



# Packhouse grower supplier model — an overview for industry

October 2023

The packhouse grower supplier model (the model) is a voluntary, alternative assurance model and auditing program for accredited property packhouses and farms.

This is an exciting opportunity to streamline Australia's export practices. Accredited property packhouses approved on the model can expect fewer on-farm audits while maintaining confidence that they meet export regulatory and trading partners requirements.

The model provides a flexible approach for industry participants to demonstrate grower compliance with trading partner and export regulatory requirements.

Accreditation under the model applies to the export of citrus to protocol markets only.

From 1 November 2023, eligible accredited property packhouses can apply to the department for an additional export function to operate under the packhouse grower supplier model.

## Recognising existing commercial systems

The department recognises that some packhouses have commercial arrangements with their growers to ensure good on-farm practices are in place. This model leverages off those arrangements.

Accredited property packhouses approved under the model will be given additional responsibilities to ensure that requirements for the accredited property farm(s) they manage are being met.

A nominated packhouse representative(s) will be responsible for verifying that farms are compliant with the accredited property farm, crop monitor requirements and necessary importing country requirements.

The packhouse representative(s) must conduct verification of farm activities through on-site farm inspections in addition to the verification of crop monitoring records and spray diaries throughout the entire growing season.

## A more efficient audit process for industry

Packhouses approved to operate under the model will be subject to an in-season departmental audit to ensure packhouse and farm obligations are being met. Growers will not be directly audited, however compliance with obligations by the farm will be assessed through the packhouse audit.

Some potential benefits include:

- packhouses could save time by not having to coordinate grower audits
- packhouses could use their existing grower management processes to meet the department's requirements
- growers could save on the cost of audits and spend less time with auditors.

## Prerequisite requirements

The packhouse grower supplier model is a voluntary model for citrus export accredited property packhouses only. To be eligible, the packhouse must have been accredited in the previous export season.

If an accredited property packhouse is new to export, or it was not accredited in the previous export season, it will not be eligible to apply for the model until the next export season.

## Application process and requirements

To apply for accreditation under the model, the packhouse manager or representative will need to complete an application for the packhouse grower supplier model.

Applications must be submitted to the Audit and Assurance Branch before 1 December 2023. Email your completed applications and supporting documents to [auditservices@aff.gov.au](mailto:auditservices@aff.gov.au).

For more information visit the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#).

## Supporting Material

The following policy documents will come into effect on 1 November 2023 and can be found on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#).

- Guideline: Management of horticulture export accredited properties operating under the packhouse grower supplier model
- Reference: Performance standards for the packhouse grower supplier model
- Reference: Application for the packhouse grower supplier model
- Reference: Packhouse management of growers template

## An opportunity for change

The department will be looking to expand the model to other suitable horticulture industries that have appropriate commercial grower supplier management systems in place.

## Contact us

If you have questions about the changes, please contact the Plant Export Reform Program at [congestionbustingplant@aff.gov.au](mailto:congestionbustingplant@aff.gov.au).

## Reforms in agricultural export trade

The department is pursuing a range of reform projects to modernise and streamline our agricultural export sector. This will enable our exporters to experience faster and more cost-effective services. We are streamlining existing assurance measures by recognising where our requirements overlap with industry systems and by making more of our agricultural export services available online. These changes will deliver substantial time and cost benefits to industry and the government, while helping exporters get their goods to market faster.

To find out more visit:

[agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/market-access-trade/transforming-export-services](https://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/market-access-trade/transforming-export-services)