

GRAINMatters



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COVID-19

GTA have established a COVID-19 page on our website, as information source for Members.

In response to member demand, GTA has set up COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

[Access COVID-19 page here](#)

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Easter Joy and Peace



As we approach the Easter break in what is an exceptionally trying period for all participants in the grain industry and their families and friends, the Board and Management and staff of GTA all join in wishing all our Members a happy Easter holiday period. This Easter offers time for family, the simple things in life (at home!) and a chance to find peace and hope for the future.

- GTA has been working with the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) to raise awareness among governments (of grain trade countries) of disruptions that are emerging in the global trade of grain, due to Covid-19 impacts on the timely completion of the **export documentation and payment processes**.
- GTA has written directly to the Agriculture Minister the Hon David Littleproud MP and the Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment (DAWE) to ensure full awareness of this important matter.
- **Issue** - With current restrictions on air transport and courier services, an urgent trade related issue has emerged (and may escalate). This issue is the impact on the **timely and effective exchange of crucial export documents** that underpin the international grain trade and ultimately, payment for goods.
- Impacted are all documentation and processes necessary to complete an international grain transaction, including certificates such as phytosanitary, supervision, fumigation and country of origin certificates; bills of lading; and bank custody documentation.
- Document issues have already occurred that resulted in delays in vessel clearance, leading to delays in shipment and processing for payment within banks.
- GTA and other IGTC members have been liaising to develop practical solutions to minimise delays for all commercially transacted documents. A key element of those transactions and processes are government issued documents and clearance processes at destination by importing country.
- GTA fully supports the recent advice of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for countries “to be as flexible as possible”. GTA have encouraged the Australian Government to be open to and promote with other Governments the following options for contingency measures as appropriate to avoid any unnecessary delays:
 1. Maximise use of electronic exchange mechanisms to facilitate a “paperless” exchange of phytosanitary certificates.
 2. Acceptance of scanned copies of documents with the agreement that originals will be supplied as soon as technically feasible. Auditing post-sail to ensure compliance, and appropriate rigour.
 3. e-Validation of documents for example using a Sole Electronic Validation Code or QR code.
 4. Physically send phytosanitary certificates with the consignments where necessary.
 5. Allow printing of certificates at destination to be acceptable.

THAILAND CHEMICAL BAN—Takes effect and enforced on 1 June 2020

- The National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) recently provided an update to industry on the proposed ban by Thailand of the chemicals
 - ◆ Paraquat;
 - ◆ chlorpyrifos; and
 - ◆ chlorpyrifos-methyl.
- These chemicals are listed as hazardous substances in Thailand and will be prohibited for production, import, export and possession.
- **MRLs of zero for these hazardous substances will apply to all grain including imports.**
- This regulation change will be in effect and enforced on **1 June 2020**.
- GTA Members are reminded that compliance with all regulations in importing countries, including MRLs is a requirement under the grain industry Code of Practice.
- **All exporters considering Thailand as a potential destination be aware** - Suitable management systems should be implemented when exporting grain to Thailand to **ensure compliance with the zero MRL** for these three chemicals on grain.
- To view the NWPGP announcement see [here](#).

GRAINS AUSTRALIA—Seeking Directors

- The Australian grains industry has agreed to establish a new company, known as Grains Australia Ltd (GA), to be responsible for the delivery of certain grains industry good services and functions on behalf of the entire Australian grains supply chain.
- GA in many ways is a result of GTA Members pushing to reduce the amount of duplication across industry associations and member organisations.
- GA's core functions will be:
 1. To establish and maintain a grain variety classification system
 2. To provide services that maintain and improve trade and market access
 3. To develop long term market and consumer analysis and product awareness to support longer term demand and value creation
 4. To ensure technical support and training is available for customers of, and participants in the Australian grains industry
- The GA Steering Committee consisting of Grain Growers Ltd, Grain Producers Australia, GTA and GRDC have recently finalised the GA constitution and are commencing the **search for 5 Directors for a skills-based GA Board**.
- For more information please see the recent Member Update [Here](#).

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT—Webinars are coming

- GTA is working on continuing to provide a range of targeted, practical workshops designed to meet the expanding educational demands of its members and the grain industry.
- To support these requirements GTA is working towards developing **Webinar based training** similar to the recent special Webinar series on – [“COVID-19 impacts and issues for GTA members brought to you with the assistance of Grant Thornton and HFW”](#)
- Further information will be provided as details are confirmed.

WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGY VESSEL SURVEY

- The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) and GTA have formed a Working Group to review the introduction of “action cameras” for all Authorised Officers (AO) when performing empty vessel surveys.
- Prior to a bulk vessel being loaded with export grain it must be assessed and certified by a Government AO as being suitable for export usage.
- As a result of practical difficulties auditing the performance of AOs, DAWE is considering the use of technology including body cameras. Go Pros (or equivalent) have been identified as a possible solution which could see AOs recording all aspects of every vessel survey. These records would be saved to the Cloud for random selection and auditing by DAWE.
- As guidelines and agreed protocols are required to support this program, these will be developed via the GTA facilitated Working Group.

GTA Working Group Role

- Provide industry experience and knowledge to assist DAWE including:
 - ◆ Practical issues that may arise;
 - ◆ Discussion of the suitability of technology and funding arrangements;
 - ◆ Consideration of administration processes, and IT requirements/skills;
 - ◆ WH&S issues;
 - ◆ Liabilities and other commercial implications; and
 - ◆ Extension of technology to improve inspection capability and assurance in other areas.
- The Working Group include DAWE, GTA Members and representatives from the Marine Survey or sector. Further information contact GTA Operations Manager, tim.ross@graintrade.org.au

GRAIN VARIETAL MASTER CODES—Industry on the Uptake

- GTA's Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) has a focus on simplifying the data and transactional requirements in the Australian grain supply chain.
- One objective for ITAC is to provide industry Standard Data Reference Tables for **common industry data** including Grain Varietal Codes for use by Members.
- In 2018 GTA began preliminary work with Wheat Quality Australia, Barley Australia, Pulse Australia and the Australian Oilseeds Federation to create a common industry varietal code list. Several Bulk Handling Companies (BHCs) immediately adopted the common industry codes for the 2018/19 harvest and further adoption by BHCs for the 2019/20 harvest.
- GTA and the ITAC is pleased to report **that all large corporate BHCs have committed to fully adopting the GTA Grain Varietal Code Master List for the upcoming 2020/21 Harvest.**
- Grain Industry Alignment - With the successful adoption of the GTA Grain Varietal Code Master List by the large corporate BHCs GTA is hopeful other GTA members and market participants will move to adopt the GTA Grain Varietal Code Master List for the 2020/21 Harvest.
- A copy of GTA's current Grain Varietal Code Master List is available from the GTA website in the Industry Reference Data section of the Storage and Handling Tab - [Here](#).
- ITAC believes the full adoption of GTA's Grain Varietal Code Master List by all relevant participants of the Australian grain industry will significantly reduce the administrative costs associated with tracking and managing this information across the grain supply chain.
- **GTA encourages all relevant participants of the Australian grain industry to put in place plans to adopt the GTA Grain Varietal Code Master List for the 2020/21 harvest.**

DAWE GRAIN INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- GTA is an active member of DAWE's Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC) representing the interests of GTA members.
- The GPPEICC is the principal forum for the grain industry and government to meet and consult on operational, market access and phytosanitary issues.
- DAWE consults with the committee when introducing major policy or operational changes.
- The focus of the GPPEICC is to consult on:
 - strategic directions for the Grain and Seed Export Program ensuring Australia meets its obligations to the International Plant Protection Convention
 - significant proposed changes to policy and operational procedures
 - program budgets, cost recovery mechanisms and charge levels
 - key program performance issues such as efficiency and effectiveness indicators.
- Membership of the Committee includes representatives of commodity sectors regulated by the Grain and Seed Export Program.
- This forum is useful to raise industry issues with Government. A recent example was to clearly express the grains industry's disappointment that Australia has not been able to prepare for the IPPC agreed move to electronic phytosanitary documents (ePhyto Solution). GTA has strongly encouraged the Government to ensure this is prioritised for development given its obvious benefits to improving trade.
- Information on issues of relevance to GTA members are distributed to Members after each meeting, with the most recent meeting (18th March 2020) outlined in a [GTA Market Notification](#).

IA-CEPA—Feed Grain Quota

- The Indonesian Australian – Cooperative Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) continues to be progressed by the Australian and Indonesian Governments. **Australia has ratified the IA-CEPA and are awaiting the final ratification by Indonesia.** This was expected to have been completed by now with the last loose ends managed.
- However, further delays are occurring as the COVID-19 impact is being felt on the workload of government officials in both countries.
- The delays have prevented the discussion and confirmation of important processes to allow feed grain imports to flow into Indonesia under the IA-CEPA.
- As previously reported once these last issues are completed there is a period of **60 days prior to feed grain exporters being able to apply for a reservation for the tariff quota.**

GTA MEMBERSHIP

It is an important time to be a GTA member and keep up to date with the latest industry developments and critical information, as well as participate in industry working groups and discussions to have your input/say. If you know anyone who is not a GTA member but might benefit from the membership, please refer them to us via email:

admin@graintrade.org.au