



Australia's reputation overseas, as a wheat exporter, is underpinned by a favourable pest status which enables market access to many importing country destinations.

It is essential that Australian grain exporters be aware of and comply with both domestic and importing country requirements. This ensures markets remain open to trade as well as preventing the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products.

If grain is to be transported in bulk, the *Export Control Act (1982)* requires an inspection of the vessel's holds by both the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and an independent marine underwriter surveyor (MUS). Loading of grain is not permitted unless the vessel has passed both AQIS and MUS inspection.

## Marine Underwriter Surveyor

The role of the MUS is to verify that the vessel is fit for the purpose of carrying bulk grain. This is done by inspecting the cargo-hold cleanliness and ship-based contaminants such as moisture, odours, rust scale, grease or oil stains and previous cargo residues. Holds must be watertight and have a bilge pumping system in working order.

The entire hold is inspected, including horizontal and vertical surfaces, behind ladders, manhole covers, beams and bulkheads. Once the MUS is satisfied that the hold meets relevant requirements, a 'Certificate of Approval to load Grain in Bulk' will be issued.

## AQIS

AQIS verifies that Australian grain, and grain transport units, meet domestic legislative requirements as well as the phytosanitary (plant health) requirements of importing country authorities.

AQIS inspects the vessel to ensure that it is free from infestible residues, previous cargoes and live infestations by vermin or insects. Once the ship has passed both the AQIS and MUS inspection, an AQIS loading permit is issued which allows for the vessel to begin loading.

AQIS also inspects the grain as loading occurs to ensure that the export grain is free from live insects, rodents and other contaminants as well as meeting both domestic legislative requirements and importing country authority phytosanitary requirements.

## Exporter responsibilities

Exporters are required to meet provisions under the *Export Control Act (1982)* as well as other relevant requirements imposed by the importing country such as maximum residue levels (MRLs), administered by the National Residue Scheme of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry.

If a shipment arrives at its destination and does not meet the importing country authority requirements, complications may occur:

- > the importing country authority may reject the shipment
- > the shipment may be quarantined and required to be treated.

## Further information

Wheat Exports Australia  
Unit 2 - Royal Life Saving House  
26-28 Napier Close  
DEAKIN ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6202 3400 – Fax: 02 6206 3499  
Website: [www.wea.gov.au](http://www.wea.gov.au)