The Commission did not make any agreement with South Africa on cold treatment for non-compliant consignments of oranges. Cold treatment on certain consignments of oranges originating in South Africa that did not comply with point 62.1(d)(ii) of Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 was carried out at EU ports in accordance with the provisions of Article 66(3)(c) Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on ‘special treatment’. The technical characteristics of that cold treatment may vary, as Member States’ inspectors study all the available information for each consignment in order to decide on the effective cold treatment.

Member States decided to apply cold treatment in order to avoid the destruction of the fruits, while still guaranteeing the proper level of phytosanitary protection. However, at a technical meeting with South Africa on 5 August 2022, the Commission clarified that the application of that ‘special treatment’ by Member States may only be exceptional and temporary, serving for the time being to deal with large quantities of citrus fruit stuck at EU ports shortly after the new EU measures became applicable (as of 14 of July 2022). South Africa cannot rely on this option going forward and is expected to fully comply with the new phytosanitary measures for all future citrus consignments.

According to Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, Annex VII, point 62, the reference to the appropriate requirements and the codes of the sites of production need to be included in the additional declaration of the phytosanitary certificates for soft citrus originating in South Africa.

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1 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02019R2072-20220714&qid=1664528414251