

# GRAINMatters



EDITION 58, AUGUST 2021

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 September 2021** Understanding Grain Markets
- 2 September 2021** Trade Rules & Contracts
- 6 & 7 September 2021** AGIC Australia
- 8 September 2021** Grain Trading Standards
- 15 September 2021** Grain Trading Standards

## COVID-19

GTA have established a COVID-19 page on our website, as information source for Members.

In response to member demand, GTA has set up COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

[Access COVID-19 page here](#)

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## AGIC AUSTRALIA 2021

### AGIC Australia

**6-7 September, 2021**

We are pleased to announce the Australian Grains Industry Conference 2021 will be held virtually from Monday 6th September to Tuesday 7th September 2021. The Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC 2021) is an industry run conference for grain market participants and service providers, hosted by leading grain industry associations Grain Trade Australia, Australian Oilseeds Federation, and Pulse Australia.

The Australian Grains  
Industry Conference

2021  
Live



#### Ticket price:

Virtual Attendee

\$295 (inc GST)

This package entitles you to:

- Access to all LIVE sessions within the virtual auditorium over the 1.5 days
- Opportunity to connect virtually to speakers, delegates and exhibitors
- Access to the platform content for up to 30 days post the conference

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## CHEERS TO 30 YEARS—20 YEARS AGO IS COMING

Grain Trade Australia's birthday celebrations have been somewhat derailed due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

As you may recall GTA is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year of supporting members and striving to facilitate the effective trade of Australian grain for the benefit of all in the grain supply chain.

**DeRailed**

To recognize the history and past momentous events GTA planned to provide a 10 year, 20 year 30 year snapshot of some of the major events and characters that helped take the industry to where it is today ☹️

In this edition of Grain Matters the focus was to be **on 20 years ago....HOWEVER** sadly, due to lockdowns in Sydney GTA is locked out of the office and cannot access the hard copy files from 20 years ago!!!

The Party will continue post lockdown.

## CYBER SECURITY WARNING

GTA has recently been contacted by Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) and the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). These organisations raised the issue of Cyber Operators (foreign powers and their proxies) **targeting** Australian businesses in **the agricultural industry**.

ASIO and ACSC are contacting businesses in agriculture to advise of the threat and to highlight their advice and resources that are available.

Cyber Operators are known to conduct online research into individuals who are publicly linked to specific industries. They usually conduct this research by accessing organisational websites, news articles and media releases, but can also conduct more targeted research through online social media platforms. They use this information **to identify individuals of interest**, and to assess what level of access and insight an individual is likely to have into their specific industry.

In addition, Cyber Operators will look for publicly known vulnerabilities on external-facing websites in order **to compromise networks**. A successful compromise of a network provides cyber operators with a range of opportunities, from extortion and ransomware through to theft of intellectual property and sensitive market and commercial contact arrangements.

Cyber operators are known to have sent tailored spear phishing emails containing malicious documents or links in attempts to compromise their targets. Recent examples of Cyber operators targeting Australian industry using emails include:

1. Claiming to be from an Australian university, relating to a renewable energy survey;
2. Relating to a Lord Mayor's multicultural business scholarship program; and
3. Claiming to be from a telecommunications provider, relating to the recipient's specific phone number.

Further guidance on what you and your organisation can do to identify and protect against this activity can be found on ASIO's website at: [asio.gov.au/TBYL](https://asio.gov.au/TBYL)

GTA also recommend you familiarise yourselves with ACSC advice for organisations, businesses and individuals, and the ACSC Essential Eight. This advice is available at [cyber.gov.au](https://cyber.gov.au)



## CHINA'S NEW MAXIMUM RESIDUE LIMIT STANDARD

China made an announcement in March this year of a new Maximum Residue Limit Standard – GB2763-2021 that listed over 10,000 Maximum Residue Limits (MRL).

Whilst still awaiting the official announcement/release, these new MRLs are anticipated to apply from 3 September 2021.

This is a short period for implementation, and despite no official notification from China, some Chinese importers are already **requiring compliance with this Maximum Residue Limit Standard**.

Based on the uptake of the new MRLs by importers industry should expect the Maximum Residue Limit Standard to apply from 3 September 2021.

A link to an unofficial translation (funded by the governments of Australia, Canada and the USA) is provided here: [Translation of Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides in Foods Beijing China - People's Republic of 08-22-2021](#).

Industry should be aware when considering the MRL to apply for an individual chemical, you need to review the MRL listed for a specific commodity or whether a Crop Group applies (listed in Appendix A - *The Food Categories and Parts to be Tested* on **page 471**).

To protect Australia's market access and reputation industry must implement appropriate strategies and risk management practices to meet these new China MRLs.

## CHINA'S DRAFT REGULATION—POTENTIAL REGISTRATION OF STORAGE FACILITIES

As previously discussed, the People's Republic of China has approved draft Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food (Degree 248), and they will enter into force on **January 1, 2022**.

Once implemented, the measure will require that all overseas food manufacturers, processors, and **storage facilities** be registered with the Chinese authorities to enable export product to China. The measure covers all food products except food additives.

Depending on the product category, food producers and storers must register with the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) either

- a) through the competent authority of the exporting country; or
- b) directly and/or through a private agent.

Whilst **there are still no clear details** of how this applies to the grain industry, it is quite likely there will be some key changes GTA members will need to be aware of as we transition to the new China legislation. The legislation commencing as of January 2022 is still to be clarified.

GTA, the Australian Government and the governments of all exporters to China are attempting to have the Regulation clarified. **As soon as any information is available** this will be provided to GTA members.



## MEETING MARKET REQUIREMENTS—NWPGP AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE 2021

The Australian grain industry came together (virtually) with an information-packed day at the **48th Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference** on 24th August 2021.

Delegates were treated to a professional and information filled day and were encouraged and inspired to continue to support and engage in the work and objectives of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP).

Conference Chair Gerard McMullen commented *“this Conference is an important occasion and event in the calendar of the grain industry and supports the objective of science combined with stewardship within the supply chain to enhance the reputation of the Australian grain industry as a provider of a quality and safe product”*.

The Conference highlighted the industry and supply chain are under increased scrutiny with food safety and ethics now increasingly under the spotlight. Speakers reinforced the world is watching what we do and what safeguards are in place, which is why events like the NWPGP are so important in providing a forum for discussion and the sharing of contemporary information.

## MEETING MARKET REQUIREMENTS—NWPGP AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE 2021 CONT.

Nineteen speakers and industry experts provided detailed information to the 160 delegates on a range of communication and extension activities conducted and supported by various industry organisations such as the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

A clear message was that as market expectations increase and become more demanding there is a requirement for both industry and government to consider:

- Compliance training through extension services, information and training.
- Introduction of Standards.

It was reinforced that further opportunities exist to work with the sector to develop specific extension material addressing issues such as the correct application of fumigants and the impact poor practices can have on market access.

Delegates are reminded they have **full access** to the Conference platform and all presentations for 30 days after the event.

### AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NATIONAL WORKING PARTY ON GRAIN PROTECTION (NWPGP)



## NOW FILMING—BULK VESSEL INSPECTION

Bulk Vessels that arrive in Australia to load grain must pass two inspections prior to be cleared to load Australian grain:

1. An Australian Maritime Safety Authority inspection to ensure the vessel is seaworthy and the holds are suitable for the planned cargo; and
2. A Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment (DAWE) inspection to ensure the vessel can be certified (from a phytosanitary perspective) that there is no risk the cargo can be contaminated.



A new requirement is coming into existence for DAWE Authorised Officers that perform the phytosanitary inspection.

To ensure greater assurance of the inspection's effectiveness from October 2021 the Video recording of empty bulk vessel inspections will commence. This new procedure will assist the auditing of this Authorised Officer task and will ultimately ensure the effectiveness of bulk vessel inspections.

Therefore, all Authorised Officers that perform empty bulk vessel inspection will be required to video record every empty bulk vessel export inspection they conduct by wearing a helmet mounted camera. Video recordings are to be submitted to DAWE for audit purposes when requested.

A DAWE Industry Advice Notice and Frequently Asked Questions will be published on the department's website before implementation.

## E-PHYTOS

GTA is an active member of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and is involved in a number of Working Groups (WG) including the WG on Electronic Trade Documentation.

The IGTC has developed and now [published a Notice to Trade](#): - *Call for the continuation and advancement of measures to provide for paperless and digitalized exchange of phytosanitary certificates.*

This Notice highlights the use of paperless and digitalised trade documentation by official entities at national, regional and the global level and calls for industry to maintain and build upon the success by increasing to seek to utilise the electronic exchange and management of phytosanitary certificates.



## INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT SUPPLY CHAINS

As highlighted in the last Grain Matters container supply chains are critical and their efficiency is central to the strength of the economy of many countries.

GTA has been meeting with a number (23) of trade focussed industry organisations to consider and to discuss opportunities to improve the efficiency of Australia's import and export trade.

An outcome of the discussion resolved the development of a Terms of Reference for an industry and government review. A summary of the review that is being sought is to:

*“examine the efficiency and dependability of the air and maritime logistics system (including air and sea freight, container terminal operators and stevedoring, and land-side freight providers) to deliver the required services for Australia”.*

Engagement with Government to discuss this potential review are currently underway.



## WA SHIPPING PROTOCOLS

The Western Australian (WA) Government has implemented stringent measures to successfully manage the risks with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

With the advent of the Delta strain and the rising case numbers around the world the WA government has given notice to vessel owners, charterers, masters, exporters, importers and the shipping industry generally of the WA Government's changes to its expectations and approach in managing COVID-19 risks from commercial shipping.

The restrictions and protective measures were outlined in a [GTA Member Update No. 14 of 21 WA Notice to the Shipping Industry - COVID-19](#)

GTA members and in particular CBH continue to discuss the practical implementation of this WA Government Notice to the Shipping Industry. GTA will provide members an update and the details of any further information as it becomes available.

## NEW ZEALAND PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE IMPORTATION OF GRAIN

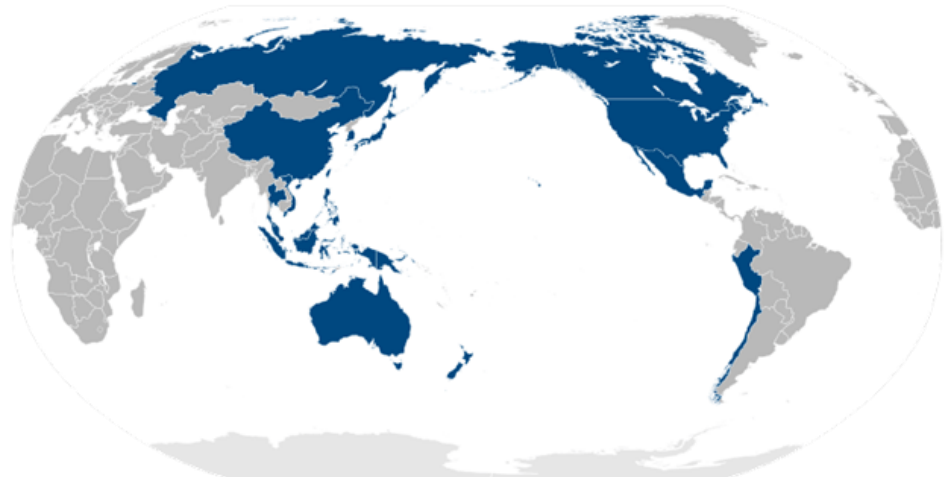
Biosecurity New Zealand is proposing a [change to the import standards](#) for grain imports that **removes the requirement** for importers **to have a permit** for the import of specified grain or seeds for processing in New Zealand.

Given this is good news for Australian exporters this proposed change is welcomed and GTA will provide a Submission supporting this change on behalf of the Australian grain industry.

## GTA PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

APEC, founded in 1989 is a forum of 21 Asia-Pacific economies formed to encourage a prosperous regional economy through trade and investment liberalisation.

APEC Members



## GTA PARTICIPATION IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

DAWE is sponsoring a project within APEC on Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) impacting the grains industry, with focus on NTMs related to MRLs and documentation.

Recent activity GTA has been involved in as part of this project is the development of case studies on wheat, soybeans and quinoa. Australia was tasked with the completion of the wheat case study. GTA led the working groups in this activity, and the completion of the wheat case study.

An on-line workshop was held in August 2021 to review and endorse the case studies and to focus on potential actions/paths for the chemical MRL and documentation areas. The workshop was attended by Australia (Chair), and range of APEC economies representing major exporters and importers.

The next phase of the project will be specific projects to progress harmonisation across APEC in relation to issues such MRL import processes and an 'e-docs' approach.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GTA TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT SEMESTER 2 SCHEDULE RELEASED

Workshops will be delivered through a combination of face-to-face and online for Semester 2

[Find entire Semester 2 workshop schedule here](#)

**All workshops in September will be delivered via Zoom**

- 1 September 2021** Understanding Grain Markets
- 2 September 2021** Trade Rules & Contracts
- 8 September 2021** Grain Trading Standards
- 15 September 2021** Grain Trading Standards
- 16 September 2021** Trade Rules & Contracts
- 29 September 2021** Grain Trading Standards
- 20 October 2021** Grain Finance & Risk Management, Sydney
- 27-28 October 2021** Grain Merchandising, Melbourne



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