

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



No. 7 of 20 Industry Advice Notice—Chinese Customs requiring food and edible agriculture exporters to sign a declaration that their product is free from COVID-19

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



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

To provide information to assist Australian exporters of food and edible agricultural products to respond to requests from China for guarantees their exports are safe and free from COVID-19.

Please read full notice on DAWE website:

[2020-41 Grain and Seed Exports Program and Horticulture Exports Program – Chinese Customs requiring food and edible agriculture exports to sign a declaration that their product is free from COVID-19](#)

In discussion with DAWE, key points in the DAWE IAN should be noted by exporters:

1. The advice provided by Australia's DAWE to China's GACC (i.e. the responsible quarantine authorities)
 - The controls of Australia's robust food export system ensures food exported from Australia remains safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Given Australian food standards and practices are already in alignment with the The World Health Organisation (WHO), the Department considers that Australian Government certification provides the necessary assurances of food safety including during the COVID-19 pandemic. This assurance from the competent authority covers facilities that are exporting to the People’s Republic of China.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) advice that there is no evidence food is a vector for COVID-19.

2. It should not be necessary to sign a template statement

3. Exporters are advised NOT to sign any statement issued to them in Chinese language, without having undertaken a proper English translation.
4. However should companies choose to provide a statement, it should seek to rely on the Government advice around the strength of Australia’s food safety systems and the alignment of Australia’s food safety systems with WHO.
5. GTA is consulting with overseas counterparts on this issue.
6. Food safety concerns are a legitimate issue. However the issues should be addressed and managed through a robust science based risk assessment approach, as they are in Australian food safety systems and the grain supply chain. Participants in the value chain are concerned Non-tariff Trade Measures (NTMs) that are not based on appropriate science and risk assessments, can lead to disruptions in the supply chain impacting both producers and consumers.

Further enquiries please contact GTA at admin@graintrade.org.au or DAWE.