

17 MARCH 2020

WIETA COVID-19 COMMUNICATION

With an increase in COVID19 cases being confirmed in South Africa and our president, Cyril Ramaphosa, implementing strict measures to curb the spread of it, it is of utmost importance that WIETA takes proactive measures to safeguard the further spread of the virus amongst our members, clients, farm workers and farming communities, consultants and auditors. To minimise physical interactions, WIETA has taken the following decisions effective from 18 March 2020:

OFFICE VISITS & GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

- The WIETA office will be open and the telephones will be staffed by essential staff members. Strict hygiene protocols and controls will be kept in place at the office during this time.
- Members, who have enquiries, are encouraged to call in or email staff members with their queries as we are discouraging appointments at the WIETA office at this time.
- No walk-in visitors will be permitted to enter the building or the WIETA office. All deliveries are to be left outside the office and will be collected by designated staff.
- Where staff members are able to work remotely from home and have access to email and telephonic communications, they will be encouraged to do so.
- All contact meetings, internally and externally, have been cancelled until 30 April 2020.

WIETA AUDITS

- ❖ WIETA has been in communication with the three certification/audit bodies, NSF, BSI and Partner Africa to ascertain and agree upon the necessary protocols to be followed by auditors around any audits that need to take place over the next three months.
- ❖ Strict measures are being taken by each auditing firm to ensure that auditors report any potential exposure to COVID-19 and to report any recent international travel by auditors from risk areas such as China, the Republic of Korea, Europe, the UK and USA. WIETA has also insisted upon the restriction of local air travel, although this is not applicable for audits planned during this period within the wine industry.
- ❖ Certification/audit bodies have further agreed to ensure precautionary measures from their auditors around reporting illnesses prior to audit, health and hygiene, washing of hands,

T: +27 (0)21 880 0580 F: +27 (0) 21 880 0576

Unit 5, Time Square, 8 Electron Road, Technopark, Stellenbosch, 7600

www.wieta.org.za

WIETA Board: Chairperson - Mzukisi Mooi (CRLS) | Vice Chairperson - Philip du Toit (PDT Boerdery Pty Ltd) | Heinie Nel (DGB) | Christo Conradie (VinPro) | Hilton Witbooi (BAWUSA) | Leandra Meyer (SALBA) | Abraham Daniels (FAWU) | Nosey Pieterse (BAWSI) | David Rayters (NPSWU) | Siobhan Thompson (WOSA) | Linda Lipparoni (CEO)

NPO Registration: 034-510-NPO

sanitising of equipment and phones, temperature readings, wearing masks at request of the clients, to prevent any possible exposure.

- ❖ Auditors will also communicate with sites prior to an audit, whether there is possible exposure, being quarantined as well as ascertaining specific health and safety control measures which the sites may have introduced.

AUDIT POSTPONEMENT OPTIONS

WIETA CERTIFICATION ALREADY IN PLACE FOR 30 APRIL 2020

- Employment sites that have certification in place valid until at least 30 April 2020, i.e. is certified for harvest 2020, and who wish to postpone their audit, must contact the certification/audit body performing the audit to inform them of this decision. In these cases no penalty will be incurred to their audit cycle. However, the site will be required to complete the attached application for waiver and submit it to amelia@wieta.org.za.

SITES WITH NO CERTIFICATION FOR 30 APRIL 2020

- Sites that do not have certification in place for April 2020 and who decide to postpone their audit to beyond June 2020, are in a position to do so in consultation with their certification/audit body. Unfortunately, no extension on their WIETA certificate or interim certification will be given in these cases.

Where audits continue to take place, we recommend that all auditors take extreme care to ensure that they keep a distance of more than 1 meter from employers, employees and farm working communities on site and ensure strict protocols and health and hygiene practices as mentioned.

All sites with audits booked during the remainder of March and April 2020 are welcome to contact Amelia Heyns, Standard and Certification Manager, at amelia@wieta.org.za with questions in this regard.

WIETA TRAINING SESSIONS

All WIETA related training, including Programme training and Producer training, has been cancelled until June or further notice.

STRONGER TOGETHER WORKSHOPS

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All Stronger Together workshops have been cancelled until June 2020. The Programme staff will work from home and will continue to work on updating training and information based materials during this period.

We ask that our members take every precaution to keep their staff, families and farming communities safe and free of infection by making as much information available possible to prevent the spread.

Should you have questions on the above, please feel free to contact me at linda@wieta.org.za

Wishing everyone a safe transition through this crisis.



LINDA LIPPARONI
CEO