



DATE: August 19, 2010
TO: Korea Program Participants & Interested Parties
FROM: Jim Cranney
SUBJECT: Important Information on 2010/11 Korea Program

The California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) is contacting you to provide important information on the status of the Korea export program. On July 22 USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) reached an agreement with Korea's National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS) on exports to Korea.

The agreement requires a declaration that oranges are free of *Septoria citri* and live red scale. It also removes mandatory fumigation for red scale if live red scale is not found on arrival. The agreement requires California growers to control *Septoria citri*, but it does not prescribe how control should be achieved. The agreement is a significant improvement over the previous work plan, since it suspends the need for Korean inspectors, prescriptive record keeping and grower lot identification using KOR numbers.

While the agreement does not specifically state how growers should control *Septoria citri*, NPQS will expect the California industry to continue to minimize the presence of *Septoria* on arrival. We expect the guidelines for the program to be nearly the same as last season. This means growers should plan to manage *Septoria* using the same principles that were required under the previous work plan. Likewise, exporters may find it useful to continue to test lots for *Septoria* using the NAVEK lab. Even though the sampling program is not a requirement for export to Korea testing susceptible lots would significantly reduce the risk that *Septoria* would be detected on arrival.

CCQC urges growers and exporters to seriously consider these recommendations, because a significant increase in *Septoria* violations in Korea could result in suspension of the new agreement, which would then trigger a default to the previous work plan.

In an effort to plan for the coming season, CCQC is requesting that exporters estimate the number of samples they would like to submit to the lab in the coming season. This will provide the information Dr. Jim Adaskaveg needs to manage the NAVEK program. An accurate estimate will help him determine how many people will be needed to run the program. Too many or too few people will be problematic for the program. We ask that each packinghouse complete the survey and return to CCQC to determine interest in maintaining the NAVEK lab capability.

Since there is one more year left on our Technical Assistance for Specialty Crop (TASC) grant, we would expect the grant to fund most of the lab expenses. However, if the grant is not approved the industry would be required to fund its operation.

All of this information will be discussed at the Korea preseason meeting on September 21. Please contact me by telephone at (530) 885-1894 or via e-mail at jcranney@calcitrusquality.org if you have questions or need additional information.