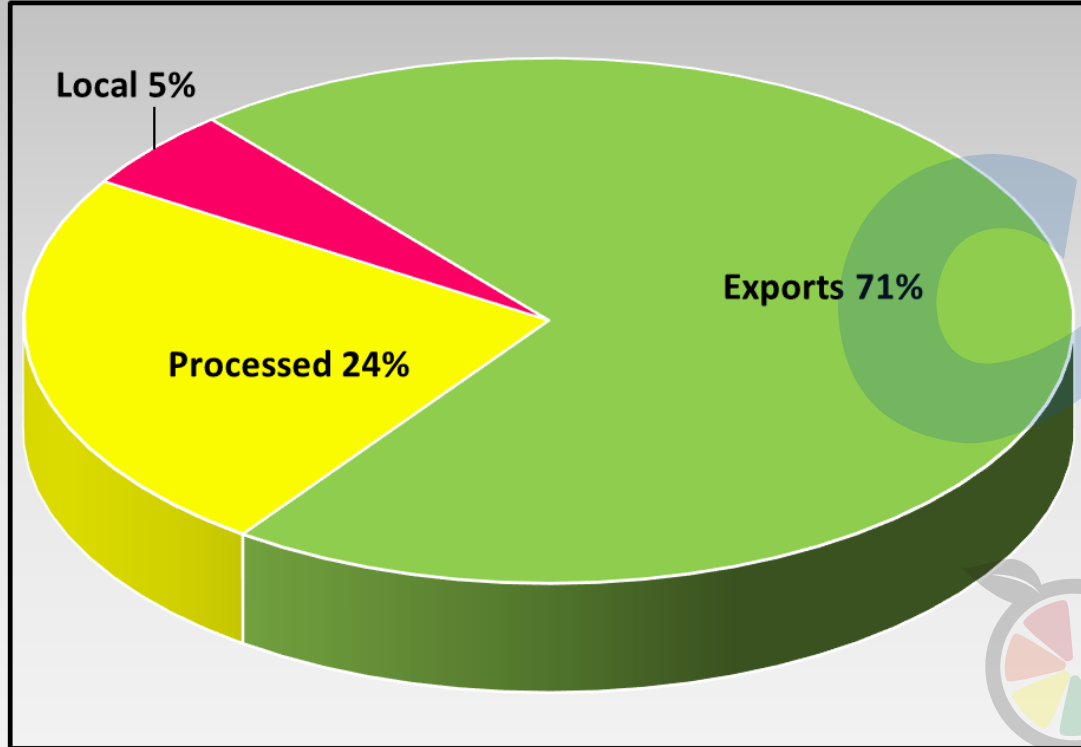


Reducing Rejections: The Packhouse's Responsibility in Meeting Market Requirements

Elma Carstens

Introduction

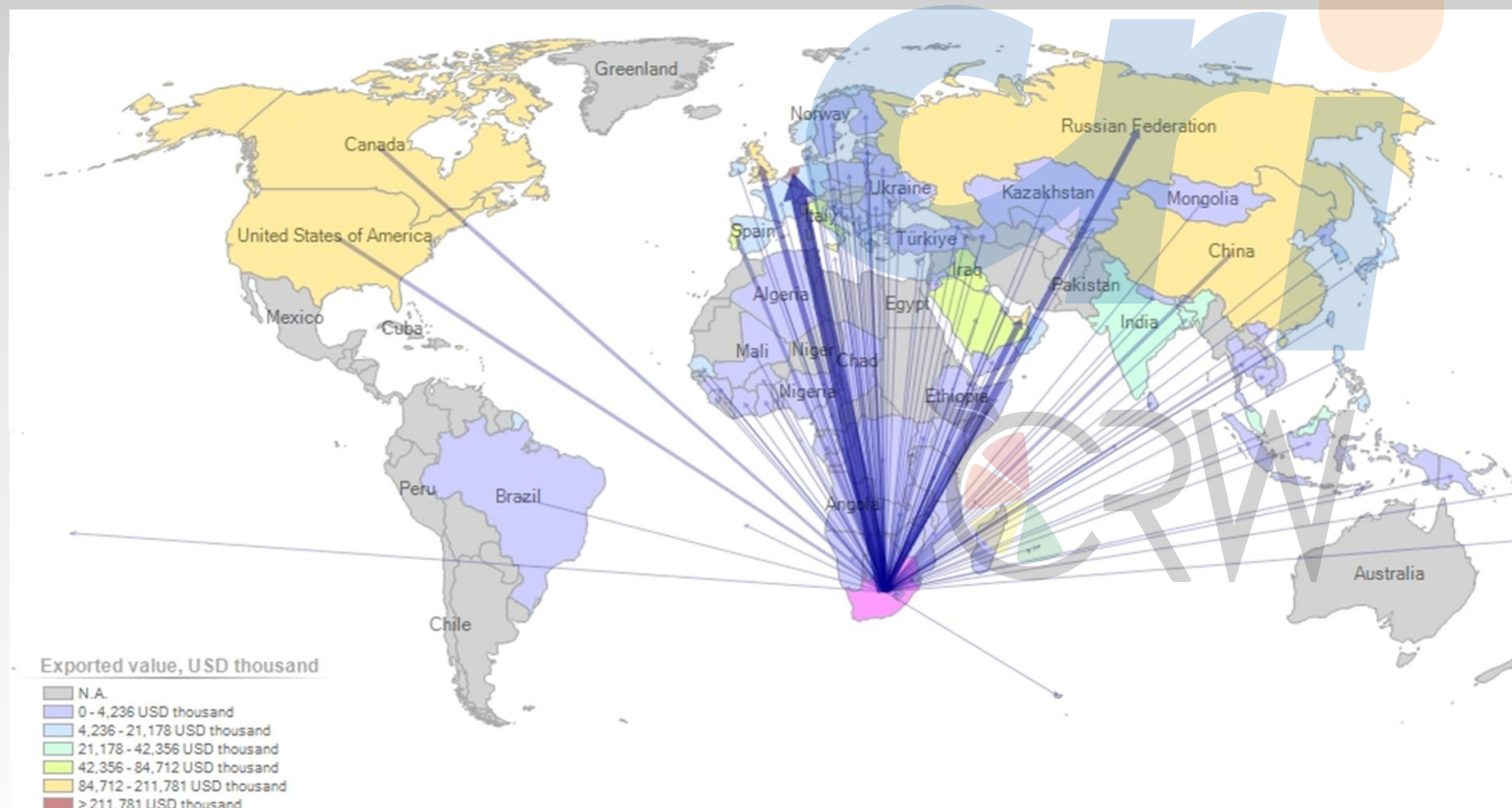


**International
Plant Protection
Convention**

- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) provides the global framework for plant health

Introduction

- Currently SA exports fresh citrus fruit to **119 countries** - specific requirements (import conditions) must be met



119 Countries



ISPM 15

Compliance with ISPM 15 is mandatory for all pallets and dunnage destined for export to all markets

All markings must be permanently (correct treatment symbol) and clearly visible

The date code (date of treatment) must be on the pallet base

No Bark and no infestation on the pallet base

In 2025 pallets were rejected for:

- Illegal markings
- Incomplete ISPM 15 stamps
- Presence of bark
- Use of pallets from manufacturers that are not registered and approved by DoA



Carton markings

ALL MARKETS:

Superimposing of labels on cartons are not be allowed

Only clean and new cartons are allowed

PUC, PHC, Orchard number as registered with DoA

Japan cartons and cartons with labels of other markets - China, Japan, Vietnam & Taiwan



CHINA: Requirements



- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False Codling moth
- *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* - Carob moth
- *Pantomorus cervina* - Fuller's Rose beetle
- *Paracoccus burnerae* - Oleander mealybug

Correct carton label - “Exported to the People’s Republic of China”. The label can be in English or Chinese.

“输往中华人民共和国” (Exported to the People’s Republic of China)

Storage facility (port terminal facility) code as registered with the DoA

More than **9000 cartons** rejected in 2025 for wrong carton markings

Consignments - No mixed PUCs on a pallet are allowed - all pallets to be homogenous (1PUC/pallet)



South Korea: Requirements



- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- Any mealybug other than *Planococcus citri*
- *Lepidodaphes beckii* - Mussel scale



Online graders and sorters must be alerted & trained to look for mealy bug infested fruit, any signs of sooty mould and mussel scale infected fruit. Any infested fruit must be removed. Graders and sorters must immediately report findings to the packhouse managers. It is recommended that orchards where mealybugs and mussel scale are found during sorting and grading are withdrawn from this market.

PPECB will inspect with a zero tolerance for live quarantine mealybugs and mussel scales

South Korea: Requirements



All mealybugs intercepted at the port must be submitted to the laboratory for identification

The consignment will be put on hold by DoA pending the result. The exporter can decide to divert the fruit if they cannot wait for the laboratory result

Samples must be submitted to the DoA diagnostic lab in Stellenbosch or Citrus Research International's Laboratory in Nelspruit

Consignments will only be rejected in cases where live actionable mealybugs are found

Consignments - three (3) pallets must be homogenous; 2 pallets can be mixed with a maximum of 2 PUCs per consignment

Japan: Requirements



- *Bactrocera dorsalis* - Oriental fruit fly
- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False codling moth (FCM)
- *Phyllosticta citricarpa* - Citrus Black spot (CBS)
- Scales Insects - Red, Purple and Mussel scale
- Mealybugs

The acronym “S.A.P.Q.” and Japan in Japanese characters must be stamped / printed on each box. No stickers are allowed



Requirements: Thailand

- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False codling moth
- *Asynonyhus cervinus* - Fuller's rose weevil
- *Paracoccus burnerae* - Oleander mealybug
- *Pseudococcus longispinus* - Long tailed mealybug
- *Tortrix capensana* - Pear leaf roller
- *Scirtothrips aurantii* - Citrus thrips



The following information must be on the business end of each carton:

- Product or produce of South Africa
- Name of exporting company
- Name of fruit (common name): for example, SWEET ORANGES or MANDARIN ORANGES or LEMONS or GRAPEFRUIT

Requirements: Thailand



Very important: No information about the cultivar should be included on the label

The common names and abbreviations should be as follows:

Name of fruit (common name)	Associated code
Sweet Oranges	SW
Mandarin Oranges	MO
Lemons	LE
Grapefruit	GF

No mixed commodities/ species may be loaded in one container e.g. grapefruit and sweet oranges are not allowed in one container

Consignments - 5 pallets with maximum 3 PUCs per consignment; 3 pallets must be homogenous (1PUC per pallet) and 2 pallets may (if needed) be mixed with the 3 PUCs

Philippines: Requirements

- *Aspidiotus nerii* - Oleander scale
- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- *Ectomyelois ceratoniae* - Carob moth
- *Pantomorus cervina* - Fuller's rose weevil
- *Paracoccus burnerae* – Oleander mealybug
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False codling moth



No mixed PUCs on a pallet are allowed - 1PUC/pallet. Orchards from the same PUC may be mixed within a pallet

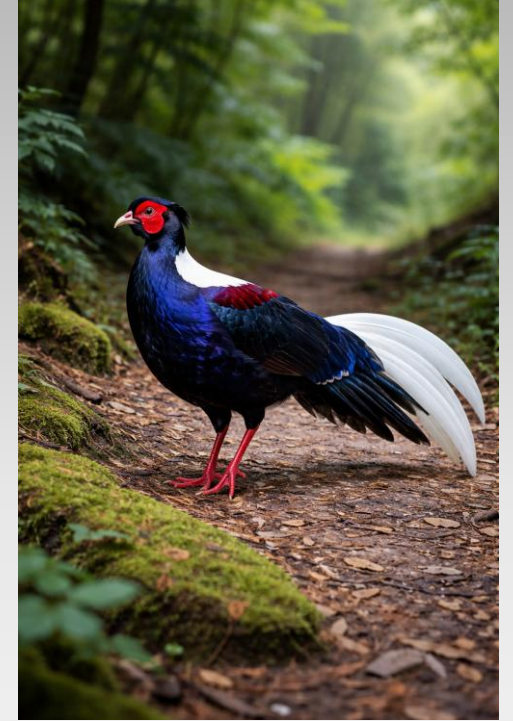
Taiwan: Requirements



- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- *Frankliniella occidentalis* - Western flower thrips

Correct carton label – “To Taiwan, Republic of China”

No DoA inspection in the port – only PPECB inspection in the packhouse



Vietnam: Requirements

- *Ceratitis capitata* - Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly)
- *Ceratitis rosa* - Natal fruit fly
- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False codling moth
- *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* van Hall
- *Aspidiotus nerii* Bouché

Sticker displaying the following word in English - “For Vietnam”

Current market status: oranges only



EU: Requirements

Consignments will be rejected by PPECB in the packhouse if any of these pests are found during inspections

- *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* - False codling moth (FCM)
- *Phyllosticta citricarpa* - Citrus Black spot (CBS)
- *Elsinoë fawcetti* - Citrus scab
- Fruit flies



**FCM = 2
interceptions**



**CBS = 16
interceptions**

EU: Requirements - CBS



COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2022/632
of 13 April 2022

setting out temporary measures in respect of specified fruits originating in
Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Uruguay and Zimbabwe to prevent the
introduction into, and the spread within, the Union territory of the pest
Phyllosticta citricarpa (McAlpine) Van der Aa

**These temporary measures have been extended, with no changes,
until 31 March 2028.**



No changes to the CBS requirements for the 2026 export season

EU Regulations - FCM and Fruit Flies



No changes to the FMS for the 2026 export season

No changes to the FFMS for the 2026 export season



DoA CITRUS e-Verification



Key Dates:

- **06 Feb 2026:** Closing date for e- Verification upload and submission of required documents
- **26 Jan - 20 Feb 2026:** Treatment compliance verification continues as scheduled

BELOW ARE CONTACT DETAILS FOR REGIONAL COORDINATORS PER REGION:

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TAKE HOME MESSAGE



The packhouse is the **last control point** before export

One interception of a pest can affect an **entire** consignment / orchard / PUC or industry

Carton markings ensures **traceability** - a small marking error can have a big impact

Inspectors rely on packhouse **cooperation and honesty**

Compliance **protect** market access and the reputation of the PUC, packhouse and industry

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Compliance in the packhouse is not an obstacle to export - it is the reason why exports are possible

