
NOTICE 1765 OF 2003**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COUNCIL
MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT, 1996
(ACT No. 47 OF 1996)**

**DECIDUOUS FRUIT INDUSTRY -
REQUEST FOR THE AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF STATUTORY MEASURES**

It is hereby made known in terms of section 11 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996), that the Minister of Agriculture has received in terms of section 15 of the said Act a request for the amendment and extension of statutory measures relating to pome fruit (apples and pears), stone fruit (plums, peaches/nectarines and apricots) and table grapes in the deciduous fruit industry.

The DFPT is acting on behalf of the following directly affected groups in the deciduous fruit industry:

DFPT Finance (Section 21 Company)
SAAPPA (South African Apple & Pear producers' Association – Section 21 Company)
SASPA (South African Stone Fruit Producers' Association – Section 21 Company); and
SAT (South African Table Grapes – Section 21 Company).

The following statutory measures are currently in place in the deciduous fruit industry:

- Keeping of records and returns in terms of section 18 of the MAP Act
- Registration of persons in terms of section 19 of the MAP Act
- Statutory measures in terms of section 15 of the MAP Act;

Table grapes and **stone fruit** [plums, apricots and peaches (including cling peaches) and nectarines] expiring 31 October 2004

Pome fruit (apples and pears) expiring 30 October 2005.

The DFPT's request for the amendment of statutory measures in the deciduous fruit industry applies to the following.

- **Table grapes** on export volumes only (all classes) at 8c/kg (an increase from 5c/kg).
- **Stone fruit:**
 - Apricots** on export and domestic volumes (all classes) at 8.5c/kg (an increase from 7.0c/kg).
 - Peaches/Nectarines** on export and domestic volumes (all classes) at 6.5c/kg (an increase from 5c/kg).
 - Cling peaches** at 6.5c/kg (an increase from 1.0c/kg).
 - Plums** on export volumes (all classes) at 6.5c/kg (an increase from 5.0c/kg), and domestic volumes at 3c/kg (domestic volumes were not included previously).
- **Pome fruit**
 - Apples** on fresh fruit, export and domestic volumes (all classes) at 3c/kg (an increase from 1.5c/kg).
 - Apple concentrate remains unchanged at R6/ton
 - Pears** on export and domestic volumes at 3c/kg (an increase from 1.5c/kg).

It is proposed that these changes applied for, will be for a new four-year period, to coincide with the start of the new (2003/04) deciduous fruit season, to ensure a smooth roll over from the current measures into the new period, with effect from 1 October 2003 to 30 September 2007.

The DFPT's request to amend the statutory measures is mainly to synchronise the time period applicable to the measures for the various fruit kinds and to bring levy levels and the utilisation thereof in line with the latest industry requirements as mandated by the producers. The amendment of the statutory measures will also ensure the alignment of all 3 fruit groups, which will enhance continuous cost effective services and functions.

Registration and records and returns

In terms of registration (of producers, exporters, the trade and juice plants) and records and returns, it is argued that the maintenance of macro industry statistics and market information is critical for long-term planning relating to production, orderly marketing and infrastructural capacity by the industry (producers and exporters), Government and service/input suppliers.

Levy

The requested levy levels will be applicable on export and/or domestic volumes of deciduous fruit destined for fresh consumption, as well as on apple juice concentrate and will be utilised for the funding and provision of:

- Research projects, information and technology transfer;
- Plant improvement and certification
- Market information, statistics and logistical efficiencies
- Trade and market access issues
- Communication and market development
- Transformation and training
- Administration

The following levy rates per kilogram of fruit are requested:

- a) Apples
 - Fresh fruit at R30/ton (3c/kg) – Domestic and exports;
 - Concentrate fruit at R6/ton (0,6c/kg).
- b) Pears
 - Fresh fruit at R30/ton (3c kg) – Domestic and exports.
- c) Apricots
 - Fresh fruit at R85/ton (8,5c/kg) – Domestic and exports.
- d) Peaches (including cling peaches)/Nectarines
 - Fresh fruit at R65/ton (6,5c kg) – Domestic and exports.
- e) Plums
 - Fresh fruit at R65/ton (6,5c kg) – Exports;
 - Fresh fruit at R30/ton (3c/kg) – Domestic.
- f) Table Grapes
 - Fresh fruit at R80/ton (8c/kg) – Exports only.

The extended measures will apply unchanged for the respective fruit kinds, apart from the levy levels for which increases are proposed to cater for the effect of inflation over the application period and to cover expenses in line with current industry requirements as identified.

It is argued that the outputs resulting from the utilisation of an increased research and development levy will contribute to the optimisation of export earnings and enhancement of the viability of the agricultural sector.

Directly affected groups in the deciduous fruit industry are hereby invited to forward any comments regarding the proposed statutory measures to the National Agricultural Marketing Council within 14 days of the publication hereof.

Submissions should be in writing and be addressed to:

The Chairperson

National Agricultural Marketing Council

Private Bag X 935

PRETORIA

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Fax No.: (012) 341 1911

Enquiries: Ms Mathilda van der Walt

e-mail: Mathilda@namc.co.za

Tel.: (012) 341 1115