

PPECB
National Procedure for COVID 19 Decontamination of Inspection Facilities

Background

Facilities handling fruit products where PPECB inspections take place will experience positive cases of COVID 19. In such instances PPECB currently require a Department of Health (DOH) clearance before inspections can commence at that facility. This requirement is problematic given the current constraints on DOH capacity and the long delays in obtaining professional service providers to conduct the “deep cleaning” required to obtain that clearance. It is necessary to provide an alternative approach so that these constraints are addressed but without compromising the safety of workers and PPECB officials operating in these facilities.

Purpose of this Procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to provide instruction to facilities on how to go about providing sanitation of inspection facilities after positive cases of COVID 19 at the facility. This is to address a PPECB requirement – not necessarily the DOH or Department of Employment and Labour directions. If this procedure is followed correctly it will enable PPECB to return to operations in the facility more readily which will promote business continuity.

This document is focussed on additional sanitation activities when positive cases occur, and NOT the ongoing sanitation that should be taking place routinely in the facilities for COVID 19.

Additional Sanitation Procedure

The following steps need to be followed to conduct the additional sanitation procedure.

1. Determine when decontamination is necessary
 - 1.1. Decontamination is necessary where there are confirmed positive cases of COVID 19 – i.e. there is a confirmed laboratory report provided to indicate the positive cases. Of course facility managers must communicate with PPECB about the case (which is dealt with in separate guidelines).
 - 1.2. A positive COVID 19 result triggers additional sanitization procedures.
2. Determine what areas needs to be decontaminated
 - 2.1. At the very least the areas where the PPECB inspector has and will be working must be sanitized. This usually means the inspection area. [It is particularly important that proactive steps have already been taken prior to the positive case to ensure that the size and number of implicated areas in the facility is minimized. This can be achieved by implementing strict rules regarding the persons entering into the inspection area, and limiting the movement of inspectors/staff around the facility].
 - 2.2. Where possible, alternative inspection points should have been proactively identified so that inspection can move to that area while the sanitization takes place. A move to this new area needs to be agreed with PPECB and appropriate risk mitigation steps must have been implemented there before inspections commence.
3. Determine who will conduct the decontamination

Two options exist for decontamination. Either a professional service provider is contracted to provide this service or facilities can conduct the additional sanitization themselves. Facility managers can select either option provided this procedure is followed as described below.

 - 3.1. Using Professional Service Providers

- 3.1.1. A list of professional service providers is listed in Annex 1. This list is not exhaustive, and where another professional provider is preferred then the facilities must engage with the PPECB regional office to confirm that this service provider can be use BEFORE initiating the sanitizing.
 - 3.1.2. The provider must then be appointed by the facility to do the additional sanitization.
 - 3.1.3. On completion of the additional sanitization, the service provider must supply PPECB with documentation to confirm the sanitization has taken place and what time limits for re-entry apply based on the sanitizing substances used.
 - 3.2. Where Facilities conduct the additional sanitation themselves
 - 3.2.1. Businesses that choose not to employ a 3rd party service provider will need to inform PPECB as such prior to conducting the sanitation.
 - 3.2.2. The following conditions will need to be met for PPECB to agree to facilities undertaking additional sanitation:
 - 3.2.2.1. Workers will have to be trained by a professional service provider and facilities will need to provide the proof of training (i.e. competency certificates) for each worker involved.
 - 3.2.2.2. Workers providing the sanitization must be issued with and use appropriate Personal Protective Clothing (PPE) for the task. The PPE must be handling in such a way before, during and after use to ensure the risk of disease transmission is mitigated.
 - 3.2.2.3. Evidence of sanitization needs to be provided to PPECB Regional Office in the form of a written affidavit on a business letterhead stating that the sanitation was done and which chemicals/substances were used.
 - 3.2.2.4. Facilities will need to provide equipment. This equipment must be according to the requirements for proper sanitization as instructed by the training service provider.
 - 3.2.2.5. Recognized materials for effective sanitation (disinfectants) need to be used. These should be in accordance with the training service provider's recommendations or the treatments specified in the Citrus Research International (CRI) COVID 19 packhouse sanitation guidelines.
4. Re-entry into facility after decontamination

The PPECB Regional Office will advise the facility when inspections can resume after the sanitization has occurred. The expectation is that this should be as soon as practically possible after the facility notifies PPECB that the decontamination is complete.

Annex 1: List of recognized service providers

Business	Coverage	Contact Name	Contact Number	Email	Address
The Terminators	Eastern Cape	Shery-Lyn Lee	082 889 2453	sales@terminators.co.za	The Terminators Centre, 30 Harrower Road, North End, Port Elizabeth, South Africa
The Specialists	WC & Gauteng	Wim Groenewald	082 823 1148		
Sons of Hygiene	WC & Gauteng	Eric Maree	079 690 4365	info@sonsofhygiene.co.za	
Spilltech	All	See website	See website		https://www.spilltech.co.za/Contact
Ecolab	All	See website	See website		https://en-za.ecolab.com/
Pest Elite	WC	See website	023 34 71590	info@pestelite.co.za	https://pestelite.co.za/contact-us/