

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice No. 06 of 22—1 August 2022

TOPIC: Outcome of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee Meeting 13 July 2022

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, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to consult with the 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 on 13 July 2022 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

2. Meeting Outcomes

DAWE Finance and Budget Issues

Industry debt levels with DAWE continue the trend of reducing. DAFF has recently sent industry annual grain establishment registration invoices and encourage payment as soon as possible.

Given the large export program, volumes have increased over those forecast and expenses have decreased due to industry use of third-party AOs to undertake export inspections.

As advised recently to industry through a consultation request <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/cris> the grain fees and charges, termed the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) outlining DAFF fees and charges for each year, is being undertaken for the 2022/23 year. **Industry is encouraged to respond to that consultation by the due date of 8 August 2022.** This CRIS update makes minor changes to expenses for the arrangement and maintains the increases to fees and charges implemented on 1 July 2022.

Operational Matters

Travel restrictions have lifted, and DAFF auditors are again conducting onsite announced and unannounced audits.

Specific training for audits of Bulk Vessel Inspection AO audits is being developed to encompass new requirements for recorded inspections.

A new mobile bulk loading facility in Brisbane has recently been approved.

A number of projects continue under the Export Reform program, including:

- Development of a Grain Storage and Assets Management Standard. The draft Standard has been developed and a range of industry stakeholders have been consulted. Piloting of the Standard in 2022 is currently planned for October 2022. Further communication from GTA to industry on this Standard will occur shortly, however please contact GTA if you require information before that consultation.
- Harmonisation of government regulatory activities across the domestic and export sector.
- Discussions continue on developing a framework for the adoption of new technology for assurance, which will enable the department to integrate industry systems in real-time and contribute to the automation of assurance and verification processes.
- DAFF are preparing for the next tranche of legislative amendments to the Export Control (Plants and Plant Product) Rules 2021 (Plant Rules) which is scheduled for October 2022 in order to streamline the Plant Rules with industry business practices. Industry will be consulted once draft changes are confirmed.

A Working Group has been formed to introduce a more formal approach to the collection and identification of “freedom from pests” in exports and to widen the scope to a broader range of pests and commodities. The hope is that rather than individual consignments undergoing testing for pests by each exporter, a wider “port zone” sampling and testing can be done thereby cutting costs to industry. As the Working Group progresses its review, industry will be consulted.

GTA presented an options paper to analyse combining the roles of the Bulk Vessel Inspection Authorised Officer (AO) and Marine Surveyors (MS) performing bulk vessel survey, for consideration by GPPEICC. There are benefits that can be achieved through the process of reviewing the roles to remove duplication and to potentially reduce the current requirement of vessels having to be inspected at a berth. A Working Group has been formed to consider the issues and revert back to DAFF with options, prior to commencing industry consultation on the proposal.

Documentation and IT System Issues

Document resubmissions continue to be a focus for DAFF who are working with the highest resubmission recidivists as well as Authorised Officers as part of an approach to reducing resubmission rates. The major issues continue to be incomplete or errors in paperwork and RFP details.

A number of further enhancements to PEMS and Micor are planned, as part of the Export Certification and Modernisation (ECMOD) strategy. Industry will be consulted on options as they are developed.

To assist DAFF to “understand” industry business and IT systems, the offer was made to industry for nominate a person to liaise on a more formal and regular basis with DAFF on potential IT reforms, business practice changes etc. GTA is currently considering suitable persons. If industry wishes to nominate, please contact GTA to discuss requirements.

As part of the overall Digital Trade Initiatives from DAFF, a Business Reform Engagement Team is being formed in DAFF to co-ordinate industry feedback on “IT issues” and consider IT systems DAFF wide, in order to more fully understand underlying causes for individual issues and better plan strategic outcomes and fixes.

DAFF presented a paper outlining the provision of near to live market intelligence (e.g., tonnage by market) to industry on exports to countries, as opposed to delayed ABARES data. Initially this would be for wheat but if agreed would incorporate all commodities. There are a number of issues arising from this DAFF proposal, including data privacy and the potential market impact. GTA will liaise with various GTA Committees and provide a combined response to DAFF on their proposal.

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>