March 2021

Improving agricultural export legislation

# Plant rules – authorised officers – changes to empty container inspections

## Key points

* The new *Export Control Act 2020* and associated Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021 (plant rules) commence on 28 March 2021.
* The inspection and approval of empty containers is covered in Part 6 of Chapter 9 of the plant rules.
* You must continue to follow instructional material available on the Plant Export Operations Manual ([PEOM](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual)) when performing your functions.

## Instructional material updates

Container inspection instructional material has been updated for the new export legislation commencement.

The PE104 Container Approval Record will be known as the ‘Empty Container Inspection Record’. The form has been updated to align with the new legislation and the Plant Export Management System ([PEMS](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plant-exports-management-system-information)).

Instructional material has been updated to reflect the language in the new legislation, legislative references and new PEMS functionality for revoking container approvals.

## New PEMS functionality

New functionality has been built into PEMS to allow you to revoke container approvals. This would be used if the condition of the container has changed since it was approved, and it is no longer suitable for loading. You can still issue a new container approval for the container once the issue has been rectified.

The new functionality reflects the existing legislative powers of a ECI3001 authorised officer.

For more information on how to use these functions in PEMS, see PEMS AO User guide – Empty container inspections and relevant inspection instructional material on the PEOM.

## Further information

Email plantexportreform@awe.gov.au

Web [awe.gov.au/new-plant-export-legislation](http://www.awe.gov.au/new-plant-export-legislation)

[Plant Export Operations Manual](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual)

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