PACK HOUSE WORKSHOP MANUAL

Objectives
- To standardize and harmonize Pack House Risk Management Systems (RMS) that are related to citrus that is intended for export from South Africa to the EU member countries and other special markets.
- To ensure that all pack house managers are knowledgeable in the application of the EU RMS as well as phytosanitary measures of other special markets.
- To address challenges that experienced during the previous citrus export season.

Who must attend?
All pack house managers and their assistants that operate pack houses that are registered with the DAFF Directorate Plant Health (DPH) to pack citrus that is intended for export to the EU member countries as well as all other special markets. It is the responsibility of each pack house to ensure that Directorate Inspection Services (DIS) has updated details of the active pack house manager.

Reference documents:
CBS RMS
One pager
EU directive
CRI guidelines
ISPM 15
Pack House Responsibilities as per the RMS

1. All pack houses that pack export fruit should be registered with DPH.

2. Only pack house managers that have been trained on the CBS RMS shall manage pack houses.

3. Pack houses shall facilitate withdrawal of any orchard where fruit with the CBS symptoms is identified. No tolerance should be allowed for CBS, one fruit with the CBS symptom disqualifies the orchard. Code 6 may be used to pack intercepted orchards to less stringent markets. It is the responsibility of the pack house manager to notify DAFF, Exporters and agents of the orchard withdrawal.

4. Only A15C supervents cartons, T64 cartons, open display cartons, IFCO plastic crates and bulk bins shall be used to pack and export fruit destined to all non code 8 markets.

5. Orchard numbers are compulsory on all cartons of consignments that are not implicated with CBS and should not be part of the date code.

6. It is the responsibility of the pack house/ grower to inform exporters of the CBS hit that occurs inland.

7. Consignment notes and marking of pallets of any rejected lot for CBS during inspection, but still within the relevant quality standard tolerance allowed, must comply as follows to ensure that these pallets are re-directed to less CBS stringent markets and CBS non-sensitive markets:
   • A new consignment note with new pallet identification numbers must be generated.
   • The consignment note must be completed using country code followed by “code 6” if it will be exported to less CBS stringent markets) OR country code followed by “code 8” if it will be exported to non CBS sensitive markets provided:
     ✔ Pallets must be marked on all four sides with the new target market code, containing the number “6” or “8”, as applicable, in the second digit position of the code. The usage of code 6 or 8 on pallets and consignment should be restricted to only consignment from which CBS symptomatic fruits were found. Thus all orchards which consignment or lots coded 8 or 6 shall not export to the EC member countries.

   • Regulatory inspections will allocate a CBS hit on any cartons that have been marked with a “code 8” if:
     ✔ A CBS symptomatic fruit is intercepted in the consignment
     ✔ The orchard has not been officially withdrawn as per Point 1.3 of the CBS RMS.
• All cartons for other markets other than EC member states that are non-coded should have orchard numbers; The superimposed stickers on cartons will not be allowed for EC member countries and all other special markets
• Punitive measures will be instituted against pack houses that compromise the CBS risk management system

**Challenges that need to be addressed by Pack houses in 2014**

1. **Orchards that shall be allowed to pack for the EU**
   • Consult the DAFF updated EU PUC registration list to confirm the relevant PUC and orchard have been registered for export to the EU market.
   • Pack houses shall request DAFF orchard inspection reports from the producer for each orchard prior to packing to ensure that only the approved orchards are packed for the EU (except for degreened fruit).
   • No fruit shall be packed for EU from orchards that have received CBS interceptions for the in progress current season.
   • Alert, black and withdrawn lists must be consulted prior to packing and orchards/PUC (depending on the hit system) that appear on these lists shall not be packed for the EU.
   • PUCs indicating “pending” on the DAFF phytosanitary registration list as of the 30 March 2014 shall not be allowed to pack for the EU. Those that indicate “false” on the DAFF registration list shall not be packed for destination to EU member countries.

2. **Overlapping of fruits from different orchards during packing**
   • Due care shall be taken to ensure that fruits from different orchards are not mixed up when changing the orchards being packed on the lines.
   • Pack house managers shall ensure that a system is in place of ensuring that the packing lines are cleared from the packing PUC prior to the next PUC entering the lines.
   • The above shall be verified by the PPECB at all times and by the DAFF during audit visits.

3. **CBS interclosures**
- “There is no tolerance for CBS on citrus destined to the EU in the pack house”. An interception of one or more lesions on one or more fruit qualifies as an interception.

- An interception by either DAFF or PPECB shall qualify as a “hit”.

4. Voluntary withdrawal

- If the interception is done by the pack house, the orchard shall be immediately withdrawn from the EU channel and DAFF to be informed and notified about the withdrawal which will not qualify as a “hit”. All fruit that has been packed but not yet issued with a phytosanitary certificate shall be recalled from being exported to the EU member countries.

- The pack house shall withdraw the orchard/ PUC if CBS is found at any point in the pack house or if the CBS risk is suspected.

- Voluntarily withdrawn orchards/ PUCs shall not be assigned a hit by the DAFF.

- PUCs/ Orchards that are voluntarily withdrawn will remain withdrawn for the rest of the citrus export season.

- Withdrawal cannot take place after an official CBS interception by either DAFF or PPECB.

5. Communication

- It is the responsibility of the pack house manager to inform the producer of the CBS status of the orchard being packed e.g. Interceptions by regulators, or holdovers that have been sent to the lab.

- It is the responsibility of the pack house manager to inform the exporters of any changed CBS status for recall purposes on all fruits that have not received phytosanitary certificates.

- It is the responsibility of the pack house manager to inform the DAFF and PPECB of any change of the CBS status post the orchard inspections, once such a change is detected in the pack house, and initiate the withdrawal procedure.

6. Traceability link from orchard to documents

- All non code 8 markets must be packed in prescribed cartons as per the RMS.
• Citrus that is being exported to non CBS sensitive markets without official withdrawal with the DAFF from exports to CBS-sensitive markets is liable to CBS inspections by both DAFF and PPECB, and if CBS is intercepted in those, it shall be recorded as a hit.

• All non Code 8 cartons must have orchard numbers (not as part of any code) indicated as block/orchard.

• No superimposing of sticker is allowed for any special markets including EU.

7. **Supporting documents**

• All PUCS and orchards that exist within a pallet should be visible on the consignment documents.

• All documents of EU destined fruits shall have the Target market “EU” or “EUR” as the code.

• Orchard numbers shall be stated compulsory on the consignment notes.

8. **ISPM 15**

• Pack house managers shall ensure that only wood packing materials (including pallets) that are manufactured by the DAFF registered manufacturers/suppliers.

9. **Cooling protocol**

• EU destined fruits should undergo cooling as soon as possible after PPECB’s pack house inspection (for pack houses with cold rooms).

• Transport and container logistics should be planned in such a way that they should not delay the cooling period as required for fruit destined to EU member countries.