

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice 16 of 2018 • 29 October 2018

TOPIC: Outcome of Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee Meeting 10 October 2018

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 GTA members.
- The GPPEICC is the principal forum for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 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 10 October 2018 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

2. Meeting Outcomes

DAWR Export Finance and Certification Charges

- The previously announced Expanded Cost Recovery measures that require exporters to fund, through cost recovery, regulatory activities that were previously government funded (such as market access compliance, market access technical advice) continue to be finalised.
- DAWR continues to review the impact on the above Expanded Cost Recovery measures on the proposed 2019/20 budget, plus additional significant impacts on export charges such as the expected exports for the 2018/19 and beyond years, industry Authorised Officer (AO) uptake and the level of auditing by DAWR of AOs/Export Registered Establishments).
- By December 2018, DAWR will commence engagement with industry seeking feedback on the revised charging framework expected to be in place by 1 July 2019.
- DAWR is reviewing actions to suspend their services to a number of industry companies with overdue debt. In order to ensure debt recovery actions are not progressed in accordance with the Department's debt management activities, industry is encouraged to monitor their debt status and pay DAWR invoices for services within statutory timelines.

Documentation & IT System Issues

- Errors with authorisation requests continue to remain a significant issue despite trending down in recent months. GTA continues to work with DAWR on reducing industry error rates with export documents. A further update on the major causes for errors in documentation provided to DAWR with exports will be

provided to industry shortly to assist industry to continue to focus on improving its performance. In the interim, industry attention to correctly completing all documentation is encouraged, as this appears to be one of the major causes in errors and subsequent completion of the required documents to be provided with exports.

- UPDATE since Meeting: The revised version of the Plant Exports Management System (PEMS V2.1) with significant upgrades has recently been released (see <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/ian/2018/2018-47>). Industry will be advised of training to be offered in its use, including the improved areas of functionality. A post-implementation review will occur in January 2019 and industry is encouraged to provide feedback to DAWR.
- PEMS v3.0 has scoped in additional grain inspections such as Quality System Recognition (QSR) and Mobile Bulk Loading (MBL). This version is expected to assist industry compliance with export documentation by enabling exchange of data with DAWR. The project is planned to be delivered in stages with the first tranche scheduled for completion in the first half of 2019.
- Nexdoc, the new version of the Exdoc system, is planned for release in 2018/19. If all improvements as requested cannot be delivered in that timeline, it is expected additional functionality will be delivered in the following year.
- As previously advised to industry, a DAWR/industry Information Technology sub-committee has been formed to “facilitate industry consultation and engagement on information technology matters for the department’s inspection and certification of grain and plant products prepared for export from Australia”. GTA will keep industry advised of areas of activity, however any suggestions on areas to focus work is encouraged to be provided by industry stakeholders.

Bulk Vessel & Inspections Update

- DAWR have continued to focus on conducting audits on Export Registered Establishments. While overall compliance with regulatory requirements continues to be relatively high, audit findings indicate industry performance can be improved for:
 - Site hygiene and pest control (i.e., grain spill management, weed control, site and storage drainage)
 - Documentation management and record keeping
- Industry is advised that DAWR considers that more frequent audit schedules are planned, as audits are effective tools to manage most non-compliance issues with Export Registered Establishments and AOs. As part of this strategy to ensure compliance with regulatory matters, the level of unannounced audits compared with announced audits will be increased for the current year. AOs that do not meet the performance standards will be subject to sanctions, including reduced timeframes between audits, additional training, and possible revocation of appointment by DAWR.
- Industry is encouraged to continue to comply with all regulatory obligations and focus on areas of improvement as listed above, where required.

Legislation Review

- DAWR continues to review export legislation for all commodities, with the timeline for implementation of revised legislation of 2020 still considered achievable.
- It is expected that consultation with industry on the revised legislation, aimed at improving export arrangements (to help make it easier to understand, administer and use), will occur in the early 2019 period. In the interim, GTA has written to DAWR on behalf of industry seeking a review of various aspects of the current legislation.

3. Further Information

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