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Open sesame for lemon exports to China

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The scene is set for a significant rise in the volume of lemons exported to China.

That's thanks to the signing and publication of a revised protocol that changes the disinfestation treatment for lemons – increasing the shipping temperature.

According to the Citrus Growers' Association, until now very few lemon consignments have been exported to China due to the disinfestation treatment requirements.

“It is anticipated that this change will result in increased exports to the country – where the demand for lemons is good,” says CGA CEO Justin Chadwick in his weekly newsletter.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) received the signed protocol last week.

The increased shipping temperature is important for lemons because they are susceptible to cold damage at low shipping temperatures, says Chadwick.

According to the CGA, it is anticipated that South Africa will send some shipments under this revised protocol this year as a precursor to larger volumes in 2022.

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