

Member Update

UPDATE 15 of 18 • 18 June 2018

TOPIC: *Release of the Revised Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice*

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Member update is to announce to Members the completion of the review and release of the revised Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice.

2. Background

The **Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice** (Code) is an integral part of the Grain Industry Self-Regulatory Framework provided by GTA products & services. The Code, and the supporting Grain Transport Code of Practice (TCOP) and Technical Guideline Documents (TGDs), are provided as the base Standard for the management of grain along the supply chain.

An extensive review process undertaken by GTA and an Industry Working Group (IWG) has been completed. The IWG comprised representation and expertise from across industry, including the production sector, transport operators, supply chain/logistic managers, container packers, bulk handlers and port operators, container and bulk, small and large exporters. This review also involved extensive industry input via submissions called for in [Member Update 27 of 17](#) and [Member Update 4 of 18](#).

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources provided the funding for the review and endorsed the revised Code.

[The revised Grain Industry Code of Practice, Grain Transport Code of Practice and Technical Guideline Documents are available from the GTA website.](#)

3. Adoption of the Code

GTA has recently completed an industry-wide extension and communications program to all sectors of the grain industry and Government to ensure awareness and compliance are achieved. Adoption of the Code is key to industry self-regulation, and as such, GTA and Industry will continue to promote the Code.

The Code supports self-regulation by providing guidance to industry, outlining the minimum requirements of all involved in the Australian grain industry.

Adoption of the Code provides all industry sectors including governments, researchers and consumers with confidence that processes exist in Australia to successfully:

- Comply with all laws and regulations relating to the growing, merchandising, inspection, grading, weighing, storing, handling and transport of grain, including relevant Workplace Health and Safety regulations;

- Conduct activities considering the impact on the environment;
- Comply with legal requirements for the application and use of chemicals at all stages along the supply chain;
- Comply with Australian and importing countries' maximum residue limits (MRLs) and other regulated import requirements;
- Implement financial management standards where applicable;
- Comply with industry standards, processes and procedures;
- Where contractors are used, comply with industry and individual company procedures;
- Maintain and promote the use of industry-accepted management practices, standards and procedures in the transaction of business;
- Promote the Australian industry and its grain in support of market access;
- Promote the adoption of safe practices at all stages along the supply chain; and
- Improve the standards of practice and service in the Australian grain industry.

Compliance with the Code is mandatory for members of Grain Trade Australia and strongly recommended for all industry participants.

4. Code Assessment / Industry Induction

Codes of Practice must have relevance within an industry. Compliance to the Code and its adoption within an industry is an important component of the development of a mature and acceptable industry culture.

To improve the relevance of the Code, GTA is developing an on-line learning and assessment program with the objective to establish a base level awareness and understanding of the Code, the TCOP and TGDs by industry participants.

Having a means of assessment associated with the Code creates an avenue for industry to develop a degree of demonstrable Code of Practice "compliance" and a means to demonstrate that industry understands the level of performance required in the Code, the TCOP and TGDs.

It is anticipated the establishment of this Code Assessment / Induction Program will support industry training and development.

The anticipate delivery model (Learning Management System) will provide a set of multiple-choice questions for each Code and TGD.

The finalisation of the base Learning Management System, including questions, is nearing completion. Additional refinement of the Assessment /Induction structure will be performed through engagement and testing with GTA members prior to the on-line learning delivery and assessment program going live.

END