

Member Update

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TOPIC: Release of Technical Guideline Document No. 21 Grain Sampling - All Scenarios used during the storage and transport of grain

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

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this GTA Member Update is to:

- Advise members of the publication of GTA Technical Guideline Document (TGD) [No 21 – Sampling of Grain All Scenarios](#) under the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice (the Code) to replace TGD No 5 Static Grain Sampling of Road Truck as of this Member Update date; and
- To ensure members are aware of the minimum practices to obtain a representative sample of grain.

2. Introduction

GTA and the Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment (DAWE) share an objective to have an agreed industry process **for taking a representative sample of grain** where required at all points along the supply chain when applying industry Trading Standards or presenting grain at export for review by Authorised Officers (AOs). This [TGD](#), approved by the GTA Board at its February 2021 meeting, outlines a number of agreed processes and is provided to industry participants as a guide to the minimum practices to obtain representative samples of grain, for the purpose of facilitating trade within Australia.

The approved final document has been provided to DAWE to be added as an adjunct to the Export Control Act 2020 and Export Control Rules 2021 which are both due to be enacted on 28 March 2021.

3. Background

Samples of grain are taken for a range of purposes, including but not limited to:

- To review the food safety status of the grain i.e., for the presence of live stored grain insects. A representative sample may not be required in this instance due to insect activity being localised in specific areas of a grain parcel or stack.
- To assess the quality of the grain as per industry Trading Standards. In this case a representative sample is required to be obtained.
- To provide grain to AOs at the point of export to verify it meets importing country quarantine requirements. In this case a representative sample is required to be obtained, with specific sampling rates required to be implemented.

Representative sampling of grain is fundamental to the facilitation of trade in many scenarios, but not all.

Industry uses various methods and equipment for the process of taking a representative sample of grain depending on a range of factors. DAWE and the grain industry share an objective to **have an agreed industry process for sampling grain** under each sampling scenario at various stages along the supply chain.

DAWE had previously noted opportunities for guidance to be provided to industry on the required “minimum” practices to be implemented for sampling systems, to adequately prepare grain for presentation to DAWE AOs prior to inspection and approval being certified for subsequent export. Given that grain is presented to DAWE from various sources, these “minimum” practices should apply in all situations.

As a result, it was agreed this TGD No 21 – *Grain Sampling All Sampling Scenarios* under the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice for the management of grain along the supply chain, would be developed to:

- Outline all sampling scenarios that may be used by industry to meet requirements of the Export Control Act 2020, to supply a representative sample of grain for inspection by an AO.
- Encapsulate all aspects of the previous TGD No 5 – Static Grain Sampling Road Truck which is used for sampling of road trucks for the purpose of assessing grain against industry Trading Standards.
- Outline procedures for sampling of grain where representative samples may not be required.

4. Government Requirements

Further to this TGD No 21, DAWE propose to subsequently develop a “**Grain Preparation Standard**” to apply to all exporters, outlining the Government requirement for the preparation of grain samples for presentation to AOs. That Grain Preparation Standard is anticipated to reference the sampling requirements in TGD No 21.

While the current requirement of the Export Control Act 2020 is that sampling at export occur at the required rate of 2.25l/33.33t and those samples be representative, it is important to note that adherence to the DAWE **Grain Preparation Standard** is expected to become a mandatory requirement if involved in the export of grain from Australia.

Failure to comply with sampling procedures and to provide grain samples representative of each consignment as outlined in the **Grain Preparation Standard** may result in the inability to complete the export certification process.

Additionally, reference to sampling procedures, including representative sampling of road trucks, is made in various National Measurement Institute (NMI) documents. Under NMI Legislation, for the purposes of “Trade”, compliance with obtaining a representative sample is mandatory.

5. Purpose and Intent of TGD No 21

The purpose of this Grain Sampling Guideline document is to provide summary level information that will assist industry participants, both existing and new, in **the establishment of effective business procedures to obtain a sample of grain**. A key objective of the Guideline is to list and describe the relevant minimum steps and processes to obtain that sample that may or may not be required to be representative.

This Guideline in conjunction with the grain Industry Code of Practice and the GTA Grain Trading Standards will support and enhance overall industry effectiveness as well as providing confidence to customers the Australian grain industry is committed to the provision of grain samples subject to industry recommended practices.

All GTA TGDs are principally intended to support industry participants with information to assist them to understand the minimum requirements expected to be competent within the grain supply chain. Among other things, this approved TGD represents the minimum practices necessary for taking a representative sample of grain.

Information provided in GTA TGDs including TGD No 21 is provided as a guide. Their **use is voluntary** and GTA does not specifically mandate their use in contracts or elsewhere. It is a matter for commercial counterparties as to whether they specifically agree (in writing) to incorporate GTA TGDs into their contractual agreements and obligations.

As outlined in TGD No 21, industry participants can choose to develop their own procedures and methodology for taking a representative sample of grain, noting such procedures and methodologies need to satisfy DAWE for the purposes of export certification. It is anticipated that the GTA TGD No 21 may assist in this process as it reflects an industry developed consensus methodology of a minimum practice that industry may choose to consider or reference.

Information outlined in TGD No 21 also outlines a range of practices that show the grain industry not only reviews existing practices but also looks to adopt innovative and consistent technology and processes across the entire industry. This demonstrates industry's willingness to innovate and continuously improve its quality assurance processes across the supply chain.

6. Additional training regarding TGD No 21

GTA has an objective to ensure all exporters understand the Act and Rules outlined in TGD No 21 and be sufficiently informed and capable of complying with the DAWE export requirements.

To assist GTA members a project has commenced to provide training material and support on the collection of representative samples of grain moving through the supply chain. A successful outcome for Australian exporters and GTA will be the increased level of customer confidence in the quality and reliability of the Australian grain export industry.

The GTA project team that developed TGD No 21 will now focus on the following:

- a) Creation of the communications plan and material for distribution.
- b) Design and implementation of an on-line educational module.
- c) Development of a webinar for exporters that can be viewed live and via archive.
- d) Working with an Industry Working Group to manage timelines and expectations; and
- e) Gauging industry awareness and readiness for the changing legislation and requirements.

In addition, it will continue liaison with DAWE regarding implementation of TGD No 21 as it relates to the DAWE Grain Preparation Standard.

7. Further Information

For further information contact GTA at admin@graintrade.org.au

END.