Module 34
Inspections – DAFF

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Introduction

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are the governing body that legislates and implement all laws regarding the production and export off all agricultural products in South Africa.

The Department has the power to assign certain tasks to independent agencies, such as the PPECB, who are the assignee of DAFF for conducting inspections on product quality of fresh produce destined for overseas markets.

Inspections concerning phytosanitary requirements that products and producers must adhere to, is performed by the Department’s own inspectors.

In order to become an approved producer of export produce, a grower must obtain a Production Unit Code, or PUC. This code is issued by the Department of Agriculture and is only issued after a physical inspection of the farm and a look at the chemicals used for pest control.

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

South Africa is a signatory member of the International Plant Protection Convention. One of the requirements of the International Plant Protection is that contracting parties must adhere to importing countries phytosanitary requirements and that any consignments of citrus fruit to be exported must be certified free of quarantine pests and diseases.

The Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries is the national plant protection organisation in South Africa, and therefore we ascertain the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country therefore inspections will be conducted to ensure fruit is free from pest and diseases.
Inspections

Orchard Inspections

After registration the Department of Agriculture and Forestry inspectors will conduct orchard inspections and ensure compliance according to each market’s protocols and requirements.

After orchards have been approved by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries inspection services, the fruit can be harvested.

Packhouse Inspections

At the packhouse our assignees the PPECB conducts quality inspections and also makes sure the packaging, the cartons complies with marking requirements.

Once the consignment has been approved by PPECB at the packhouses and meets the marking requirements and the quality requirements, the consignment is transported to the final point of discharge.

Phytosanitary Inspections

Thereafter the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries’ APIS inspectors conducts phytosanitary inspections.

The first step in phytosanitary inspections involves the evaluation of documents, to see that the consignment correlates with the documents.

If the documentation is in order, a random representative sample would be drawn at the inspection point and inspected by APIS inspectors to look for pests and diseases, according to the import requirements of the importing country.

Some markets require that it is stated on the phytosanitary certificate that the fruit should be disinfected, and the mitigation option is cold treatment. The fruit is therefore pre-cooled for a certain period and thereafter loaded into reefer ships and containers with the required temperature.
After the consignment has been approved, a phytosanitary certificate is issued confirming the South African exporter has met the phytosanitary import requirements of the importing country and the phytosanitary certificate must accompany the consignment.

**APIS**

APIS stands for Agricultural Products Inspection Services. This is a directorate of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

**Summary**

In order to obtain a phytosanitary certificate to export citrus fruit, a producer must be able to show that the chemicals used for pre-harvest pest control and in the packhouse are in line with regulations stipulated by the importing country.

The Department of Agriculture will use their APIS, or Agricultural Product Inspection Service, inspectors to inspect the fruit to ensure that it is pest and disease free, and adhere to other phytosanitary requirements that the importing country might have. All phytosanitary requirements that a producer need to adhere to can be found on the DAFF website.

**active learning**

*Watch the DVD clips, read through the learning material and do workplace research to gather the knowledge and information to complete the assignments below.*

**Activity 34.1 – Flowchart**

Draw a flowchart that shows the process a new producer must follow before he will be allowed to export fruit.

**Activity 34.2 – Workplace Research**

Do research and interview managers in your workplace to find out what inspections are conducted on the citrus that is exported to one of your major markets. Write a 1-page report on these inspections, stating who is responsible for conducting them, where they are done, what the inspectors look for, and what documents are issued if the inspection is successful.
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