



<https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/tpt-handling-21-more-citrus-exports-than-last-year-2025-05-20>

TPT handling 21% more citrus exports than last year

20TH MAY 2025 BY: DARREN PARKER - CREAMER MEDIA SENIOR CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ONLINE



State-owned Transnet Port Terminals' (TPT's) container sector has begun handling

South Africa's 2025 citrus exports, with a 21% increase in year-on-year volumes handled in April.

Each year, vessels with parcel sizes as large as 7 800 containers each, call at the Durban Container Terminals, Port Elizabeth Container Terminal and the Ngqura Container Terminal (NCT) between April and October to export oranges, mandarins, lemons, clementines, grapefruit and limes to more than 100 markets.

The container terminals have taken steps to ensure readiness for the season. These include recruiting 256 additional human

resources on fixed-term contracts, conducting maintenance on all reefer plug points and adding 100 pieces of new equipment.

“Our operations have stabilised and are now focused on growing the business, meeting customer expectations and making South Africa win,” TPT commercial and planning GM **Michelle van Buuren Schele** said on May 19.

The Citrus Growers Association has forecast a 3.6% increase in citrus volumes for the 2025 season amid the threat of possible tariff hikes for the US market effective in July.

In engagements with industry, TPT has assured its commitment to making the season successful.

In Durban, the container terminals have allocated 24 hours ahead of stack opening to allow for customers to bring in reefers from the first day. The NCT will operate on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The risk of inclement weather will be closely monitored for mitigations and the terminals are working with the South African Weather Services, TPT said.

Domestically, citrus fruit grows in Limpopo, the Eastern Cape, the Western Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Cape and North West and is exported mainly through the Durban and Port Elizabeth container terminals. 🇿🇦

Phone: +27 (0)11 622 3744

Email: newsdesk@engineeringnews.co.za

Website: www.engineeringnews.co.za

To subscribe email
subscriptions@creamermmedia.co.za or [click here](#)

To advertise email

advertising@creamermmedia.co.za or [click here](#)

