



Food Safety of Export Citrus Packaging

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The food safety of packaging and packaging materials was raised at the Citrus Sustainability Forum, and as a result, the Food Safety of Export Citrus Packaging group (focus on the food safety compliance) was established apart from the existing CRI Packaging Working Group (primarily focused on the technical specifications and quality of packaging).

The Food Safety of Export Citrus Packaging group is a non-regulatory, voluntary platform, with CGA as the facilitator. The packaging component of export citrus is critical, hence, the importance of this group to communicate stakeholder information, identify risks, and to try come up with common solutions. It is also useful to distinguish between actual requirements and market preferences or unjustifiable requirements, and whether we need to pursue these or not.

The food safety aspect of packaging and packaging materials can become quite technical, and includes raw materials (e.g. glue, ink, paper), the packaging manufacturing sites and the final product food safety compliance. Citrus stakeholders, particularly packhouse managers, persons involved in procurement, quality control and food safety, are invited to join the group to stay informed.

The group aims to meet twice a year, or as needed, and which will take place on an online platform. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for some time during October, 2023. Stakeholders who would like to join the group, can email Paula Bester (pb@cga.co.za).