



**PROTOCOL OF PHYTOSANITARY
REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPORT OF FRESH
AVOCADO FRUITS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

BETWEEN

**THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND
REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

In order to safely export fresh avocado fruits from South Africa to China, on the basis of a pest risk analysis, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter referred to as “DALRRD”) and the General Administration of Customs of the People’s Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as “GACC”), have reached the following consensus through friendly negotiation:

Article 1
General Provisions

South African fresh avocado fruits (*Persea americana* Mills.) exported to China (hereinafter referred to as “avocados”), shall comply with all applicable Chinese phytosanitary laws and regulations, health, and safety standards, and with the requirements stated herein, and be free from any quarantine pests of concern to China (as stated in Annex), branches, leaves, and soil.

This Protocol pertains only to phytosanitary requirements. Other standards and requirements such as those regarding human health (e.g., China’s national food safety standards), may also apply to South African avocados.

Article 2
Registration

Orchards, as well as packing houses and fumigation treatment facilities for exporting avocados to China, must be registered by DALRRD, and approved by both DALRRD and GACC. The registration information shall include name, address, and registration number, so that, whenever exported avocados are detected as non-compliant with the requirements herein, these can be traced back to the establishment with certainty. DALRRD shall provide an updated list of registrations every year for GACC’s approval prior to the beginning of exports.

Article 3

Orchard Management

Under the supervision of DALRRD, all orchards registered for the export of avocados to China must apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including keeping good sanitary conditions in the orchards, eliminating the dropped fruits promptly, etc. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs shall also be implemented, including pest monitoring, chemical or biological controls and any other pest control operations, to avoid or minimize the occurrence of quarantine pests of concern to China on avocados.

Orchards that intend to export avocados to China shall carry out pest monitoring for quarantine pests of concern to China by technicians trained under the guidance of DALRRD or by training institutions authorized by DALRRD. If quarantine pests of concern to China are detected, control measures shall be applied immediately.

The records of pest monitoring and control of the orchards shall be kept for at least two years and shall be provided to GACC upon request. The records of pest monitoring and control shall include detailed information such as the monitoring time, the scientific name of the pest, control measures taken, name of chemical agents, active ingredient, dosage, and the time of application.

Article 4

Control Measures for Quarantine Pests

1. Fruit flies and False codling moth

The integrated pest management measures of the fruit flies (*Ceratitis capitata*, *C. cosyra*, *C. rosa* and *C. quilicii*) and false codling moth (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) will be conducted in the avocado production areas, including the use of chemical control, biological control, mating disruption, or other control measures, to control the pest or to maintain an area of low prevalence.

All fresh avocados exported to China must be treated with Methyl bromide fumigation initiated by personnel authorized by DALRRD to eliminate the fruit flies and false codling moth before shipment. The treatment parameters are as follows: 32 g/m³ Methyl bromide for no less than 2 hours at 21.1°C or above at ordinary pressure, and no less than 26 g/m³ after 0.5 h of the start or 16 g/m³ after 2h of the start during treatment.

2. *Avocado sunblotch viroid* (ASBVd)

DALRRD shall establish an orchard monitoring system for ASBVd, strengthen orchard management, and conduct field monitoring and hold investigation at least once a month during the growing season. If the following symptoms such as weakened tree vigour, short trunk, curved branches towards the ground; chlorosis and distortion of leaves; yellow, white, or pink markings on the fruits, and sunken caldera-like plaques on the fruits were found, samples shall be taken in time and sent to the laboratory for molecular identification. Once identified as ASBVd, the relevant plant (s) and its roots must be removed and destroyed. The investigation and monitoring of surrounding plants should be strengthened.

3. Scale insects and other pests

The other quarantine pests, including *Ceroplastes rusci*, *C. destructor*, *Pseudococcus longispinus*, *Pantomorus cervinus*, *Spodoptera littoralis*, *Dothiorella aromatica*, *Pseudotheraptus wayi*, *Neofusicoccum luteum*, and *Pseudocercospora purpurea* shall be monitored every two weeks from flowering to harvest focusing on the fruits, stalk, branches, stems and leaves. If the target pests or their corresponding symptoms were found, the appropriate control measures shall be applied immediately, to control the pest or to maintain an area of low prevalence.

The above pest specific monitoring plan and integrated management measures shall be approved by DALRRD and provided to GACC as required.

Article 5

Processing and Packaging

The processing, packaging, storage, and transportation must be supervised by DALRRD or DALRRD authorized officials.

During the packaging process, avocados must undergo high-pressure spray washing, brushing, sorting, grading and other processing to ensure that the fruits are free from live insects, bad fruits, un-normal fruits (e.g., over ripped, without peduncle, scars, with black spots and deformed fruits), branches, leaves, and soil etc. The stalk of fruit must be no longer than 3 mm.

Packaging materials shall be clean, hygienic, unused, and compliant with Chinese phytosanitary requirements. Wood packaging materials if used must comply with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 15 (ISPM 15).

Packaged avocados shall be immediately stored in a chamber only with avocados of the same phytosanitary condition, separated from others to prevent secondary pest infestation. Each box shall be labelled in English with the fruit name, cultivar, production place (county or district), the orchard name or registration code, and the packing house name or registration code. The following text shall be marked in Chinese or English on each box and pallet: "Exported to the People's Republic of China" (输往中华人民共和国).

Containers in which fruits are loaded for export to China shall be in compliance with the sanitary requirements. Necessary insect control measures should be taken when loading.

Article 6

Pre-Export Inspection and Quarantine

During the first 2 years following the effective date hereof, the size of the sample taken from each batch of avocados for phytosanitary inspection by DALRRD or DALRRD authorized personnel shall be 2%. The minimum inspectional sample will be 1200 fruits regardless of shipment size. A minimum of 60 fruits from the 2% sample and any suspected fruits will be cut and inspected. If no quarantine problems are detected during the two-year period, the sample size will be reduced to 1%. However, the minimum inspection level will remain at 1200 fruits.

If any live quarantine pest of concern to China is found, the consignment will be rejected for export to China. DALRRD officials shall investigate and take corrective measures. Meanwhile, the detection record shall be kept, and delivered to GACC upon request.

Upon completing an inspection, DALRRD shall issue a Phytosanitary Certificate for the approved consignment, taking note of the name of the orchard/s and packing house/s or their registration number, and the container number. The following must be stated: "This consignment complies with the requirements specified in the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Export of Fresh Avocado Fruits from South Africa to China, and is free from quarantine pests of concern to China."

The Phytosanitary Certificate of shipments must specify the fumigation treatment dose of Methyl bromide, duration, and treatment temperature together with the facility name or registration number.

Article 7

Entry Inspection and Quarantine

Entry ports for fresh avocados are all Chinese ports and airports authorized for fruit entry by GACC.

Upon arrival of avocados at the Chinese entry port, China Customs shall verify the relevant documents and records of identification, as well as marks, and complete the inspection and quarantine procedure.

Shipments of avocados from unauthorized orchards or packing houses or fumigation treatment facilities shall not be allowed entry.

If any live organism of the quarantine pests of concern to China or other quarantine pests newly reported in South Africa were detected, the consignment will be returned, destroyed, or treated.

If any inconformity with China's national food safety standards is found, the consignment shall be returned or destroyed.

If the above non-compliance is found, GACC will immediately inform DALRRD, and suspend the import of avocados from the relevant orchard, packing houses, or treatment facilities in the remaining season. DALRRD shall investigate the cause and take measures to prevent recurrence of these situations. Based on the outcome of evaluating the improvement measures adopted by DALRRD, GACC shall decide whether or not to cancel the suspension.

Article 8
Compliance Inspection

Prior to the commencement of trade, with the assistance of DALRRD, GACC may carry out a compliance inspection by the way of on-site or remote investigation on the production areas of South African avocados, to confirm whether or not the management system of the avocados exported to China is consistent with the requirements of this Protocol.

Any costs relating to the aforesaid on-site investigation, including international travelling, accommodation expenses, shall be borne by the South African party.

Article 9
Retrospective Review

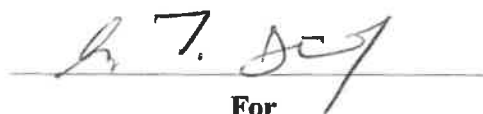
If necessary, GACC will conduct further risk analysis based on the situation of pest occurrence in South Africa and on pest interception at the Chinese ports of entry. In consultation with DALRRD, the list of quarantine pests and relevant quarantine measures may be adjusted. If necessary, GACC may send experts to South Africa for retrospective review, including on-site investigation. The protocol shall then be amended as required based on the outcome of this inspection and with the agreement of both parties.

Article 10
Amendment, Entry into Force and Termination

After a written agreement has been reached by both parties, the terms of this Protocol may be amended via mutual consultation. If either party wishes to rescind the Protocol, it shall notify the other party in writing at least six months in advance.

This protocol shall be effective for three years unless any of the parties notifies the other of its intention to amend or terminate it at least six months ahead of the intended expiry date. It shall be automatically and consecutively renewed for additional three-year terms.

This Protocol is signed in Pretoria, on 22 August 2023, by two counterparts in Chinese and English language versions, and shall come into effect on the date of execution hereof. Each party shall retain a copy of the two equally valid texts. Both texts are equally authentic, and any dispute between the parties arising from disagreement shall be settled through friendly consultation or negotiation.



For
**The Department of Agriculture, Land
Reform and Rural Development of the
Republic of South Africa**



For
**The General Administration of
Customs of the People's Republic
of China**

QUARANTINE PESTS OF CONCERN TO CHINA

1. *Ceratitis capitata*
2. *Ceratitis cosyra*
3. *Ceratitis quilicii*
4. *Ceratitis rosa*
5. *Ceroplastes destructor*
6. *Ceroplastes rusci*
7. *Pantomorus cervinus*
8. *Pseudococcus longispinus*
9. *Pseudotheraptus wayi*
10. *Spodoptera littoralis*
11. *Thaumatotibia (=Cryptophlebia) leucotreta*
12. Avocado sunblotch viroid (ASBVd)
13. *Dothiorella aromatica / Botryosphaeria dothidea*
14. *Neofusicoccum luteum*
15. *Pseudocercospora purpurea*