

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice 03 of 2017 • 30 October 2017

TOPIC: Outcome of Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee Meeting 25 October 2017

DISTRIBUTION: GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.

1. Status Update

- Grain Trade Australia is a member of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC) representing the interests of all GTA members.
- The GPPEICC is the principal forum for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) to consult with grain, fodder, nuts, seed and timber industries on export inspection and certification, export market access and other relevant issues.
- The most recent meeting was held 25 October 2017 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

2. Meeting Outcomes

DAWR Export Certification Charges

- The budget for 1718 is being considered with revised export certification charges being developed. GTA will provide consider the proposal and provide feedback to DAWR on behalf of its members.
- DAWR will release a revised charging model in November for industry feedback. The revised charging model is expected to be a balance between increased certification charges and an increased tonnage charge. The model selected is expected to be in place by 1 July 2018.

Request for Permit & Documentation Issues

- A Working group has been formed by GTA to provide feedback to DAWR on industry compliance with export regulation related to provision of timely documents prior to export.
- The Working Group has met on several occasions and provided feedback to DAWR on causes for delays in certification provision.
- The Working Group will continue its review and industry is encouraged to contact GTA to provide input into its deliberations.

- The Documentation Hub/Services Unit has commenced working with those exporters considered to have a “high rate of errors when submitting documentation” to DAWR in the hope of reducing the high number of errors. Industry is encouraged to provide correct documents to DAWR to assist in the timely authorisation of cargoes for export. Industry should also note that DAWR are maintaining a register of document resubmissions which may lead to amendments to the charging guidelines to ensure the extra effort required to address these issues is cost recovered from industry.

Bulk Vessel & Inspections Update

- The Export inspection of empty bulk vessels at berth job function was released to industry on 03 October 2017. IAN 2017-43 provides full details of the process for application as well as the required pre-requisite competencies.
- The release of the Export inspection of empty bulk vessels at protected anchorage job function has not yet occurred and for this reason, the previous duplicate pilot for the export inspection of empty bulk vessels at ORAN protected anchorage, which ran from 1 April through to 30 September 2017, will be extended.
- DAWR in consultation with a Sampling Working Group formed under GPPEICC, has drafted a guideline for pre-load sampling of grain and seed for analysis of quarantine weed seeds, pests and contaminants in consignments of grains and seed for export. This was developed to ensure the required samples taken pre-loading for quarantine purposes meet regulatory requirements and are representative of the cargo. GTA has continued to provide input into those sampling guidelines. Industry is reminded that samples collected during loading of containers (and bulk vessels) must be done at the required legislated rate to ensure they are representative of the consignment.
- Mobile Bulk Loading facilities have been used to load grain in several locations during the year. DAWR have developed a “Mobile Bulk Loading - Transport of Export compliant goods Guideline” document to outline requirements. GTA have provided input into that document. DAWR plan to publish those guidelines in December.

MICoR and Industry Advice Notices

- The Manual of Importing Country Requirements (Micor) Plants is a reference tool detailing the requirements for Import Permits, Phytosanitary Certificates, Additional Declarations and/or treatments, and also other relevant export information and documentation, such as protocols for all export destinations.
- Exporters should independently verify information on Micor Plants before relying on it. These Official importing country requirements must be an import permit or other information that DAWR can verify was issued by the NPPO of the importing country.
- Industry is encouraged to subscribe to the department’s Industry Advice Notices (IANs) so they can receive announcements and updates on issues concerning the export of plant products. IANs advise of updated instructional material, major changes to importing country requirements, market access issues, export certification issues and other changes to export requirements.

Export Control Regulations Update

- The Export Control Act 1982 is currently being reviewed with the intention for it to be replaced by the Export Control Act 2018 (assuming passage through Parliament in 2018). This Act describes the legislative measures available to support Australian agricultural exports and the requirements for exports.
- A range of domestic stakeholder engagement activities is in progress and these include information sessions, briefings and meetings with industry, Commonwealth and state and territory governments. GTA has been involved in those consultations and will continue to engage with the Department during the next phase of development of the legislation.
- Introduction of the draft Bill into Parliament is proposed for the end of 2017, with the new legislation to commence around April 2020 when the existing legislation ceases to be law.

3. Further Information

- Contact GTA to seek further information on any of the above issues or to provide input into any of the Working Groups mentioned above.
- Further information on GPPEICC and its membership can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/partnerships/consultative-committees/gppeicc>