



LifeSpan for Table Grapes

LIFESPAN MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE BULK PACKAGING APPLICATIONS – UPDATE REPORT

Status: LifeSpan Grape products are used to preserve grape quality during trans-continental shipments and for marketing season extension.

LifeSpan offers a viable alternative to Sulphur treatments, particularly for organic grapes and is increasingly used in conventional grapes as an Sulphur alternative or in combination with Sulphur for maximum storage and shelf life.

Today LifeSpan packaging is the pre-eminent post harvest storage extension alternative to Sulphur treatments. It has consistently outperformed other alternatives to Sulphur.

- **Benefits:** LifeSpan grape products offer significant storage life extension, improved appearance, greener stems, firmer berries, fewer neck cracks, improved berry split behaviour, improved flavour, botrytis suppression, elimination of Sulphur burn (where applicable) and condensation removal.
- **Independent Research Endorsements:** Independent studies by the African Research Council (ARC) in South Africa have shown significant positive outcomes and concluded LifeSpan technology to be a viable alternative to Sulphur treatment.
- **Packaging formats:** LifeSpan box liners are now well accepted in the grape industry and used commercially in several countries. A pallet shroud system has been trialled in the USA, Australia, Brazil and South Africa, and is now commercially available.
- **Organic Certified Grapes:** LifeSpan modified atmosphere box liners can achieve several weeks additional storage life for most organically grown table grape varieties, where use of Sulphur generating pads or Sulphur gassing is not possible. Market acceptance in some countries is very high (e.g. The majority of the export organic grape market employs LifeSpan technology in South Africa).

- **Conventional Grapes:** Lifespan box liners can add additional quality and cost benefits for conventional grapes where the use of Sulphur pads is banned or where Sulphur pad usage is restricted (e.g. pads need to be removed prior to delivery).

Conventional grapes packaged in LifeSpan with generating Sulphur pads or with Sulphur gassing may add to the storage life achieved by Sulphur generating pads or Sulphur gassing alone. Flavour and stem quality is consistently improved and Sulphur burn reduced.

Market acceptance is increasing rapidly in conventional grapes particularly for applications with longer transit times where Sulphur burn tends to be problematic such as in exports to distant destinations. Market acceptance where Sulphur treatment is banned or restricted is gaining momentum.

Environmental, Ecological and Health Credentials: LifeSpan has excellent environmental and ecological credentials. LifeSpan has been used for years in a range of fresh produce products to reduce overall carbon footprint and overall packaging while providing excellent storage extensions results without the use of chemicals. Of course LifeSpan products are also recyclable.

For further information, please contact
LifeSpan on (+2 010 911 29 666
Fax (+2 03 59188 6
email marketing@prime-egypt.net

www.amcorlifespan.com



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