



# Export Compliant Goods Storage

Bulk grain and seed can now be inspected earlier in the export supply chain



The Department of Agriculture has developed the Export Compliant Goods Storage (ECGS) system to provide greater flexibility in how grain and seed is inspected prior to export from Australia.

ECGS will allow exporters of plants and plant products, excluding horticulture, to have prescribed goods inspected for export compliance and securely stored in an approved receptacle for up to 28 days before export, instead of requiring a current end-point inspection.

Designed in close consultation with industry, ECGS gives exporters greater flexibility in scheduling inspections.

ECGS can help reduce delays and costs resulting from inspections occurring at the time of loading and in doing so, reduce the risks of goods being rejected just before export.

ECGS will also facilitate trade by providing another option to ensure that goods are export compliant before they are shipped.

## Accessing ECGS

ECGS is available to exporters operating in registered establishments. To be registered, establishments must be approved by the Department of Agriculture as meeting a number of prerequisites and audit requirements. These are outlined at [daff.gov.au/plantexports](http://daff.gov.au/plantexports).

## How ECGS works

Once an establishment is approved, exporters can use either the ECGS process outlined below, or the conventional inspection process.

1. The receptacle must be inspected by an Authorised Officer prior to loading export compliant goods.
2. The goods must be inspected by an Authorised Officer and be passed as export compliant before they can be stored.
3. The receptacle must be secured to maintain the phytosanitary integrity of the commodity until the time of export.
4. An Authorised Officer must pass the flow path from ECGS to the point of export or transport prior to loading. Export Compliant Goods can then be exported without any further inspection within 28 days of the first inspection of the goods.

## Key points

- ECGS means registered establishments have more flexibility in scheduling inspections for prescribed goods excluding fresh fruit and vegetables
- ECGS means goods can be inspected prior to loading and be export compliant for 28 days before being shipped
- ECGS will reduce delays in inspections occurring at loading and thus reduce the risks of goods being rejected immediately before export



## Applying for ECGS approval

To apply, you need to submit the ECGS application form to the department. The application form can be found at [daff.gov.au/plantexports](http://daff.gov.au/plantexports), in the Plant Export Operations Manual.

You must also include the following documents along with your application:

- a detailed site map and aerial map of your establishment with locations of major items such as inspection points, proposed ECGS location and location of transport
- a process flow chart including the inspection points, product flow from point of inspection to ECGS and from ECGS to point of export.

Premises must be registered under the Export Control (Prescribed Goods – General) Order 2005 and meet all the requirements of the legislation as a registered export establishment. Only registered export establishments that have not had any major corrective actions in the last six months at the time of application for ECGS will be eligible. Once approved, all ECGS facilities must be audited within 12 months.

Goods at the ECGS establishment must be transported, stored and handled in a way that ensures that they do not become contaminated or re-infested once they have been passed as export compliant. The establishment must also have a defined and documented procedure for diverting non-compliant goods away from ECGS so that the phytosanitary integrity of the ECGS is not compromised. All steps in the ECGS process must be assessed to consider the risk of contamination.

Exporters need to identify potential hazards and consequences and preventative measures need to be implemented to minimise or eliminate those risks.

In addition, the department will take into consideration previous audit performance of existing registered establishments as part of their application for ECGS. Newly registered sites with no previous audit records may be given conditional approvals.

## Maintaining ECGS approval

Strict controls are in place to ensure compliance with Australian legislation and importing country requirements when using ECGS.

Registered establishments must maintain accurate records and traceability of all receivals, treatments, outturn and operation processes along the flow path.

Establishments using ECGS will be subject to regular audits. Audits will include a complete review of ECGS facility operations and procedures to verify that the export establishment continues to meet ECGS requirements.

## More information

For more information see [daff.gov.au/plantexports](http://daff.gov.au/plantexports) or contact the grain and seed export program at [grain.export@daff.gov.au](mailto:grain.export@daff.gov.au).



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