

Member Update

Title: Grain Export Certification Reform Program (ECRP) - update

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Distribution

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

References:

This Member Update, through necessity is only a summary of the activities that occurred and the new initiatives.

Members who wish to gain greater understanding are encouraged to refer to the DAFF website:

- 1 **Final Report of the ECRP** - The [final report on the Government's Export Certification Reform Package for the export grain industry](#) PDF [704 MB]
- 2 **ECRP issues** - <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/ecri/grain-mtf>
- 3 **To export product** - <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/plants-plant-products>

Member action

- 1 **Training for Authorised Officers** at no charge will, in all likelihood, cease on 30 June 2013

Reference IAN 2013-11 - Authorised Officer Program - Updated Candidate Advice for PGG3001 Inspection of Prescribed Grain & Plant Products

- 2 **Organisations are able to apply to DAFF Biosecurity as an Export Compliant Goods Storage site.**

Reference: IAN 2013-16 - Grain and Seed Export Program - Export Compliance Goods Storage

- 3 **Bulk vessel inspections can now be done by AO's.**

Reference IAN 2013-15 - Grain and Seed Export Program – Plant Export Operations Manual and Work Instruction for Bulk Vessel Inspections

1.0 Background

Following the outbreak of Equine Influenza in Australia in August 2007, the Federal Government commissioned an independent review of quarantine and biosecurity arrangements — *One biosecurity: a working partnership* (the Beale Review) — which, amongst other things, concluded that export certification functions should return to 100 per cent cost recovery as scheduled on 30 June 2009. Government accepted this recommendation.

In April 2009, in recognition of the return to full cost recovery, the then Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Honourable Tony Burke MP, implemented six Joint Industry — AQIS Export Ministerial Taskforces (MTFs) to identify reforms to export regulatory services and systems for the dairy, fish, horticulture, grain, livestock and meat export sectors.

2.0 Major Outcomes of the ECRP

2.1 Legislative

Key changes included:

- Prescriptive detail has been removed from the legislation. Prescriptive detail is now housed in the new Plant Exports Operation Manual which can be amended changed relatively easily compared to the legislation.
- An expanded role for AQIS Authorised Officers (AAOs) give industry more inspection options rather than rely on endpoint inspection.
- Creation of the National Documentation Hub that will deliver a consistent national approach to issuing documents and which will operate under extended operating hours (something industry has been requesting for many years).

The purpose of the new Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011 is to regulate the export of prescribed grain, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, hay and straw, and plants and plant products for which a phytosanitary or any other certificate is required by declaring those goods to be prescribed goods under the Act and specifying the conditions and restrictions for their export.

The new Plant Orders were made on 22 September 2011, and came into effect on 1 October 2011. The new export plant legislation is less prescriptive and more focused on the outcomes that exporters must achieve. By allowing exporters the flexibility to decide how to achieve required outcomes, the reformed legislation is expected to deliver cost savings and be flexible enough to take into account any innovation in the plant and plant product industries. As the new legislation has only been introduced relatively recently, the extent of these benefits has not been measured to date.

2.2 Development of inspection models

2.2.1 DAFF Biosecurity Authorised Officers

The major outcome was the introduction of Approved Officers. In essence, individuals (not necessarily DAFF staff) following training and approval become authorised to act on behalf of DAFF for inspection of:

- 1 Empty containers
- 2 Bulk holds
- 3 Commodity inspection for phytosanitary purposes

In excess of 1000 applications have been received to undergo training to become an Authorised Officer. The training is in two parts:

- 1 E learning which an applicant must pass before attempting the practical assessment
- 2 Practical assessment

Applicants are able to get on the job practical training at no charge and there is no charge to undergo the assessment, though this is liable to change post 30 June 2013. Assessments are being conducted by DAFF Plant Export Assessors pan Australia.

The increased flexibility to pack/load is the greatest advantage that organisations enjoy with their own AO's.

2.2.2 Bulk Vessel Inspection by Authorised Officers

This initiative enables suitably qualified AO's to do the DAFF Biosecurity survey when the ship is off berth, ensuring when it comes alongside that loading can commence immediately.

2.2.3 Export Compliance Goods Storage (ECGS)

Export Compliance Goods Storage (ECGS) is a key reform initiative, developed in consultation with industry, moves the point of inspection for prescribed grain and plant products from the point of export to earlier in the supply chain. This will reduce potential delays and cost to exporters resulting from export inspection during loading.

Where ECGS and bulk vessel inspection at anchor, is combined, it means that when a ship comes alongside the berth that loading can commence immediately without the threat of a stoppage.

The previous system only allowed DAFF Biosecurity personnel to do the bulk hold inspection and that had to be done alongside the berth and the inspection of the grain for live grain insects occurred as it was being loaded. When a live grain insect was detected, loading would stop while remedial action would have to occur.

2.3 Grains Industry Market Access Forum (GIMAF)

GIMAF is a forum of industry bodies in the grains, seed and fodder sectors. It represents members and works with DAFF to develop and implement market access plans for the industry. Market access was one aspect reviewed during the Grain Ministerial Taskforce on Export Certification Reform and as a result, a new approach to market access was adopted. This included the establishment of the Grains Industry Market Access Forum.

GIMAF will provide a conduit between government and industry that is designed to ensure market access decisions are informed and prioritised in line with overall industry benefit.

Working closely with DAFF Biosecurity, GIMAF was directly involved in the lifting of the restrictions to enable Australian canola to gain access to the Chinese market on 21 March 2013.

2.4 Fees & charges review

The purpose of this project was to conduct a review of existing costs and charges and the charging categories, with any proposed changes to be implemented as required and in a timeframe agreed by the MTF. The performance measure was for budget performance will demonstrate whether the development of the revised fee structure has been successful.

The objectives, as detailed in the work plan, were:

- To ensure the equitable allocation of costs across the grain and seeds export sector.
- To implement a fee structure that will support the Grain Export Program into 2010-11 and beyond.
- To ensure that cost savings resulting from reform initiatives are passed on to industry in lower charges.

The department and the Grain MTF reviewed the existing cost and charges, and developed a new cost recovery arrangement. Cross subsidisation was identified and fees now, largely, fall where the expense is identified. The new cost recovery arrangement:

- supports the adoption of a new service delivery model designed to drive program and industry efficiency;
- better aligns the costs to program functions to fees and charges; and
- rationalises like fees and charges to facilitate a simpler cost recovery arrangement.

New fees and charges were implemented on 1 January 2012.

A DAFF/industry working group will develop the fees and charges for FY14, following a review of the Grain Export Program accounts. The following grain industry personnel are involved:

- Geoff Honey – CEO, GTA
- Adrian Reginato - AGEA

2.5 Grain & Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC)

The above Committee was constituted at the end of 2012 and is the touch point for the grain industry with DAFF Biosecurity. The Committee will meet three times per year and GTA members are encouraged to submit any issues they have for tabling at this forum.

GTA will remind members when GPPEICC are set to enable submissions to be prepared.

Industry	DAFF
Australian Fodder Industry Association - Malcolm May	Kylie Calhoun (Chair) - Plant Export Operations
Australian Grain Exporters' Association – Rosemary Richards	Bill Magee - Plant Biosecurity (Grains & Forestry)
Australian Grain Exporters' Association – Adrian Reginato	Linda Magee - Plant Export Operations
Australian Mungbean Association - Andrew Boundy	Kerry Scarlett - Plant Export Operations
Australian Nut Industry Council - Chris Joyce	
Australian Oilseeds Federation - Nick Goddard	
Australian Seed Federation - Bill Fuller	
Eastern Bulk Handlers/Port Operators - Phil Clamp	
Grain Growers Ltd - Chris Kelly	
Grain Producers Australia - Barry Large	
Grain Trade Australia - Geoff Barker	
Grain Trade Australia - Geoff Honey	
Pulse Australia - Tim Edgecombe	
Southern Bulk Handlers/Port Operators – Andrew Hannon	
Western Bulk Handlers/Port Operators - Narelle Moore	