

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (48/20)

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Justin Chadwick 27 November 2020



"I've been clear that Brexit means Brexit." Theresa May

BREXIT

As the date of the official implementation of Brexit approaches - the 1st January 2021 – the “rubber is about to hit the road”. After much negotiation and discussion, the reality of Brexit for the United Kingdom (UK), the European Union (EU) and non-EU countries is becoming more clear. South African citrus growers and exporters will have to be watchful and adapt quickly as policy decisions translate in to actual on-the-ground practice. Going into 2021 here are few trade-related considerations that SA citrus growers and exporters should be mindful of:

UK-EU Trade: The extent of EU-UK trade is significant (Freshfel estimate 3.2 million tons of fruit annually). Handling the administration around this trade is likely to be the main focus for UK regulatory bodies in 2021. SA may be swept up in the operational changes the UK needs to make to cope with EU trade. **UK-SA Trade:** SA-UK trade agreements are already in existence (SACUM-UK EPA), so no changes are expected for SA products entering the UK initially.

Phytosanitary requirements: Any perceptions that it will be easier accessing the UK market from January 2021 need to be reconsidered. Essentially phytosanitary requirements will remain as they are for the EU for the foreseeable future.

Phytosanitary certification: Currently the UK has no system in place to accept electronic phytosanitary certificates (eCert documentation), instead depending entirely on paper-based phytosanitary documentation.

Options to connect to existing electronic systems are being considered by the UK. Increased administration to handle EU product could put pressure on UK inspection bodies, but they will be phasing in a risk-based mythology over the course of the year to determine which product/countries to target and to calculate corresponding inspection frequency.

Import notifications: The UK has indicated that any existing pre-notification applicable for product destined for the UK will be maintained in 2021. **Re-exported product:** Can product originating in SA be re-exported from the EU to the UK, and vice versa? The ruling is that products that has been cleared and circulated through the EU and being exported to the UK will be treated as if they were produced/originated in the EU. Products being

exported from the UK to the EU will have to comply with all existing EU rules that would apply for the originating country.

MRLs and food safety: The UK is expected to publish a new set of food safety regulations and MRLs applicable in the UK and Northern Ireland on 1 January 2021 – initially adopting all the existing EU MRLs at this time. From this date onwards MRLs could slowly diverge. CGA will keep the industry posted of any relevant MRL changes.

Organic produce: Rules for organic produce sent directly from SA to the UK remain as they are. Operators moving product to the UK for further export into the EU, or vice versa, should be careful to adhere to new rules, including specific labelling requirements and the use of the EU organic logo.

CONFRONTING CLIMAT CHANGE

In the remaining few weeks in 2020 citrus growers and packhouses are encouraged complete a carbon footprint. Visit the CCC website (www.climatefruitandwine.co.za) to update your records if you have done the exercise before or wanting to run through the process for the first time. The team at the CCC will gladly assist you in getting it done (support@bluenorth.co.za).

POST SEASON PHYTO ROADSHOW

The remaining post-season Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Perishables Products Export Control Board (PPECB) and Citrus Growers Associations (CGA) post-season roadshows will take place this next week: 30/11 Stellenbosch ARC Olive Grove 10h00; 2/12 Nkweleni Hall 10h00 plus {Virtual Meeting 1/12 – link will be provided}; for more information contact RejoiceM@Dalrrd.gov.za. **There is no longer a physical Eastern Cape meeting – please join the virtual meeting.**

THE CGA GROUP (CRI, RIVER BIOSCIENCE, XSIT, CGA CULTIVAR COMPANY, CGA GROWER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY & CITRUS ACADEMY) ARE SUPPORTED BY AND WORK FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS GROWERS