INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION WORKSHOP ON COMMERCIAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR COUNTRIES OF AFRICA

Presented by: Mr. A.M. Serumula
Deputy Director: Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance
Date: 20th – 22nd April 2010
Venue: Lord Charles Hotel
Place: Somerset-West, South Africa
THE APS ACT

THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARD ACT. 1990
(Act No. 119 of 1990)

Amended in 1998

Approved by Parliament
THE APS ACT

- Provides for control over-the sale and export of certain agricultural products.

- Sale of certain Imported agricultural products.

- Other matters related products and matters connected therewith.
THE APS ACT

REGULATIONS

Local (Imported products)
Approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
AND

STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS (EXPORT)

Approved by Executive Officer
RESPONSIBILITIES

APS ACT

Local Market (imported) - only quality

Department of Health – Health Issues

Export market – quality and Health issues
STANDARDS...

Compulsory minimum quality standards

Agricultural Products Standards Act (Act 119 of 1990)

Export Regulation

Export Standards & Requirements

Based on UNECE/EC requirements but generally more strict
Purpose of legislated standards
- provide for disciplined exports & minimum platform

Some exporters:
- higher standards based on market/supermarket requirements
- enforced by PPECB

Uniform application & interpretation – NB
- Visual aid (brochure) development
- Pre-season meetings with industry role players
• Updated annually with input from industry bodies, DAFF, PPECB
• Updates include international developments
• Active participation in international standards setting - vital
• Standards prescribe requirements for:
  - Quality, Food safety, Traceability
  - Containers & packaging
  - Marking
  - Sampling
• Also prescribe:
  - Methods of inspection e.g. °Brix & juice determination
  - Tolerances (maximum permissible deviations allowed)
NUMBER OF STANDARDS...

Deciduous Fruit – 7
Citrus - 1
Subtropical – 10
Vegetables – 3 (1x Combined)
Grain – 12
Processed – 10
Animal products - 4
Flowers – 1 (combined)
DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION

- Identify a need for the regulation
- Write a submission to obtain principle approval for drafting the regulation from the Minister
- Drafting and information gathering (consult other existing regulations, international standards and industry recommendations)
DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION: (continued)

- Consultation
  - Send out first draft regulations for comments to all parties concerned / use Departmental website, conventional means such as e-mails
  - Arrange meeting to discuss the draft and reach consensus with the all role players.

- Incorporate comments in the regulations and send final draft to all role players.
 DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION: (continued)

➢ Write submission to obtain approval from the DG for Notification to the World Trade Organization and give notice to WTO.

➢ If you receive comments from other WTO Member countries, arrange to have a meeting with the industry to discuss those comments.
Finalize the draft regulation and draft submission for the Minister’s approval.

Send through the regulation to Legal Services for certification and approval process.

Upon receipt of approved regulation send original signed copy to Legal Services for publication in Government Gazette with request for proof reading.
DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION: (continued)

- Place the published regulation on the Departmental website.

- Inform all role players of publication.
SCOPE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS

- Marking requirements
- Packing & container requirements
- Quality standards for classes or grades
- Labeling requirements
- Food safety requirements (export)
EXPORT STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Behavior of cultivars under specific weather conditions evaluated.
- Local industry experts consulted including research institutions.
- Minimum codex Alimentations and key markets scrutinized
- Above form basis for standards and requirements

- Once agreed to by all stakeholders – Gazetted

- Operational seven days after publication.
HOW SOUTH AFRICA

MONITORS:

- Section (2) a and (b) of the Act provides powers to the Executive Officer
- Daily should see to execution of the Act on behalf of the Minister, Directorate Food Safety and Quality Assurance’ responsibility.

- Section 3 (a) Minister for application of this Act of certain provisions – designate a person or institution
- Person or institution – posses particular knowledge
- Perishable Products Export Control Board appointed in terms of section 3 (a)
HOW SOUTH AFRICA: (continued)

➢ To do quality export inspection on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

➢ Mandate now extended to food safety requirements

➢ PPECB audited by Directorate Agricultural Product Inspections’ Services (APIS) in DAFF
TRACEABILITY REQUIREMENTS

APS REGULATIONS (RAS)

- All stages of production
- Identify supplier
- Identify person supplied
- Make information available to Executive Officer

REGULATION (EC) 178/2002

ARTICLE 18

- All stages of production
- Identify supplier
- Identify person supplied
- Make information available to CA
SUMMARY - FOOD SAFETY

---Traceability---

Farm
On-Farm packhouse
GAP/Hygiene

Factory
Silo
Off-Farm Packhouse
Hygiene & HACCP

Storage
Transport (Export)
Hygiene & HACCP
INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

- DAFF officials attends UNECE, OECD, Codex Alimentations Commissions where agricultural quality standards are amended and new ones developed.

ADVANTAGES OF HARMONIZED STANDARDS

- SA exports easily accepted in overseas markets and countries.
- Producers and exporters have assurance that fresh fruit produced once inspected and approved by PPECB will be accepted with no difficulty by international trading partners.
- Encourages consumer confidence and brings about greater market transparency as traders trade under same quality conditions.
## CHALLENGES MAINLY IN FOOD SAFETY

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THANK YOU