

Member Update

Update No. 11 of 21 • 2 June 2021

TOPIC: Industry Resource now available – Standards for Empty Shipping Container Inspection

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

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Member Update is to inform GTA Members and shippers of containerised grain of the release of the [Standards for Empty Shipping Container Inspection](#) document that provides guidance on export-acceptable shipping containers.

2. The Standards for Empty Shipping Container Inspection

Covering container inspection, assessment, cleaning, and repairs, the "Standards for Empty Shipping Container Inspection," is in an easy-to-access and easy-to-follow digital booklet form that is illustrated with flowcharts, diagrams, and pictures of acceptable and unacceptable containers.

Complementing the Department of Agriculture Water & the Environment's (DAWE) Plant Export Operations Manual Volume, the new guide will help shippers and exporters get their containers inspection ready.

Empty containers must be inspected to ensure that the container will not alter the pest or disease status of goods during transit. The inspection supports the DAWE phytosanitary certification. Passing a container inspection avoids container-rejection, a costly and potential time-consuming exercise.

The updated Standards have been produced by **Shipping Australia, DAWE, and Grain Trade Australia** for the benefit of grain container packers and exporters, ship owners, container park operators, and anyone with an interest in containers, whether that's clean containers, food quality containers, general purpose boxes or scrap-cargo containers.

The Standards are a live document and will continue to be updated and enhanced through the efforts of a Working Group including GTA, Shipping Australia and DAWE. The Australian grain supply chain has a reputation for delivering a clean and safe product across both the bulk and shipping container supply chains. This reputation will continue to be protected and enhanced through access to industry Standards such as this document.