

MemberUpdate

UPDATE 15 of 23 • 28 June 2023

TOPIC: Introduction of Accredited Grain Surveyor Assurance Scheme on 1 July 2023

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

1. Purpose

To advise GTA members of an important new requirement for bulk vessel grain marine surveyors.

2. Background

On 1 January 2022, amendments were made to the Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021 to clarify the requirements for marine surveyors to be accredited to perform bulk vessel surveys in Australia.

On 1 July 2023, these amendments will take effect and **marine surveyors who perform bulk vessel surveys must be accredited under the Accredited Grain Surveyor Assurance (AGSA) scheme**. This scheme will be administered by the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS).

The AGSA Scheme reflects the broad range of relevant training and qualifications held by marine surveyors performing bulk vessel surveys and incorporates work experience requirements to provide greater assurance that new marine surveyors can perform surveys safely and compliantly.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has released an [Industry Advice Notice](#) on their website notifying all stakeholders of the new requirements for marine surveyors conducting Fitness to Load surveys for ships loading grain in Australia.

It is important GTA members are aware that from 1 July 2023, any marine surveyor conducting the grain 'fitness to load' surveys and issuing certification **must be accredited** by the Australian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS). If a vessel marine survey is performed by a non-AGSA accredited surveyor, the 'fitness to load' certificate will not be accepted by the DAFF Authorised Officer as part of the government inspection process and the vessel will not be passed for loading.

Key points:

Marine Surveyors:

1. will need to apply to AIMS for accreditation under the AGSA scheme;
2. must be accredited by July 1, 2023, to be able to undertake 'fitness to load' surveys; and
3. must carry their Accreditation Identification Card with them to all surveys and present this card to the AO.

Exporters:

4. From 1 July 2023, exporters and shipping companies must source accredited marine surveyors to perform bulk vessel surveys for the export of grain.
5. A list of current accredited Marine Surveyors can be found at the AIMS website ([Link: here](#))