sydow
Penicillium ulaiense H.M. Hsieh, H.J. Su & Tzean (1987)
Pleospora herbarum (Fr.) Rabenh.
Stomiopeltis citri (Bitanc.)

III. PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Philippines' Bureau of Plant Industry-National Plant Quarantine Service Division (Herein referred to as BPI-NPQSD)
2. The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (Herein referred to as DALRRD)

3. The National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa (Herein referred to as NAPPOZA)
4. The Perishable Product Export Control Board (Herein referred to as PPECB)
5. The Industry (Industry associations, packers, treatment facilities, post-treatment storage facilities, importers, exporters, transporters and growers)

IV. BPI-NPQSD REGULATIONS FOR THE ENTRY OF PLANT PRODUCTS

1. Presidential Decree No. 1433 also known as the 'Plant Quarantine Law of 1978' and BPI Quarantine Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 1981, the governing law in preventing the entry of foreign pests and preventing further spread of introduced pests in areas where it is not known to exist.
2. Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and Phytosanitary Requirements for the Importation of Fresh Citrus Fruits from the Republic of South Africa

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. DALRRD

1. Abide by the Agreement and its amendments.
2. Provide a coordinator to handle the export program.
3. Register operators involved in all activities from production to export (production units, packinghouses, storage facilities and exporters) and provide the list to BPI-NPQSD before commencement of export.
4. Field inspection of all orchards intended for export to the Philippines during the growing season to ensure their compliance with the required practices to maintain freedom from citrus quarantine pest of concern
5. Monitor production units with regard to its compliance with Article VI.2 of this Agreement
6. Coordinate with PPECB in the conduct of in-transit cold treatment
7. Reject consignments detected with quarantine pests of concern to the Philippines during pre-export inspection
8. Conduct phytosanitary inspections, on-site inspection of all orchards, packing houses, cold storage and inspection points, identification of citrus pests and maintenance of all program records/data.

B. BPI/NPQSD

1. Provide and maintain a Work Plan for the Program.
2. Verify that the responsibilities of all participants are properly carried out.
3. Conduct phytosanitary inspections with DALRRD inspectors during the initial phase of the export program and ensure that all phytosanitary requirements/conditions stated herein are complied.
4. Verify the results and occurrence/non-occurrence of the quarantine pests in the places of production by conducting random field visits during the pre-export inspection.

5. Modify import requirements as situation warrants. Additional phytosanitary measures may be required and existing measures may be revised upon agreement between the DALRRD and BPI-NPQSD.

C. PPECB

Responsible for fruit quality inspections and cold chain management

D. INDUSTRY (Industry associations, packers, treatment facilities, post-treatment storage facilities, importers, exporters, growers and transporters)

1. Comply with all the requirements of the work plan and applicable regulations.
2. Provide all program participants the necessary information and documentation of the work plan requirements.
3. Implement treatment schedule as specified in the work plan
4. Ensure that only DALRRD-approved cold rooms are eligible for use in any activity relevant to the export program,
5. Implement appropriate measures to protect the commodity from hitchhiking pest after treatment and until loaded into a clean conveyance.
6. Verify that conveyances to be used for shipments are clean and free of any plant debris.

VI. PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FRESH CITRUS FRUITS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

1. REQUIREMENTS FOR ORCHARDS

- a. All production units (orchards/farms) in designated production areas involved in the export of citrus fruit to the Philippines must be registered with and monitored by DALRRD to ensure that fruit is produced free of quarantine pests. Copies of the registration records must be made available to BPI upon request. Registration must be done prior to the commencement of exports.
- b. Growers of registered production units must implement Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) which will include orchard sanitation, implementation of integrated pest management or other pest control measures to ensure that the Philippine's identified quarantine pests of citrus are adequately managed. DALRRD should conduct verification of the practices to ensure that the registered production units are compliant with the requirements.
- c. DALRRD must provide the list of registered export orchards to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) one month before export commences.

2. MONITORING AND FRESH FRUIT INSPECTION FOR FRUIT FLIES AND FALSE CODLING MOTH

- a. Registered production units must implement regular trap monitoring for fruit flies

(*Ceratitis capitata*, *C. rosa*,) and false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) and must keep records of its monitoring which should be made available upon request by DALRRD and BPI.

- b. In orchards where fruit fly and false codling moth catches exceed the threshold level and pest control measures were not implemented according to the citrus production guidelines, the DALRRD will not approve the orchard to export fresh citrus fruits to the Philippines for the export season.
- c. Detection of fruit flies (*Ceratitis capitata*, *C. rosa*,) and false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) by the DALRRD during the pre-export quarantine inspection will result in the rejection of the consignment and the fruit in the consignment will not be allowed to be exported to the Philippines.
- d. DALRR inspectors must check the presence of false codling moth at the export orchards or packing houses and must keep record of fresh fruit inspection which should be made available upon request by the BPI

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKINGHOUSES

- a. All packinghouses involved in the export of citrus fruits to the Philippines must be registered with and monitored by DALRRD. DALRRD must provide the list of registered packinghouses to the BPI one month before export commences.
- b. Packinghouses are required to source fruit only from DALRRD registered commercial orchards in designated production areas to facilitate trace back of export fruit. Records of growers supplying fruit for export to the Philippines must be maintained by packinghouses and made available to BPI upon request.
- c. Fresh citrus fruits shall be subjected to the recommended packing house /post-harvest procedures and should be done only in DALRRD -accredited/registered packing houses.
- d. Packing houses shall be kept clean and free from pests, plant parts/debris and shall ensure that fruits will not be mixed with other fruits destined to other countries.

4. PACKING AND LABELING

- a. The sorting must follow the commercial packing processes which include water cleansing in order to eliminate pests and contaminants attached on fruit surface
- b. Fresh citrus fruits shall be free from quarantine pests.
- c. Fresh fruits for export to the Philippines must be separated from fresh citrus fruits produced by non-export orchards or from any other fresh fruits during sorting.
- d. Fruits shall be packed in new cartons/boxes. Boxes must be free from foreign materials such as soil, sand and contaminating plant materials like leaves, stem, plant debris or other potential carriers of quarantine pests. Packed fruits shall be transferred immediately in approved warehouses and stored properly to avoid pest reinfestation/reinfection.

- e. All boxes should be properly labeled with packing house identity, source of the commodity (orchards and production units). The label is to be placed on conspicuous area of the box.
- f. Fresh citrus fruits shall comply with the required CODEX or Republic of South Africa (RSA) Standard for Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)
- g. The DALRRD shall verify that all wood packing materials comply with ISPM # 15.

5. TRACEBACK MECHANISM

Shippers shall have a traceback system (assigning of unique numbers) that will allow shipments to be traced back to the grower, as necessary. This number must be shown on all shipping units (carton boxes)

6. EXPORT INSPECTION

- a. Pre -export quarantine inspection shall be conducted by the DALRRD to ensure freedom from all the Philippines' quarantine pests of concern, particularly, *Ceratitidis capitata*, *C. rosa* and *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*. In case of interception of these species during the export inspection, DALRRD will reject the consignment and shall ensure that the fruit will not be allowed to be exported to the Philippines.
- b. All conveyances with fresh fruit shipments (bulk reefers and /or containers) will be sealed at the point of inspection by the DALRRD official or authorized representative and the seal number will be noted on the Phytosanitary Certificate.

7. IN-TRANSIT COLD TREATMENT

- a. Containers to be used for the in-transit cold treatment must have a recording device and refrigerated equipment capable of achieving and holding the required temperatures.
- b. The temperature recording system of the container must be capable of producing a printout which identifies each sensor, time, temperature and the identification number of the recorder and container.
- c. At least three temperature sensors shall be used to monitor the innermost fruit pulp temperature in a container and two temperature sensors shall be used to monitor air temperature inside the container.
- d. All sensors must be calibrated prior to every in-transit cold treatment shipment. The result of the calibration must be attached to the Phytosanitary Certificate.

- e. The three fruit temperature sensors must be inserted into the center of the test fruits which should be the biggest fruit in the lot. Consignments shall be rejected if the tips of the sensors extend beyond the fruit and fruits opened due to sensor insertion.
- f. The fruit temperature sensors must be placed at the front, middle and end of the container at the second level from the top of each pallet or stack.
- g. Fresh citrus fruits shall be subjected to an in-transit cold treatment which will require a 3-day pre-cooling period in South Africa and a 22-day in-transit cold treatment period.
- h. The 22-day cold treatment will commence when all the fruit sensor readings reach -0.55°C . The temperature should be maintained at or below -0.3°C . If the temperature readings exceed -0.3°C , treatment shall be extended by 8 hours for each day or part of the day the temperature is above -0.3°C . If the temperature exceeds 1.1°C at anytime, the treatment is nullified.
- i. The infested fruits together with other plant materials such as leaves, stems and soil shall be removed from the consignment prior to the cold treatment procedure.

8. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

- a. The phytosanitary inspections will be conducted by the DALRRD and phytosanitary certificates shall be issued by DALRRD authorized officials. The designated port of entry in the Philippines shall only be in the Port of Manila.
- b. Two percent (2%) of the total number of packages per consignment will be randomly sampled and inspected for quarantine pests of concern to the Philippines
- c. Each Phytosanitary Certificate will bear the additional declaration that:
"Fresh citrus fruits are exported in compliance with the conditions stated in the bilateral agreement. These have been inspected by the DALRRD and are found to be free from quarantine pests of concern to the Philippines."
"Fresh fruits have been cold treated at -0.55°C (31°F) for 22 consecutive days"
- d. PPECB in-transit cold treatment Certificate number shall be stated in the accompanying Phytosanitary Certificate

9. PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTION

Philippine Plant Quarantine Officers (PQOs) shall be sent to South Africa during the first shipment or anytime during the first export season to confirm compliance with the quarantine conditions and verify pre shipment activities. All cost incident to such visit shall be borne by the South African government.

10. IMPORT INSPECTION

- a. Upon arrival of consignment at the port of entry, the Plant Quarantine Officer (PQO) shall verify the authenticity of the accompanying documents (SPS Import Clearance and Phytosanitary Certificate) and check whether the markings of the packed carton include the required information such as registration number (or name) of the production unit and the packing house; and the packed cartons or pallets are sealed appropriately. In

- case of non-compliance, the consignment shall be destroyed, re-exported or returned to origin.
- b. Consignments found to be compliant with the required documentation shall be subject to import inspection. A sample size of 5 % of the consignment shall be inspected by the Plant Quarantine Inspector for quarantine pests at the port of entry. The inspection shall include the packaging material used for citrus fruits shipments.
 - c. If pests are observed during the visual inspection, samples shall be obtained and brought to the laboratory for further analysis. Consignment shall not be released while the test is being done.
 - d. In case a live quarantine pest such as *Ceratitis capitata*, *C. rosa* and *T. leucotreta* are intercepted during the import inspection, consignment shall be destroyed or returned and importation of fresh fruits will be suspended pending the result of DALRRD investigation. Resumption of the export program may take place upon successful implementation of identified corrective actions.
 - e. Consignments found to be infested /infected by other quarantine pests identified in the PRA, shall be treated (if possible), re- exported (at the importer's expense) or destroyed in accordance with the Philippines' PD 1433. The BPI-NPQS will notify the DALRRD of the non-compliance and, depending on the circumstances, may temporarily suspend importation from that lot, farm, or province. The DALRRD shall immediately investigate the cause of such incidence and propose corrective actions. Suspension of farm (production unit) will be lifted only when the cause of non-compliance has been clarified and corrective actions have been implemented to the satisfaction of BPI-NPQS.
 - f. The BPI reserves the right to suspend the export program and shall conduct an audit of South Africa's citrus management systems in case of continuous interception of quarantine pests and non-compliance of the requirements. The program will resume if BPI is satisfied with the corrective actions undertaken.
 - g. In the event that an uncategorized/unknown pest is detected on fresh citrus fruits during import inspection, remedial actions will be taken based on PRA and consultation between the RSA and the Philippines.
 - h. To ensure safety for human consumption of the imported plant food, pesticide residue analysis and other tests which may be required, shall be done by the Plant Product Safety Services Division of BPI. The tests are to be done for the entire duration of export program. If the residue level is not within the standard set for pesticide residue levels in fruits, the shipment shall be rejected

VII. NON - COMPLIANCE AND RESULTING ACTIONS

Cases of non-compliance, violation of any of the terms and conditions of this work plan, quarantine pests interceptions at the port of entry and/or a pest outbreak in origin shall be considered as valid reasons to suspend, reexamine the implementation of the procedures or amend

them following the terms stated in this work plan relative to the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

VIII. AUDIT OF EXPORT PROCEDURES

In the event of continuous interceptions of quarantine pests or non-compliance with these requirements, or in the event that a problem or situation of mutual concern is identified, the BPI-NPQSD will conduct audit of South Africa's export program including the phytosanitary measures implemented to ensure that the processing system is within the standards. Audit will be done to review export processes and operations through consultation with DALRRD and the Industry. Costs of audit including per diem allowance will be provided by the South African side.

IX. EFFECTIVITY

This work plan will come into effect at the date of signing and will be valid until terminated in writing by either party. Termination of the work plan will be effective three months after the receipt of notification.

X. MODIFICATONS

Procedures outlined herein are subject to revision as situation warrant; however, they will remain in effect until revised.

Signed on the 20 day of 07 2020.

For the Republic of South Africa



Director

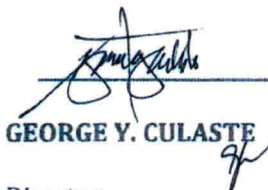
For the Department of Agriculture

Land Reform and Rural Development

(DALRRD)

Republic of South Africa

For the Philippines



GEORGE Y. CULASTE

Director

For the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI)

Department of Agriculture (DA)

Republic of the Philippines