

# 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: 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010

Venue: Lord Charles Hotel

Place: Somerset-West, South Africa



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# THE APS ACT

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THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT STANDARD ACT. 1990  
(ACT NO. 119 OF 1990)

AMENDED IN 1998

APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT



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# THE APS ACT

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- 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

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## REGULATIONS

Local (Imported products)

Approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries

AND

STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS (EXPORT)

Approved by Executive Officer

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# RESPONSIBILITIES

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## APS ACT

Local Market (imported)- only quality

Department of Health – Health Issues

Export market – quality and Health issues



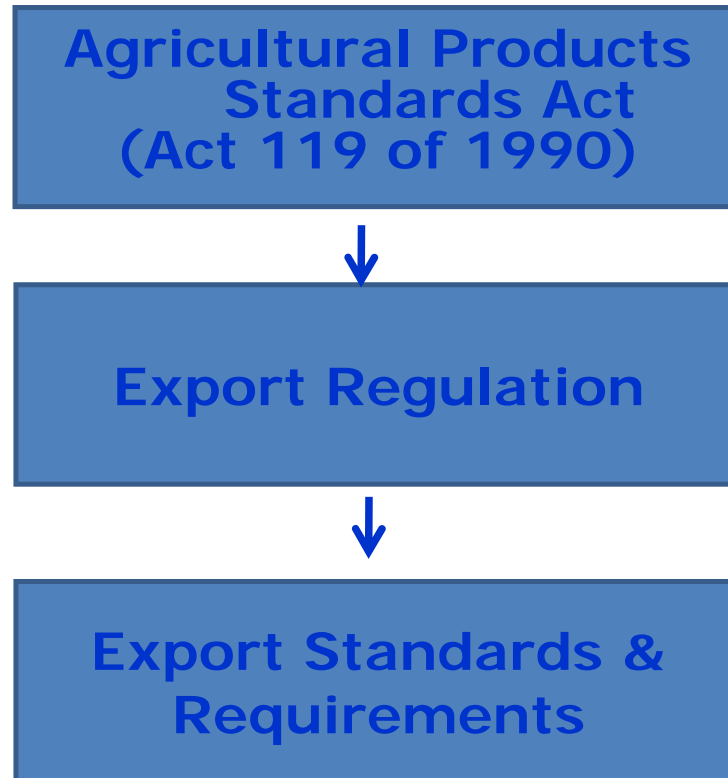
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# STANDARDS...

Compulsory minimum quality standards

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Based on UNECE/EC requirements but generally more strict

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# STANDARDS CONTINUE...

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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



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# STANDARDS CONTINUE...

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- 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...

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Deciduous Fruit – 7

Citrus - 1

Subtropical – 10

Vegetables – 3 (1x Combined)

Grain – 12

Processed – 10

Animal products - 4

Flowers – 1 (combined)



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# DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION

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- 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)

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## ➤ 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)

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- 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



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# DEVELOPING A NEW REGULATION: (continued)

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- 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)

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- Place the published regulation on the Departmental website.
- Inform all role players of publication.



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# SCOPE OF THE NEW REGULATIONS

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



# EXPORT STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

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- 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

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## 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)



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# HOW SOUTH AFRICA: (continued)

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- 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



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# TRACEBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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## APS REGULATIONS (RAS)

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

## REGULATION (EC) 178/2002 ARTICLE 18

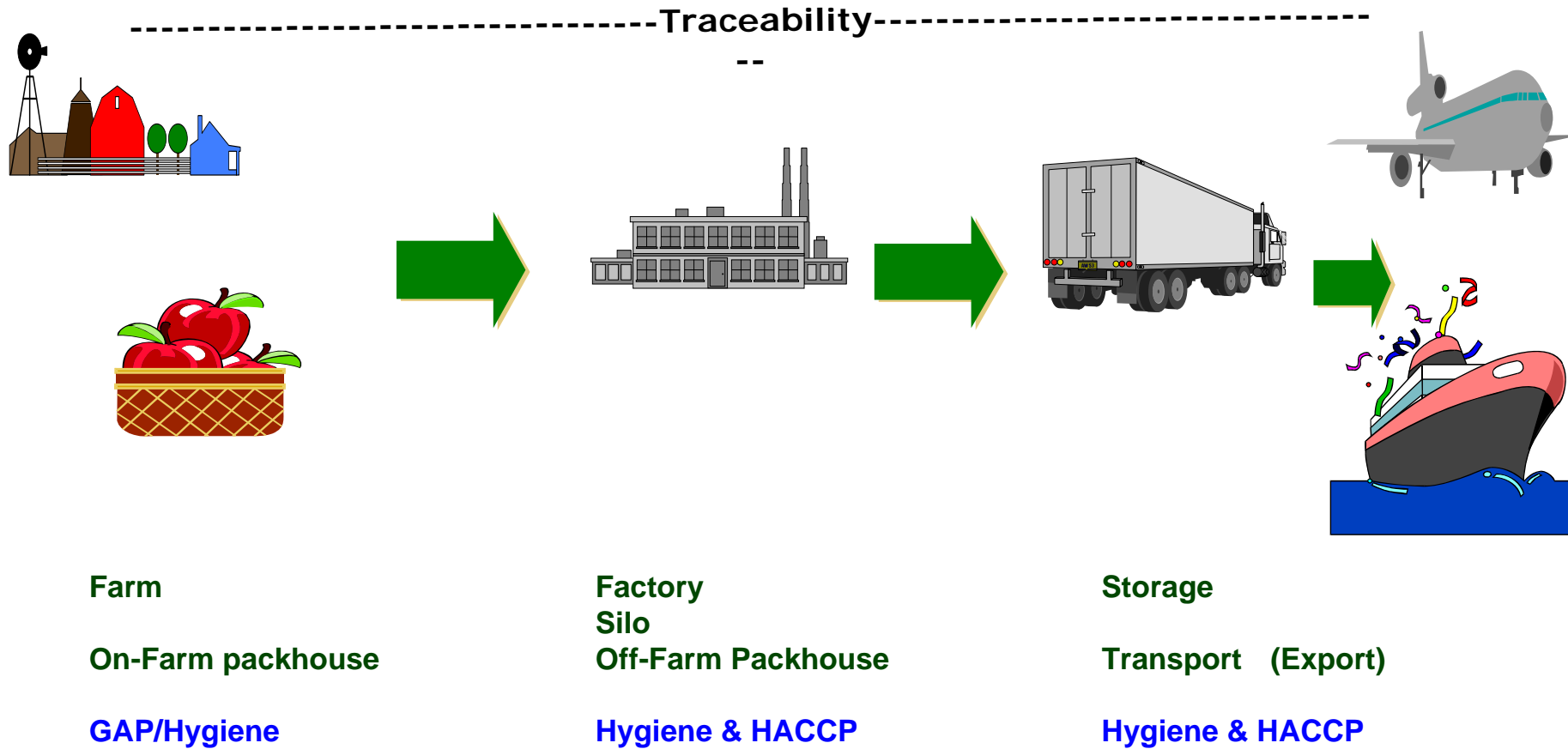
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# SUMMARY - FOOD SAFETY



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# INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

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- 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.



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# CHALLENGES MAINLY IN FOOD SAFETY

Countries	Apricots	Cherries	Plums and Prunes	Peaches and Nectarines
RSA	0	0	0.01	0
CODEX	0	0	0	0
EU	0	0	0.01	0
CANADA	0	0	0	0
USA	0	0	0.01	0
RUSSIA	0	0	0.003	0
INDONESIA	0	0	0	0
EXPORT DEF	0	0	0.01	0
Def Export	0.01	0	0.01	0.01



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**THANK YOU**



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