

Module 32

Marking

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Introduction

The marking requirements of cartons of export citrus is prescribed by the standards and requirements set by die Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. As part of its inspections, the PPECB, as the assignee of DAFF, ensures that these marking requirements are met.

The prescribed labelling and marking requirements are international standards, as agreed between the importing and exporting countries. Labelling cartons correctly is essential to enable traceability and track-ability, and to make sure that the right fruit is delivered to the right market.



definition

Traceability

Traceability is the ability to trace any product back to its original source. In terms of fruit production and exports, traceability is the ability to trace back a specific carton of fruit through the entire process to the orchard in which the fruit was grown.

Track-ability

Track-ability is the ability to track any product to its final destination. In terms of fruit production and exports, track-ability is the ability to track a specific carton of fruit through the supply chain as it moves between organisations towards the final point of process or sale. Tracking is also referred to as **forward traceability**.

Marking Requirements – Example 1

The PPECB apply the standards and regulations on behalf of the Depart of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. There are a few marking requirements that we have to apply. Using this example, we can have a look at those requirements.



Exporter Information

There have to be certain information on the carton before it can be exported.

Firstly we look for the name and the physical or the postal address of the producer, the exporter or the owner of the fruit. In this case it is a postal address, which is fine.



Fruit Information

Then the type of citrus which is oranges and the cultivar of oranges, in this case valencias. The class must also be indicated, in this case class 1.



Fruit Size

There must also be mention of the diameter of the fruit for which they use a size code.

This is size 6 which is a reference to the diameter of the fruit. If the fruit is place packed as the case is here it must be indicated, also the count, in this case count 72, which is the amount of fruit in this box.



The Date Code

And then a date code, which is an indication of the packing date which is this number. In this case it is a code that was used which is fine, as long as it have been registered with the Department of Agriculture.



The PUC and PHC

And then the PUC or the PHC, which means the production unit code or the packhouse code, must also be shown on the carton. That is basically the farm or the packhouse reference.



definition

PUC

A PUC is a **Production Unit Code**, and is a code issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) to producers that qualifies to produce fruit for export.

PHC

A PHC is a **Packhouse Code**, and is issued to packhouses by the DAFF to packhouses that qualifies to pack produce for export to overseas markets.

Post Harvest Chemicals

If any postharvest chemicals have been use, then it must also be indicated on the carton. In this case it is indicated on the top of the carton, which is fine.



Target Market Requirements

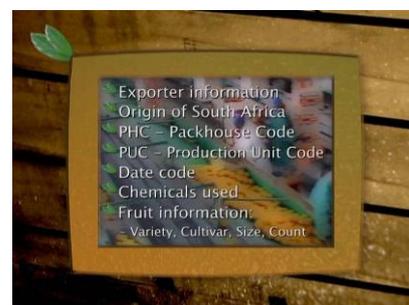
Sometimes some target markets have additional marking requirements, like China. A market might also require that, somewhere here on the business side of the carton the legend 'Peoples Republic of China' must be shown in English, and in Chinese writing.



Summary

All export cartons of citrus must have the following information:

- ❖ Exporters name and address
- ❖ The 'Origin of South Africa' mark
- ❖ The packhouse code
- ❖ The production unit code
- ❖ The date code for when the fruit was packed
- ❖ What chemicals were used during packing
- ❖ The fruit information, such as fruit variety, cultivar, size and count reference



Different cartons will have different looking labels. In the next part we look at another example of carton labelling.

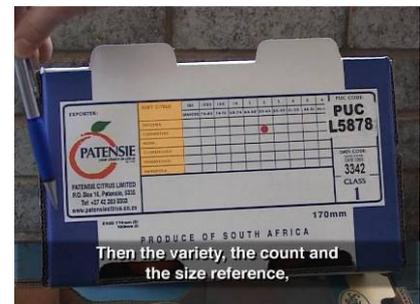
Marking Requirements - Example 2

Firstly we have the name of the exporter and his address. It is also important to have 'Origin of South Africa' legend.



Firstly we have the name of the exporter and his address.

Then we have the variety, the count and the size reference, also known as the calibre and count.



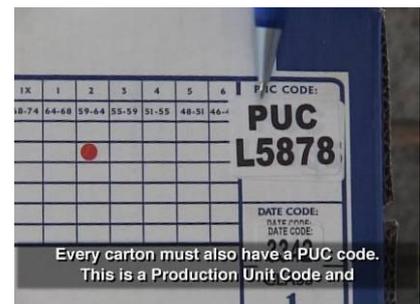
Then the variety, the count and the size reference,

Next we have the PHC, or Packhouse Code, indicating where the fruit was packed. This brings traceability back to the packhouse.



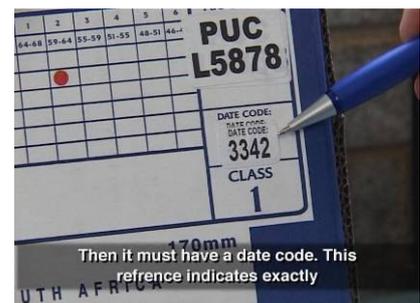
packed. This brings traceability back to the packhouse.

Every carton must also have a PUC code. This is the Production Unit Code and it stipulates which farm the fruit comes from. The PUC must be registered with DAFF. This helps with the traceability of fruit, should the client want to know from which farm or grower the fruit comes, they can trace the origin through the PUC.



Every carton must also have a PUC code. This is a Production Unit Code and

Then it must have a date code. This reference indicates exactly in which week and on which day the fruit was packed, as well as the number of the line in the packhouse where it was packed.



Then it must have a date code. This reference indicates exactly

example

The Date Code

33	4	2
Week	Day of week	Packline

This is only an example of a date code. Included in the packing instructions provided by export agents are normally instructions on the particular date code that the packhouse should use. Date codes must be registered with DAFF before they can be used.

Pallet Marking – Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

Apart from carton marking, pallet marking is also becoming common practice in the citrus industry.

The PPECB, in collaboration with industry role players, have been working on the development of an Electronic Data Interchange, or EDI, system. Once this system is in place, all pallets will also be marked with barcode labels, which will enable any person to access information about the pallet and the fruit on it by merely scanning the label.



active learning

Watch the DVD clips, read through the learning material and do workplace research to gather the knowledge and information to complete the assignments below.

Activity 32.1 – Reference Table

Draw up a table, listing the minimum marking requirements with a short description of each item, and an indication of where this information comes from.

Activity 32.2 – Research Report

Find out what date code is used in your packhouse. Explain what the code indicates, and find out how it was registered with DAFF.

