Labelling errors delay South African citrus exports to China

Documentation and labelling errors prevented citrus shipments from reaching China during the 2026 season, affecting 320 bins and 6 840 cartons, according to a review presented at the Annual Citrus Information Session 2026.

Busisiwe Shomang of the Department of Agriculture said exporters must verify orchard and cultivation unit eligibility through PhytClean before dispatch and maintain pallet traceability at packhouse level. These systems will be monitored and audited.

Stefan van den Berg of the Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) identified incorrect orchard allocations and outdated inspection records as causes of documentation discrepancies. Pallets not inspected for the European Union have also been included in export consignments.

PPECB's Qaqamba Noveve reported that delays at Durban were slowing pallet turnover and increasing concerns about fruit ageing.

The Department of Agriculture and PPECB plan to audit packhouse labelling and palletisation procedures and standardise carton labels and pallet identification ahead of 2027.

Online phytosanitary registration for cultivation units and packhouses runs from November 2 to November 30. Growers must verify their information on AgriOps during January and February 2027.

Late registrations, unverifiable orchard records, and incorrect tariff payments also caused difficulties during the 2026 season.
Frontpage photo: © Bhofack2 | Dreamstime

Source: freightnews.co.za (https://www.freightnews.co.za/article/citrus-export-errors-prompt-tighter-checks)

Publication date: Fri 23 Oct 2026

Related Articles → See More



- Upgrading its citrus processing plant will allow a Valencian company to sell 10,000 more tons of fruit this season



- South Korea removes pre-export inspections for Australian lemons



- Labelling errors delay South African citrus exports to China



- South Korean mandarin shipments rise 107% as prices fall 6.5%



- "Lime market faces shortages as Brazilian exports decline"



- Vietnam's Bac Ninh expects to harvest 118,525 tons of fruit in 2026



- **Drought cuts citrus yields in Montenegro's Ulcinj region**



- **Five new mandarin varieties presented at the 6th La Plana Citrus Conference**



- **"Conditions have improved again as the season has progressed"**



- **"By mid-November, oranges will be sizes 2–4. In December, even larger"**