



March  
2021

# Improving agricultural export legislation

## Plant rules – overview of changes for exporters



### Changes for exporters

The process for exporters to export plants and plant products from Australia has not changed.

Exporters are responsible for their consignments meeting legislative requirements and importing country requirements.

Exporters should continue to follow:

- the [Step-by-step guidelines for exporting plants and plant products](#)
- relevant instructional material on the Plant Export Operations Manual ([PEOM](#)) and [Certificates, declarations and forms](#) website.

Under the legislation, exporters must retain for at least 2 years:

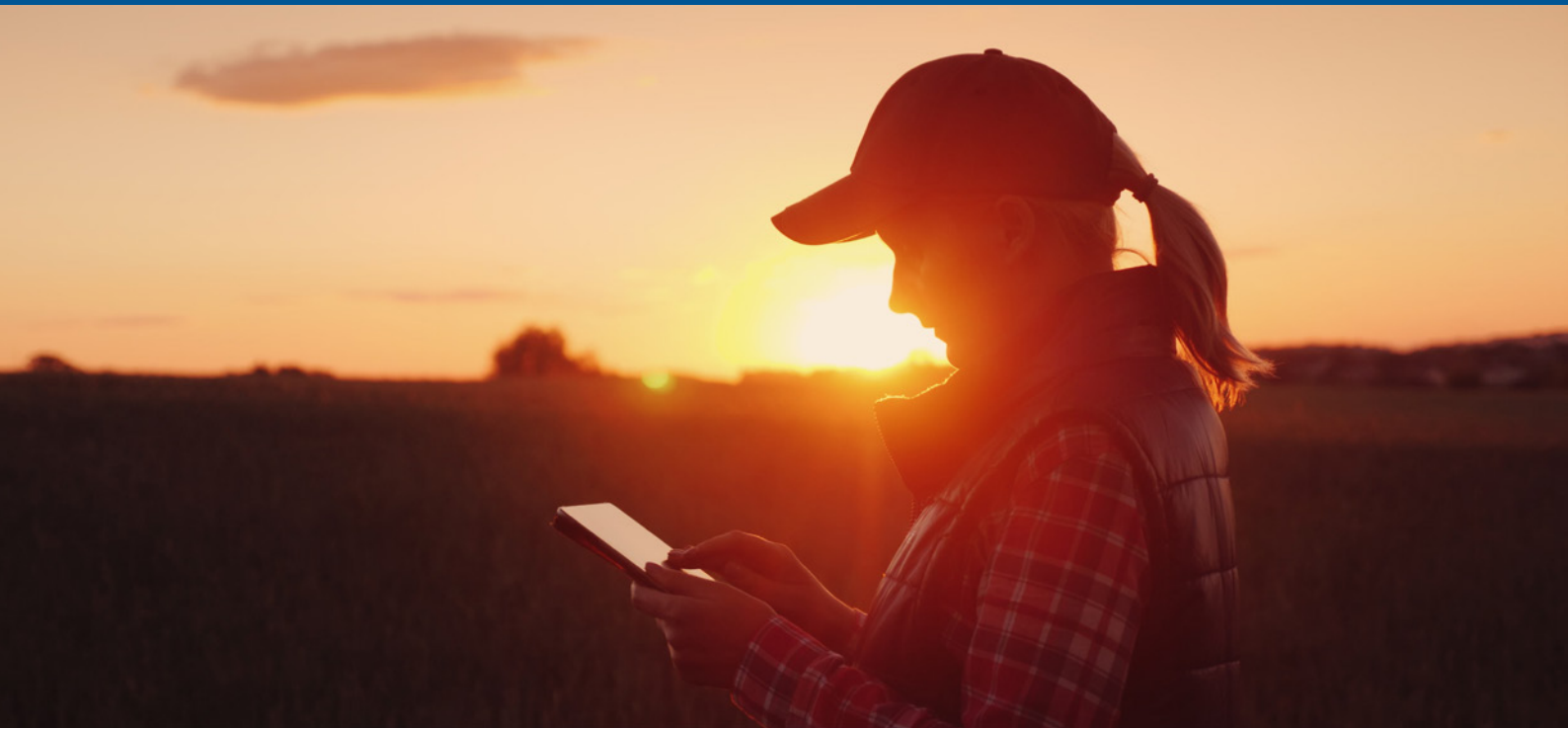
- records relating to the export of their goods
- applications for export permits or government certificates.

Exporters should be aware that:

- any inspection records issued by an authorised officer after 3 am AEDT on 28 March 2021 must be in the new inspection record template available on the PEOM. Records issued via the Plant Exports Management System (PEMS) will automatically be in the new template
- all inspection records issued before commencement in the old template (whether manual or in PEMS) will be recognised and accepted by the department for certification purposes until they expire
- all export permits and government certificates, such as phytosanitary certificates, issued under the old legislation continue to have effect when the new Act commences (until they expire, if relevant)

### 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.



- the process to obtain a phytosanitary certificate for re-export is changing. Refer to the factsheet: Plant rules – exporters – new process for re-export consignments
- updated [manual government certificate templates](#) must be used for all manual government certification requests that are likely to be processed after 28 March 2021. These templates will be available prior to 28 March 2021.

### Further information

- Email [plantexportreform@awe.gov.au](mailto:plantexportreform@awe.gov.au)
- Web [awe.gov.au/new-plant-export-legislation](http://awe.gov.au/new-plant-export-legislation)
- [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) and [Certificates, declarations and forms](#)

