

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO (35/12)

Justin Chadwick (7 September 2012)

QUOTE OF THE WEEK “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt.”
Abraham Lincoln

PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

This past week Dawid Groenewald and Hannes Bester of CRI Post Harvest Technical Forum (previously CCCF) sent out a notice to the industry. It just does not make sense that exporters take short cuts to save a few cents putting the total pallet at risk (running into thousands of rand's). A lot of money has been invested in developing best practice for carton construction, pallet construction, palletizing and much more; experts such as Dawid, Hannes and Mitchell Brooke are employed to ensure advice is circulated and understood; and yet some bad practice continues. The notice read as follows; *We are receiving feedback from the SA Ports, certain overseas markets and other role players on a regular basis. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing serious problems with poor quality pallets and corner pieces.*

PALLETS: *Some of our pack house managers are still using pallets not complying with the specification. The dimensions of the various components, (top slats, bearers, bottom stringers and blocks) the spacing between the top slats, the type, length and number of nails are not according to specification. Cracked top slats and blocks is also a serious problem. These poor quality pallets are causing serious problems. Repairing/replacing of poor quality and broken pallets are time consuming and it is costing the industry a fortune. Not only that, it is also causing serious delays at the ports and on the various overseas markets. Please also make sure that the ISPM15/IPPC mark is fully legible. PLEASE USE GOOD QUALITY PALLETS COMPLYING WITH THE SPECIFICATION ONLY.* See the Packaging Material Specification document for full details.

CORNER PIECES: *Poor quality corner pieces are also causing serious problems. The dimensions and the paper of some corner pieces are not according to specification. These poor quality corner pieces tear and do not contribute anything to the stability of the pallet loads. In many cases the positioning of the corner pieces on the pallet loads is not according to the recommendations in the palletisation protocols and please, do not use corner pieces that are too long or too short. Please see your palletisation protocol document. PLEASE DO NOT USE POOR QUALITY/CHEAP CORNER PIECES. YOU ARE WASTING YOUR TIME AND MONEY.*

Mitchell Brooke has been in the port over the past few days and reinforces the above:

I am currently conducting some checks in the Durban port and can verify that all port cold stores have expressed concerns at the poor condition of pallet bases this year.

Another area of concern is the continual application of corner pieces that extend above the pallet and/or below the top of the pallet base to the floor. In both cases the corner pieces are susceptible to breakage or being dislodged off the corner of the pallet rendering them useless to secure the pallet. Once a corner piece is broken or dislodged from the corner of the pallet, the cartons can then become loose and fall off the pallet whilst being moved on forks or get caught in cold store racking units and become torn or broken.

For additional information contact Dawid (dawid@cri.co.za), Hannes (hannesbester@cri.co.za) or Mitchell (mitchell@cga.co.za).

ORCHARD SANITATION

Reminders of the importance of orchard sanitation have come in from a number of sources. DAFF officials busy with fruit fly incursions in the north have stressed the importance of orchard sanitation as part of the eradication process, while those busy with sterile insect technology in the south have highlighted the problems associated with poor orchard sanitation. Orchard sanitation is the cheapest and most effective way of pest elimination and control.

DATES TO DIARISE

Annual DAFF Citrus Coordinating Meeting; **27 September 2012; 09h00-15h00 at ARC Infruitec in Stellenbosch.**

PACKED AND SHIPPED

To Week 36 Million 15 Kg Cartons	Packed	Packed	Packed	Shipped	Shipped	Original Estimate	Latest Prediction	Final Packed	Final Shipped
SOURCE: PPECB	2010	2011	2012	2011	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011
Grapefruit	12.5 m	14.3 m	12.7 m	14.3 m	12.7 m	15.2 m	12.7 m	16.2 m	16.1 m
Soft Citrus	7.4 m	6.8 m	7.3 m	7 m	7.3 m	7.6 m	7.6 m	6.9 m	6.8 m
Lemons	9.3 m	10 m	9.8 m	9.7 m	9.2 m	11.1 m	9.8 m	10.8 m	10.2 m
Navels	22.9 m	21 m	24.4 m	50.4 m*	50.2 m*	22.9 m	24.4 m	21.2 m	61.7 m*
Valencia	35.2 m	26.4 m	29.6 m			46.1 m	44.8 m	44.2 m	
	87.3 m	78.5 m	83.8 m	81.4 m	79.4 m	102.9 m	99.3 m	99.3 m	94.8 m

* All Oranges

**GROWER FUNDED ACTIVITIES OF THE CGA, CRI AND CITRUS ACADEMY
ENSURE A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CITRUS INDUSTRY**