

SPS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1: FEBRUARY 2018

SPS News

Welcome to the first issue of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Newsletter for 2018. This newsletter will report on SPS issues that were addressed at the National SPS Committee during the first quarter of 2018. During the period of reporting, the committee convened its first meeting for the year 2018 and held discussions on various issues as outlined below.

Update on market access issues

EU—citrus black spot (CBS)

The citrus/ deciduous stakeholder forum was held on 13 February 2018 during which the following aspects were identified:

- Gaps in terms of how growers were spraying chemicals on orchards.
- Timing of the orchards inspection.

It is hoped that the new strengthened risk management system will lead to reduced interceptions.

Formal lodgement of a dispute under the World Trade Organisation (WTO):

- The Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) is still working on the legal opinion.
- The Standing Committee had its meeting on 29 and 30 January 2018 and they discussed the status of interceptions, and also the inputs received regarding to false codling moth import requirements. The committee will meet again from 22 to 23 February 2018.
- There is a paper presentation by the European Food Safety Authority on the evaluation of paper regarding to *Phyllosticta citricarpa*.

SPS trade concerns – South Africa

Application to the OIE for disease-free status

- There is a need to apply annually for the OIE recognition free status.
- The OIE has confirmed recognition of *Peste des petits ruminants*' status.
- Feedback is awaited from the OIE with regard to foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) free zone and contagious *bovine pleuropneumonia* (CBPP) free status (currently the country has freedom).
- In 2017 the FMD outbreak occurred outside the free zone.

Disease and/or pest outbreaks

1. Food and Mouth Disease (FMD)

There has been FMD outbreak in Limpopo in October 2017 and it was outside the free zone. The process to wrap up the outbreak is on. There were two cluster of Avian Influenza outbreak. The process is on for closing the northern cluster outbreak. There are cases of Avian Influenza that are under investigation.

2. Fall Army Worm

The pest is currently detected in seven provinces of South Africa.

3. Oriental Fruit Fly

The surveillance on the pest is ongoing and there have been 10 new detections that are being investigated.

4. Gall Wasp

There was an outbreak of gall wasp forestry plantations in the Western Cape in December 2017 and January 2018. Surveillance and monitoring in forestry is contracted to Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI).

Regional coordination of SPS matters

Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

- Negotiations are on-going focusing on rules of origin and modalities for the trade.
- The Technical Working Groups on TBT and Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB) concluded the Annexure in 2017.
- The Annexure on TBT and NTB is awaiting consideration by the Negotiating Forum.

South African Development Community (SADC) Trade Facilitation

The development of the SADC Simplified Trade Regime (SADC STR) was prioritised under the Trade Facilitation Programme. The STR is the trade facilitation tool which streamlines the processes for import and export, however, it is specific for small scale traders and informal cross border traders.

STR is a tool aimed at enabling small traders to cross borders without being asked for certificate of origin and other documents as it happens to big traders. In May 2017 the SADC Secretariat commissioned the study to assist the Member States to develop the programme and its report came out in September 2017.

WTO SPS notifications

- On 06 November 2017 Kingdom of Bahrain notified Import Phytosanitary requirements.
- On 18 December 2017 comment was submitted to the EU regarding the notified measure.

Three notifications were submitted as follows:

- Amendment of the Compulsory Specification for canned fish, canned marine molluscs and canned crustaceans and products derived therefrom, VC 8014.
- Addendum regarding the extension of comment period on compulsory specification for aquacultured live and chilled raw bivalve molluscs (VC 9107) – Extension of the comment period.
- Regulations - Preservatives and Antioxidants: Amendment.
- There is ePing alert system which enables receiving notifications. The website address is: www.epingalert.org
- ePing alert extracts notifications from the SPS and TBT databases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The WTO SPS Committee meetings will be in Geneva, Switzerland on 01 and 02 March 2018.

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