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**Amendments to the China export protocol
(Bilateral Export Protocol for Fresh Citrus
Fruit from South Africa to the People's
Republic of China)**

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South Africa began pursuing official access to the China market for the export of fresh citrus in 2001. The protocol permitting export of citrus fruit from South Africa to China was signed on 29 June 2004.

The protocol has undergone several amendments over the years to improve conditions for access. This included changes to cold treatment conditions (2006), inclusion of bulk shipping in specialised refrigerated vessels (2018), and inclusion of improved treatment conditions for lemons (2021).

In June 2025, South Africa requested China to include additional improved time temperature cold treatment options for FCM. On 10 April 2026 a protocol amendment was signed that includes the following improved cold treatment options for FCM:

- At or below -0.2°C for 16 consecutive days, or
- At or below 1.0°C for 19 consecutive days

There is no change to the cold treatment protocol for lemons, which remains at or below 3°C for 18 consecutive days.

The date of implementation and operational details for implementation will be communicated as soon as this information is released by the Department of Agriculture.

Wysigings aan die China-uitvoerprotokol (Bilaterale Uitvoerprotokol vir Vars Sitrusvrugte vanaf Suid-Afrika na die Volksrepubliek van China)

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Suid-Afrika het in 2001 begin om amptelike toegang tot die China-mark vir die uitvoer van vars sitrus te ondersoek. Die protokol wat die uitvoer van sitrusvrugte vanaf Suid-Afrika na China toelaat, is op 29 Junie 2004 onderteken.

Die protokol het oor die jare verskeie wysigings ondergaan om die voorwaardes vir toegang te verbeter. Dit het veranderinge aan kouebehandelingsvoorwaardes (2006), “bulk” verskeping in gespesialiseerde “reefer” skepe (2018), en verbeterde behandelingsvoorwaardes vir suurlemoene (2021) ingesluit.

In Junie 2025 het Suid-Afrika China versoek om bykomende verbeterde tyd-temperatuur kouebehandelingsopsies vir VKM in te sluit. Op 10 April 2026 is 'n protokolwysiging onderteken wat die volgende verbeterde kouebehandelingsopsies vir VKM insluit:

- Teen of onder -0.2°C vir 16 agtereenvolgende dae, óf
- Teen of onder 1.0°C vir 19 agtereenvolgende dae

Daar is geen verandering aan die kouebehandelingsprotokol vir suurlemoene nie. Dit bly steeds teen of onder 3°C vir 18 agtereenvolgende dae.

Die implementeringsdatum en operasionele besonderhede vir implementering sal gekommunikeer word sodra hierdie inligting deur die Departement van Landbou vrygestel word.