



March
2021

Improving agricultural export legislation

Plant rules – overview of changes for accredited properties



Changes for accredited properties

All horticulture property accreditations including operations and markets will automatically transition when the new legislation commences.

Accredited properties must continue implementing the systems, operations and procedures (management systems) that are currently in place.

The department reviewed accredited properties policies in consultation with industry, alongside the development of new export legislation.

The following instructional material has been updated and will be enforced from 28 March 2021:

- Guideline: Management of horticulture export accredited properties
- Guideline: Audit of horticulture export accredited properties
- Relevant performance standards for farms, packhouses and crop monitors
- Application forms for plant export accreditation of farms and packhouses.

The department will continue to audit accredited properties for compliance with:

- importing country requirements
- departmental policies
- approved management systems.

Key points

- On 28 March 2021, Australia's export legislation is changing.
- The new legislation will continue to achieve the regulatory outcomes expected by our trading partners. It will also be easier to understand and use.
- The new legislation looks different, but it is not designed to add regulatory burden or change how industry do business in the short term.
- It will support Australia's plant agricultural industries to innovate and pursue opportunities for efficiency.
- The new export legislation consists of the *Export Control Act 2020* and the *Export Control Rules 2021*.
- The *Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021* (plant rules) will set the specific requirements for the export of plants and plant products.
- Accredited properties are covered in Chapter 3 of the *Export Control Act 2020* and the plant rules.

Changes to instructional material

The main changes to instructional material for accredited properties are outlined below.

Guideline: Management of horticulture export accredited properties

The updated guideline clarifies:

- a trust cannot be listed as the applicant or property manager for accreditation
- the minimum requirements for property maps
- requirements for packhouses for packaging and trade description (e.g. labelling)
- documented systems for training, traceability, hygiene (including waste removal) and pest control at packhouses
- requirements for maintaining the security and integrity of goods, including transfer records
- the requirement for farms to record harvest dates for accredited blocks
- training requirements for farms only apply to staff packing in-field for export, unless the protocol agreement states otherwise
- the processes for voluntary and department-initiated variation, suspension, and revocation of accreditation.

The updated guideline also removes the requirements for farms to:

- have a documented pest and disease management program. Farms must still manage pests and diseases and retain associated records
- provide records of active ingredient and target pest in chemical control (spray diaries) where an industry or state practice exists for the farm
- provide evidence of calibration of spray equipment.

Performance standards for farms, packhouses and crop monitors

- A non-compliance rating has been assigned to each performance standard.
- A new column *Examples of evidence* provides guidance on the evidence required to comply with the guidelines and assist with preparation of documented systems.
- Updated to reflect the changes to the Guideline: Management of horticulture export accredited properties.

Guideline: Audit of horticulture export accredited properties

Updated to reflect current audit processes and when pre-season and in-season audits will occur.

Further information

- Email horticultureexports@awe.gov.au
- Web awe.gov.au/new-plant-export-legislation
- [Plant Export Operations Manual](#): Guideline: Management of horticulture export accredited properties; Guideline: Audit of horticulture export accredited properties; and relevant performance standards

