



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard Scheme



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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Introduction

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry are pursuing a shared goal to help maintain Australia's reputation as a reliable supplier of safe and high-quality grain that consistently meets customer and regulatory requirements.

GTA has developed a new industry standard – the Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard (GSAMS) for Australian grain businesses. The GSAMS aims to increase customer confidence and competitiveness throughout the supply chain by providing an auditable set of rules satisfying domestic and export requirements and reducing variability between individual establishments in key areas such as sampling, storage, handling and treatment.

The department recognises that the GSAMS is based on an existing industry-driven framework and guidance that covers export regulatory requirements. Collectively, the GSAMS and its supporting assurance framework is known as the Grain Storage and Assets Management Standard Scheme (Scheme). The supporting assurance framework includes:

- industry training
- third-party auditing
- guidance material
- oversight by the department.

Developed specifically for grain plant export registered establishments (RE), the Scheme provides the assurance that export regulatory and operational requirements are consistently met by businesses adopting the GSAMS and providing the department the confidence to introduce new methods of regulatory assurance. By recognising the Scheme, the department provides REs an alternate export compliance pathway by:

- 1) utilising the GSAMS assurance framework instead of department RE audits
- 2) introducing an industry-led training process for Authorised Officer (AO) candidates.

The GSAMS can be adopted by domestic and export businesses however REs wanting to operate under the Scheme need to apply and be approved.

Regulatory assurance methods will not change for REs not approved under the GSAMS Scheme.

1.1 Scope

This document outlines the requirements and Scheme Rules for REs seeking GSAMS approval under the Scheme and provides practical guidance on how the Scheme operates. Only existing REs registered for activities or functions associated with the packing/inspecting of prescribed grain can apply for approval under the Scheme (GSAMS approval).

1.2 Grain

Grain in the context of the Scheme applies to:

- Barley (whole grain of *Hordeum vulgare*)
- Canola (whole seed of *Brassica napus* var. *napus* cv. 'Canola')
- Chickpeas (seed (whole or split) of *Cicer arietinum*)
- Dried field peas (dried seeds of the species *Pisum sativum*)
- Faba beans (seed (whole or split) of *Vicia faba*)
- Lentils (seed (whole or split) of *Lens culinaris*)
- Lupins (seed (whole or split) of *Lupinus angustifolius* or *Lupinus albus*)
- Mung beans (whole seeds of the species *Vigna radiata* or *Vigna mungo*)
- Oats (grain (whole or clipped) of *Avena sativa* or *Avena strigosa*)
- Sorghum (whole unmilled seed of *Sorghum bicolor*)
- Soybeans (whole unmilled seed of *Glycine max*)
- Wheat (whole unmilled grain of *Triticum aestivum*, *Triticum durum*, or *Triticum tauschii*)
- Whole vetch (seed (whole or broken) of *Vicia sativa*)
- Cereal grains, pulses, oil seeds in relation to which the importing country requires a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.

1.3 What changes under the Scheme?

Industry systems recognition for plant export registered businesses

For REs approved under the Scheme, the periodic audit process conducted by departmental officers will cease. The monitoring of REs operating under the Scheme will be managed by GTA.

For REs not approved under the Scheme, the department will continue to regulate grain as per the usual export requirements, including conducting audits using an auditor appointed by the department under the provisions of the *Export Control Act 2020 (Act)* and its associated rules, policies and guidelines.

Industry training recognition for Authorised Officer training

The department will recognise AO face-to-face training facilitated by industry as equivalent to face-to-face training facilitated by the department.

In recognition of existing industry training methods, we will provide REs the option to train their own AO candidates and have the AO training fee waived.

The reduced learning and assessment fee option applies to candidates seeking to:

- become authorised as an AO to perform a grain or empty container export inspection functions
- add a grain or empty container export inspection function to their existing AO authorisation.

AO candidates have three options:

- 1) attend industry-led face-to-face training facilitated by the RE, or
- 2) attend industry-led face-to-face training facilitated by GTA, or
- 3) attend face-to-face training facilitated by the department. In this instance, industry training recognition will not apply, and the AO learning and assessment fee must be paid in full by the candidate.

AO candidates must complete the mandatory departmental eLearning online training and pass a competency assessment delivered by the department prior to performing AO job functions.

AO candidates receiving industry-led training in options 1 or 2 can apply to have their training fee waived through the Plant Export Management System (PEMS) during the AO application process.

Further information can be found in the Factsheet - [AO training recognition under the GSAMS Scheme](#).

Domestic businesses

For domestic businesses, export requirements are not applicable, and the business cannot operate under the Scheme. In this instance, the business may choose to adopt the GSAMS and operate under separate instruction from GTA.

1.4 What doesn't change under the Scheme?

The following requirements will remain unchanged under the Scheme:

- Sample rates as specified in the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Process instruction: *Inspection of prescribed grain and plant products for export*.
- Prescribed grain must be prepared at a RE.
- Prescribed grain must be assessed by an AO.
- The department will continue to manage AOs in accordance with the [Authorised Officer](#) Exports Policy: *Management of third party plant exports authorised officers*.
- The department will continue to conduct AO audits in accordance with the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Process instruction: *Audit of plant export authorised officers*.
- The application, assessment and initial audit of a new RE will be conducted in accordance with the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Export Policy: *Management of plant export registered establishments*.
- The department will continue to receive, assess and audit new RE applications and existing RE applications for variations such as additional export operations/functions. This will be undertaken in accordance with the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Export Policy: *Management of plant export registered establishments*.
- Grain intended for export must meet the conditions of entry specified by the importing country.
- Conditions of an establishment's registration under the Act and Export Control (Plants and Plant Product) Rules 2021 (Plant Rules) must continue to be met.

1.5 Related material

Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard | [Grain Trade Australia](#)

Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice | [Grain Trade Australia](#)

Technical-Guidelines-Documents | [Grain Trade Australia](#)

[Plant Export Operations Manual](#)

[Authorised Officers](#)

1.6 Review and amendments

This document will be reviewed and updated as needed to reflect any changes made to the GSAMS, the Scheme or the Deed.

The current version of the GSAMS is found on [GTA's website](#) and [the department's website](#).

1.7 International Standards and Legislation

The following list outlines the policy and legislation that applies to the GSAMS:

- *Export Control Act 2020* (Cth)
- Export Control (Plants and Plant Product) Rules 2021
- International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)

Grain intended for export must meet the conditions of entry specified by the importing country.

Conditions of an establishment's registration under the Act and Plant Rules must continue to be met after registration. This includes conditions related to construction, equipment, facilities and export functions.

In circumstances where the conditions of an establishment's registration have been, or are suspected to be, compromised, REs approved under the Scheme may be audited by the department. The audit will be conducted in accordance with the Exports process instruction: *Audit of plant export registered establishments*.

Notes:

- It is the responsibility of the exporter to know and meet all importing country requirements.
- Compliance with the GSAMS is not to be taken as a guarantee that any particular goods will be granted access to any overseas markets.
- A range of commercial contract quality and other related specifications may also apply.

1.8 The Scheme

The Scheme ensures participating REs have the necessary tools to comply with the GSAMS by providing a supporting framework of documents, processes and guidance.

It includes:

- GSAMS

The GSAMS is based on the principles of the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice and associated guidelines (including Technical Guideline Documents) describing the quality, phytosanitary, market and operational requirements for best practice storage and management of grain along the export and domestic supply chain.

- Scheme Rules

The Scheme Rules are the terms upon which a grain business agrees to participate in the Scheme. They also outline the Scheme's management and governance process. Failure to comply with the Scheme Rules and the requirements of the GSAMS may result in the business having its approval under the Scheme suspended and subsequent removal from the GSAMS Business Register and/or suspension, revocation or variation of export registration.

- GTA Audit Program

To ensure businesses comply with the GSAMS, an external, third-party audit will be conducted by an independent auditor approved by GTA. The GTA Auditor will undergo a selection and approval process based on auditor selection criteria and an auditor training program developed and maintained by GTA.

- Supporting guidance

Supporting guidance provides additional resources to help industry, GTA Auditors and the department comply with the requirements of the GSAMS and the Scheme. Examples of supporting guidance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice
- GTA's Technical Guideline Documents
- communication emails, notices and/or information sessions/workshops
- instructional material such as policy documents, factsheets, work instructions and checklists.

- Training

Training will be provided to industry, AOs and GTA Auditors to communicate the requirements of the GSAMS and the benefits of operating under the Scheme. Training will be delivered by GTA using on-line and/or face-to-face sessions. The periodic review of training will occur in accordance with the Deed and 1.11.

1.9 The Deed

The Deed between the department and GTA is a formal agreement stipulating the obligations and mutual expectations to maintain, verify and review the Scheme, including the department's periodic oversight arrangement and verification activities.

The Deed also outlines the:

- interaction between both parties
- ownership of the GSAMS and the Scheme
- review and management of the GSAMS and the Scheme
- information sharing protocols
- associated activities carried out under the Scheme.

No fee(s) for service or service payment(s) associated with the Deed will be exchanged between the department and GTA prior to, or upon its commencement.

Note: The Deed affects REs approved under the Scheme only, therefore, is not applicable to users of the GSAMS undertaking business activities solely in the domestic market or REs not approved under the Scheme.

1.10 Roles and responsibilities

The department

The department's role is to regulate prescribed grain exported from Australia. The aim of the legislation is to ensure that Australian grain exports are fit for purpose, accurately described, free of live stored grain insects and free of any other pests or contaminants of quarantine concern to importing countries. The department, in collaboration with GTA, will ensure the Scheme addresses the fundamental regulatory and market requirements for export grain.

The department is responsible for:

- regulating prescribed grain exported from Australia
- assessing the GSAMS against export requirements
- reviewing and approving the release and any updates to the GSAMS and/or associated material under the Scheme, considering the elements of the required ISPMs, the Act and subordinate legislation, policies, processes, procedures and any other associated grain export documentation
- conducting periodic oversight activities of GTA to verify the effectiveness of the GSAMS Scheme
- conducting ad-hoc verification activities to verify that the GSAMS, GSAMS Scheme and Export Control Laws are being met
- undertaking formal reviews of the Deed and the GSAMS scheme
- managing the GSAMS Technical Steering Committee meetings
- conducting AO audits under the provisions of the Act and its associated rules, policies, processes, procedures and guidance materials
- conducting the assessment and initial audit of new REs under the provisions of the Act *Export Control Act 2020* (Cth) and its associated rules, policies, processes, procedures and guidance materials

- receiving, assessing and auditing applications for additional operations/functions at existing REs under the provisions of the Act and its associated rules, policies processes, procedures and guidance materials
- conducting audits of RE's in circumstances where the conditions of an establishment's registration has been or is suspected to be compromised.

Grain Trade Australia

On behalf of industry, GTA administers the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice and associated Technical Guideline Documents (TGDs) for the management of grain along the supply chain.

GTA is responsible for:

- establishing, managing, promoting, reviewing and updating the GSAMS and the Scheme in accordance with the Deed
- maintaining contractual arrangements with GTA Auditors
- monitoring the performance of the audit program
- responding to enquiries, issues and decision reviews related to the GSAMS, the Scheme, the GTA Auditor or audit program
- managing the application and approval process of Applicants including the GSAMS Business Register
- managing the application, training and approval process of GTA Auditors
- managing the retention of records related to the Scheme
- developing training material and providing training in the GSAMS, the Scheme and associated activities
- consulting with the department prior to any significant updates to the GSAMS or the Scheme
- notifying the department of export business suspensions from the Scheme
- notifying the department of non-conformances identified during the audit process as per 2.11 GTA Audit Program
- notifying Approved Businesses, industry and stakeholders of any significant updates to the GSAMS or the Scheme
- participating in Technical Steering Committee meetings as required
- making records available to the department in accordance with the Deed.

GTA Auditors

GTA manages the audit program, including the selection, approval and administrative functions of GTA Auditors. The GTA Auditor's main role is to provide an independent inspection and report of the RE's systems and documented processes to ensure compliance with the requirements of the GSAMS. The GTA Auditor may be employed directly by GTA/GTA approved certifying body, or sub-contracted by GTA/GTA approved certifying body as a self-employed individual/sole trader.

The GTA Auditor is responsible for:

- undertaking auditor training by GTA and maintaining the minimum auditor qualifications specified in the GTA Audit Program
- receiving applications from GTA for audit scheduling purposes
- scheduling and conducting GSAMS audit(s) of REs to verify conformance with the GSAMS
- decisions and/or recommendations regarding the approval, rejection, suspension and/or cancellation of a RE
- providing a GSAMS audit report to GTA and the audited RE
- managing the Corrective Action Requests (CARs)/non-conformance notices issued to the audited RE
- advising GTA of any conflict of interest, whether perceived or actual, current or pending, and follow reasonable directions from GTA regarding the management of any conflicts of interest.

Authorised Officers

AOs are individuals who are appointed as Australian Government officials (public officials) under the Act to perform a range of plant export functions on behalf of the department.

AOs are responsible for:

- undertaking an plant export inspection functions in accordance with the Act and Plant Rules
- complying with departmental export instructional material published on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) and [Authorised Officers](#) webpages, including but not limited to passing a fit and proper person assessment.

Regional Assurance Managers (RAM)

RAMs work for the department as part of a regionally based team to provide support to third party AOs and their employers within the plant and plant products export chain.

The role of the RAM is to establish and maintain effective and productive relationships with REs and work with them to ensure that plant export legislation, policies and importing country requirements are understood and adhered to.

The RAMs are responsible for:

- providing technical and policy support to third party AOs and REs
- assisting the development of relationships with AOs, REs and the department
- helping to identify potential operational risk
- discussing any issues with management.

Exporters

Exporters are responsible for:

- ensuring the goods being exported from Australia meet Australian export laws and importing country requirements
- complying with departmental export policy and instructional material published on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#), including but not limited to registering to be an exporter with the department and using an RE to prepare prescribed goods.

Plant Export Registered Establishments

REs are responsible for:

- ensuring the goods being exported from Australia are prepared and inspected in accordance with Australian export laws and importing country requirements
- complying with departmental export policy and instructional material published on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#), including but not limited to fulfilling the technical and fit and proper person requirements for registration
- where the industry training recognition option is chosen, ensuring AOs involved in the inspection of prescribed grain are trained to operate within the legislative and trading partner requirements and are prepared for competency assessment delivered by the department.

GSAMS Applicant (Applicant)

Applicants are responsible for:

- maintaining the conditions of registration as a RE
- meeting the requirements of the Scheme Rules
- meeting the requirements of the GSAMS
- paying all fees and charges associated with obtaining and maintaining compliance with the GSAMS
- agreeing to their business details listed on the GSAMS Business Register.

GSAMS Technical Steering Committee

The GSAMS Technical Steering Committee will meet to collectively review the performance of the Scheme and provide direction, guidance and recommendations to GTA and the department regarding any updates, improvements or decisions pertaining to the GSAMS and the Scheme.

The committee is responsible for:

- providing direction, feedback, and advice to GTA and the department on the GSAMS and the Scheme
- providing oversight and final decision-making on unresolved matters
- reviewing, assessing, and reporting on outcomes, achievements and changes required to the Scheme
- identifying and monitoring emerging risks and issues

- approving any updates to the GSAMS or the Scheme.

1.11 GSAMS and Scheme review process

The GSAMS Technical Steering Committee provides high-level oversight and decision making for the ongoing management and review of the Scheme.

Any changes required to the department's legal framework will be subject to the department's approval process.

Updates to the GSAMS and/or the Scheme are published on [GTA's website](#) and the [department's website](#). REs will be advised of updates by GTA via the GTA website/email and must ensure that they are always operating with the current edition of the GSAMS.

GTA encourages suggestions for improving the GSAMS and the Scheme from all users. Suggestions will be considered in the review process. Suggestions should be submitted in writing to [GTA](#).

2 Scheme Rules

2.1 Overview

The Scheme Rules are the terms upon which the Scheme is managed. REs adopting the GSAMS must comply with the GSAMS requirements and the Scheme Rules. Once approved by GTA, the RE is added to the GSAMS Business Register.

Failure to comply with the GSAMS requirements and/or Scheme Rules may result in suspension or cancellation and subsequent removal from the GSAMS Business Register and/or suspension or revocation of export registration.

2.2 Sharing of information

The RE acknowledges and agrees that certain information handled by GTA and/or the GTA Auditor under the Scheme may be personal information, as defined in the *Privacy Act 1988* and the Privacy Principles. Personal information obtained by GTA and/or the GTA Auditor is handled in accordance with GTA's Privacy Statement.

Information collected under the Scheme may be shared where necessary and appropriate to do so to enable GTA, the GTA Auditor and the department to undertake their respective roles and responsibilities specified in 1.10.

Information shared by GTA

Examples of information shared by GTA to the department:

- an Approved Business has its GSAMS approval status removed or cancelled by GTA, subsequently affecting its ability to comply with the GSAMS and the Scheme Rules
- sharing audit reports conducted in accordance with the GTA Audit Program, and information collected by GTA and any GTA Approved Auditor during the course of such audits
- sharing of the GSAMS Business Register (or equivalent)
- all other matters that may include disclosing information collected for the purposes of maintaining and reviewing the Scheme.

Information shared by the department

Examples of information shared by the department to GTA:

- an Approved Business, or Applicant has its export registration suspended or revoked by the department, subsequently affecting its ability to comply with the GSAMS, or receive GSAMS approval
- registration details, including the Approved Business's export registered operations or functions, collected by the department are shared for the purposes of scheduling and conducting third-party audits under the GTA Audit Program

- the department is conducting trading partner visits
- an Approved Business is under investigation by the department
- all other matters that may include disclosing information collected for the purposes of maintaining and reviewing the Scheme.

2.3 Oversight by the department

In accordance with the Deed, the department reserves the right to oversee and conduct periodic oversight activities and ad-hoc verification activities to ensure the GSAMS and the Scheme meet export requirements and are managed in accordance with the Deed. This can include, but is not limited to:

- periodic oversight activities to verify the effectiveness of the Scheme
- ad-hoc verification activities including but not limited to investigations of critical non-conformances and witness audits to verify auditor competency
- formal reviews of the Deed and the Scheme.

2.4 Training for industry

There are two options for individuals seeking industry training to learn about the Scheme.

- 1) Information sessions – for individuals seeking more information about the GSAMS and the Scheme and are in the process of deciding whether to apply. Although this training is not mandatory for GSAMS approval, it is recommended.
- 2) GSAMS Approval Training – **mandatory** for Applicants seeking GSAMS approval. Training must be completed prior to submitting a GSAMS application. At least one (1) individual from a business applying for GSAMS approval must attend.

Table 1 Training for industry

Scope	Information session	GSAMS Approval Training
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals seeking information only • Stakeholders seeking information, i.e., representatives from the finance sector, service providers, industry organisations etc. 	Mandatory for Applicants
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to GTA • GSAMS explained • Administration • Scheme Rules • Application, audit and compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to GTA • GSAMS explained • Administration • Scheme Rules • Application, audit and compliance • Grain sourcing scenarios • Levels • Export requirements
Duration	2 hours	1 day
Competency Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal assessment • ‘Certificate of Completion’ will be issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No formal assessment

Scope	Information session	GSAMS Approval Training
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Certificate of Completion' will be issued
Facilitator	GTA	GTA

2.5 Training for GTA Auditors

All individuals operating solely or as a representative of a company employed or contracted to conduct GSAMS audits under the Scheme must meet the GTA auditor criteria and complete mandatory training prior to conducting a GSAMS audit.

Table 2 Training for GTA Auditors

Scope	Pre-requisite qualification	GTA training session
Attendees	Individuals seeking to conduct GSAMS audits	Individuals seeking to conduct GSAMS audits
Content	Lead Auditor Training ISO19011 modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSBAUD511 – Initiate quality audits • BSBAUD411 – Participate in quality audits • BSBAUD512 – Lead quality audits • BSBAUD513 – Report on quality audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to GTA • GSAMS explained • Administration • Scheme Rules • Application, audit and compliance • Grain sourcing scenarios • Levels • Export requirements • Departmental online eLearning modules through Learnhub
Duration	Self-paced	2 days
Competency Assessment	As per the Registered Training Organisation assessment criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q & A assessment exercise • 'Certificate of Completion' issued by GTA • 'Certificate of Completion' issued for eLearning by Learnhub
Facilitator	Registered Training Organisation	GTA/Learnhub

2.6 Industry-led training for AO candidates

AO candidates seeking industry training recognition have two options for face-to-face training, as described below in

Table 3.

Table 3 Industry-led training for AO candidates

Scope	AO training facilitated by GTA	AO training facilitated by the RE
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals employed or engaged by an RE with GSAMS approval and seeking authorisation as an AO for applicable grain job functions • Existing AOs employed or engaged by an RE with GSAMS approval and seeking to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals employed or engaged by an RE with GSAMS approval and seeking authorisation as an AO for applicable grain job functions • Existing AOs employed or engaged by an RE with GSAMS approval and

Scope	AO training facilitated by GTA	AO training facilitated by the RE
	add applicable grain function to their existing authorisation	seeking to add applicable grain function to their existing authorisation
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to GTA • GSAMS explained • The Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice explained • GTA administration of GSAMS • AO overview and application process • AO job functions • Grain assessment • Grain inspection process • Grain preparation plan/grain sourcing scenarios • Export requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combination of on-the-job documented training and work experience using a buddy learning system with an existing AO • Information can be sourced on the Plant Exports Operations Manual and Authorised Officers webpages
Duration	1 day	As required to prepare the individual for assessment by the department
Competency Assessment	AO Competency Assessment conducted by the department, requested through the Plant Exports Management System	AO Competency Assessment conducted by the department, requested through the Plant Exports Management System
Facilitator	GTA	RE

Further information can be found on the department’s website under [AO training recognition](#) factsheet.

2.7 Eligible Applicants

To be eligible for GSAMS approval, Applicants must:

- hold a current RE registration in accordance with the Act and associated Plant Rules, which is not suspended and has not been revoked
- be registered for activities or functions associated with the packing/inspecting of prescribed grain for export
- not be suspended or prohibited from applying for GSAMS approval by GTA
- have at least 1 individual employed by the business complete mandatory GSAMS Approval Training.

2.8 Applications

REs seeking GSAMS approval must meet the Eligible Applicant criteria and successfully complete the application and approval process. GSAMS applications are made directly to GTA.

REs must submit a completed GSAMS Application Form including the associated documents or key information required by GTA as part of the application process. Applicants are required to register each RE site separately for GSAMS approval.

Applications will undergo an Initial Desktop Assessment to establish suitability and GSAMS approval. Industry must stipulate the ‘grain sourcing scenario’ that applies, as part of the application process.

Key information required for the Initial Desktop Assessment includes but is not limited to:

- evidence of a documented quality system
- internal/external audit records
- key business contact details
- area of operation – domestic and/or export facility
- RE status and export registration number issued by the department
- grain sourcing scenario
- key staff and level of training

REs meeting the requirements of the Initial Desktop Assessment will be approved under the Scheme and selected to undergo an on-site GSAMS audit within the timeframe below:

- Within 6 months, where a departmental RE audit has not occurred within 6 months prior to the date of submitting a GSAMS application.
- Within 12 months, where a departmental RE audit has occurred within 6 months prior to the date of submitting a GSAMS application.

Upon passing the on-site GSAMS audit, the RE will continue operating under the Scheme.

Upon failing the on-site GSAMS audit, the RE's GSAMS approval may be suspended as per 2.13. The RE can reapply directly to GTA.

GSAMS Application and Approval Process

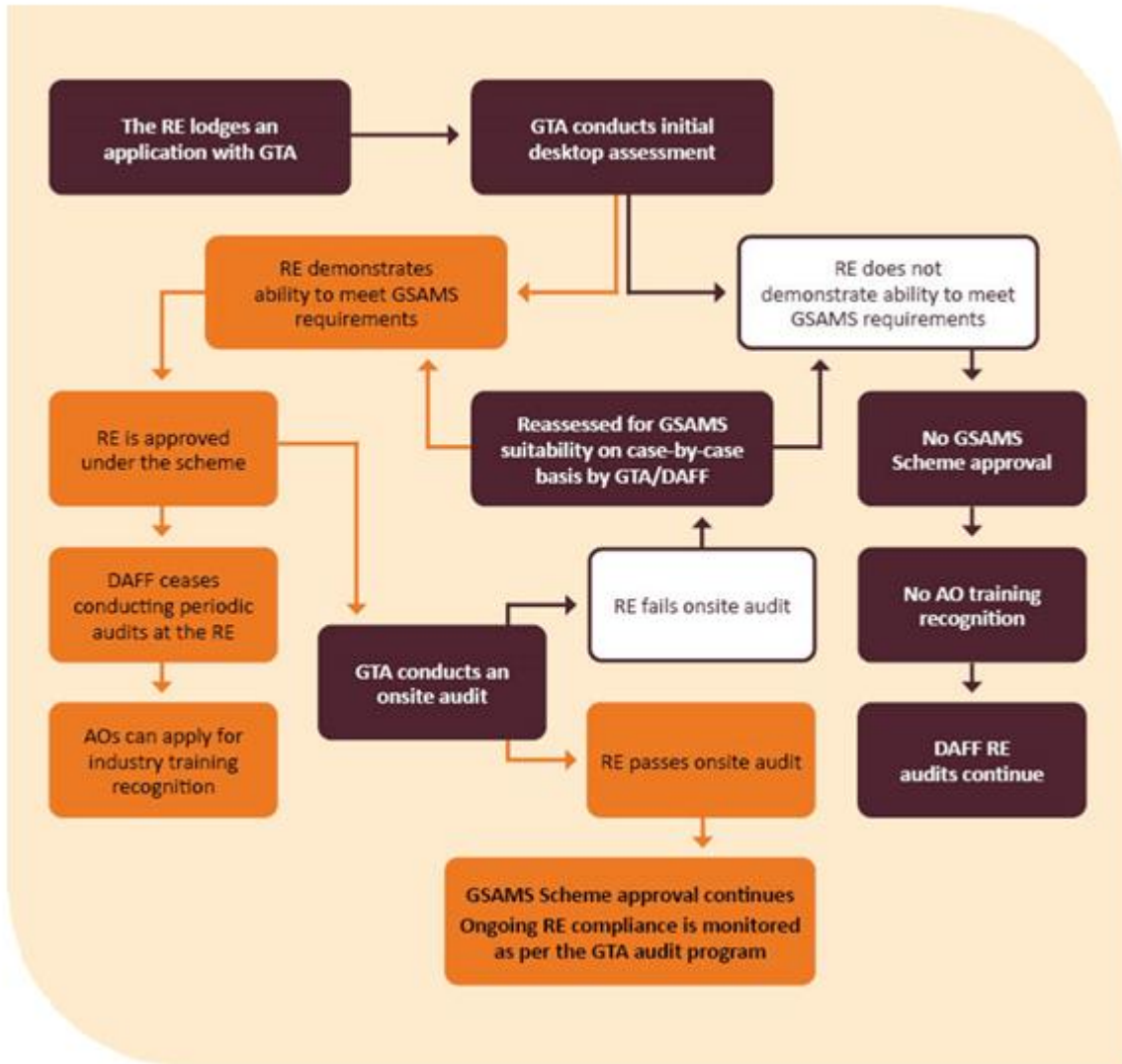


Figure 1 GSAMS and Approval Process outlines the application and approval process for existing REs seeking GSAMS approval. Although this shows a typical application scenario, businesses can apply based on their individual needs and operations. For more scenarios, see [Appendix A: Application and Approval Table](#).

GSAMS Application and Approval Process

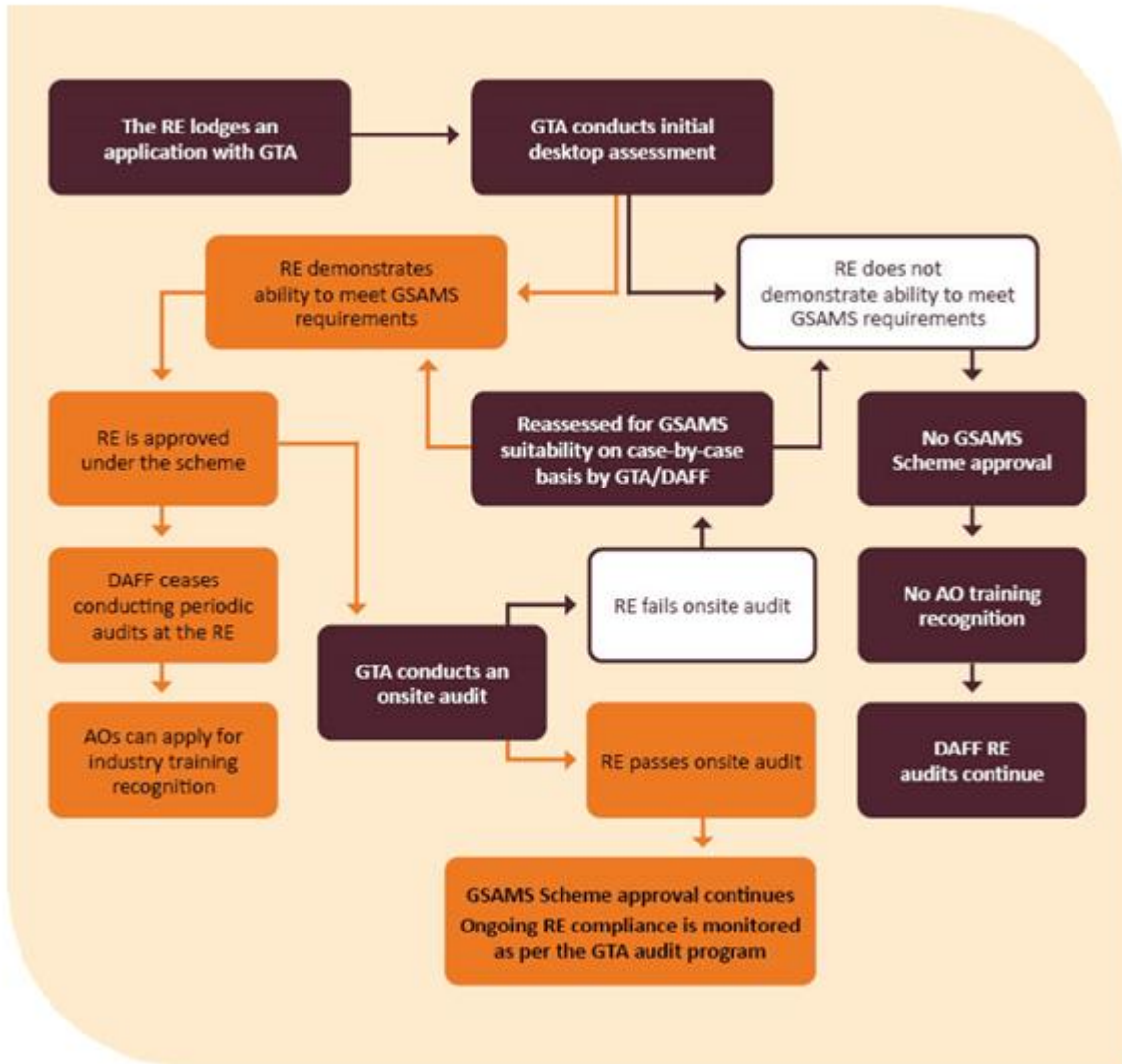


Figure 1 GSAMS Application and Approval Process

2.9 GSAMS Business Register

REs meeting the requirements of the GSAMS will be listed as approved on the GSAMS Business Register (or equivalent).

The GSAMS Business Register is maintained by GTA and must list the Approved Business, the type of operation under the GSAMS and associated status and audit details. The GSAMS Business Register may be shared with the department in accordance with 2.2.

2.10 Fees

The RE is responsible for payment of all fees and charges associated with obtaining and maintaining compliance with the GSAMS.

Fees for audit and approval purposes (for example, auditing services) are payable directly to the auditor/GTA approved certifying body by the RE, under the terms of the individual contract between the auditor/GTA approved certifying body and the RE. The cancellation of a scheduled audit without sufficient notice to the auditor/GTA approved certifying body may result in a penalty fee in accordance with the terms of the contract between the auditor/GTA approved certifying body and the RE. GTA may charge fees associated with obtaining and maintaining compliance with the GSAMS.

2.11 GTA Audit Program

GTA will manage the audits undertaken under the GTA Audit Program as per the Scheme Rules contained within this document.

Self-audit

REs seeking GSAMS approval or operating under the Scheme must conduct self-audits (internal audits) to ensure that an ongoing review/evaluation of systems, processes and requirements is undertaken to maintain conformance with the GSAMS.

All systems, processes and structural requirements that are in place to meet the standard must be internally audited at least once annually.

Critical processes which directly affect the grain such as receipt inspection processes must be reviewed more routinely than less critical processes.

Internal audits may encompass:

- utilising internally trained staff, with or without formal audit qualifications, or
- utilising the services of an external party, either part of a formally recognised Quality Assurance system or using services as required, or
- a combination of the above.

GSAMS audit scheduling and access to the site

GTA approved auditors will conduct audits verifying compliance with the GSAMS under the GTA Audit Program. GTA Auditors are required to contact the RE to schedule a GSAMS audit. GSAMS audits are scheduled by the GTA Auditor.

Any changes to business details or key contact information must be sent to the GTA Auditor and GTA in writing with adequate notice, at least 14 days prior to the scheduled audit date.

The RE must, as soon as practicable, notify GTA and the GTA Auditor of any prosecutions brought, or likely to be brought against the business, in relation to any activities within the scope of the GSAMS. GTA will subsequently undergo a review of the application and advise the department of any adverse findings.

A GTA Auditor may refuse to conduct or complete an audit if:

- they feel threatened or have been subjected to abusive behaviour during the visit, or
- the site is non-operational, or

- they deem that the RE has not implemented the GSAMS, or no records are available.

The RE must provide unimpeded access to the site, to full documentation and records, and to the product audited, for the purpose of conducting the GSAMS audit and provide all reasonable assistance required by the GTA Auditor in the conduct of the GSAMS audit.

The RE must have at least 1 nominated representative as an audit contact available for the duration of the GSAMS audit, and responsible for any subsequent corrective actions required to be taken as a result of the GSAMS audit. A person listed as the occupier or person in management or control of the RE must be present during the audit entry and exit meetings.

Frequency and audit type

Initial on-site

Upon completion and approval of the Initial Desktop Assessment, an initial on-site audit will be conducted by a GTA Auditor:

- within 12 months, where a departmental RE audit has been conducted within 6 months prior to the GSAMS application date, or
- within 6 months where a departmental RE audit has not been conducted within 6 months prior to the GSAMS application date.

The initial on-site audit will be announced (advance notice given).

Periodic on-site

Ongoing GSAMS approval is subject to the RE successfully passing a periodic on-site GSAMS audit as scheduled and conducted by the GTA Auditor. The periodic on-site audit frequency will be based on the Rolling Audit Plan. All REs must be audited as per the Rolling Audit Plan.

Periodic on-site audits may be announced (advance notice given) or unannounced (no advance notice) as advised by the GTA Auditor.

Unannounced audits

Unannounced GSAMS audits are conducted without providing advance notice to the RE.

As a guide, 1 audit in every 3 on-site GSAMS audits shall be conducted as unannounced. This will not include the initial on-site audit.

Unannounced audit window

Unannounced audits may be conducted within a 3-month audit window with 10 block-out days allowed by the RE. That is, the audit will occur within the 3-month period but cannot occur on the nominated block out days. The 3-month window is set by the GTA Auditor following consultation with the RE.

Rolling Audit Plan

Compliant businesses

Where critical issues were not identified during the Initial Desktop Assessment, REs will be subject to reduced scope audits conducted annually, whereby all elements of the GSAMS are audited over a 4-year rolling timeframe. See Table 4 Rolling audit plan for compliant businesses.

Table 4 Rolling audit plan for compliant businesses

Scope	Audit Timing	Rolling Timeframe
Grain Preparation/Outturn Section 3.10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 12 months of Initial Desktop Assessment approval where a departmental RE audit has been conducted within 6 months prior to the GSAMS application date or • Within 6 months of Initial Desktop Assessment approval where a departmental RE audit has not been conducted within 6 months prior to the GSAMS application date 	Every 4 years
Site Hygiene/Pest Control Sections 3.4. – 3.8.	Year 2	Every 4 years
Stock Management/Traceability Section 3.9. & all of Section 2	Year 3	Every 4 years
Grain Receival Sections 3.1. – 3.3. & any other elements not yet covered	Year 4	Every 4 years

Non-compliant businesses

For REs where critical issues were identified during the Initial Desktop Assessment, or where critical issues are identified in the period of 4 years following GSAMS approval, the frequency will vary. See Table 5 Rolling audit plan for non-compliant businesses.

Table 5 Rolling audit plan for non-compliant businesses

Scope	Audit Timing	Rolling Timeframe
Critical issue	Within 3 months of detection	Every 6 months until GTA and the department are satisfied the issue is no longer of major concern
All other GSAMS sections	As per Table 4	As per Table 4

Duration of GSAMS audits

The duration of GSAMS audits will vary depending on the type, size and scope of the RE and will be set by the GTA Auditor.

GTA Auditor criteria

Prerequisite qualifications

Must have completed a nationally accredited Lead Auditor training course of 4 core units of competency delivered by a Registered Training Organisations (or equivalent ISO qualification). These include:

- BSBAUD511 – Initiate quality audits
- BSBAUD411 – Participate in quality audits
- BSBAUD512 – Lead quality audits
- BSBAUD513 – Report on quality audits

GTA Auditor Training

Must have completed mandatory training for GTA Auditors. See Table 2 Training for GTA Auditors.

Online training modules

Must have completed online eLearning modules facilitated by the department.

Independence, impartiality, conflicts of interest

GTA Auditors must be independent of the audited business. That is a GTA Approved Auditor cannot conduct GSAMS audits of REs where the relevant GTA Approved Auditor is a direct employee of the relevant RE, or where an immediate family member of the GTA Approved Auditor is a direct employee of the relevant RE. Any conflicts of interest, whether perceived or actual, must be disclosed to GTA prior to the acceptance of an audit assignment.

GTA Auditors must provide assurance with unbiased, objective evidence; that is, based on evidence, without bias and collected through observation (including video or photographic), interview, demonstration or examination of records.

A GTA Auditor may be employed directly by GTA/GTA approved certifying body, or sub-contracted by GTA/GTA approved certifying body as a self-employed individual/sole trader.

Audit findings

Upon completion of a GSAMS audit, the audit result and report will be issued within 10 working days. Any non-conformances identified will be communicated to the RE by the GTA Auditor. GTA will issue the RE a notification of decision based on the following criteria being met:

- payment of all fees
- closure of any outstanding CARs by the business (if applicable)

Records of audit findings will be maintained by GTA and disclosed to the department in accordance with the Deed.

Minor non-conformances

Minor non-conformances are regarded as deliberate or inadvertent actions or contravention of GSAMS requirements that do not affect the overall effectiveness or integrity of export or domestic market requirements. Examples include:

- inaccurate operational documentation
- product traceability errors
- differences in the operational structure
- poor hygiene in areas away from processing and storage areas.

Minor non-conformances are to be addressed between the RE and the GTA Auditor. Minor non-conformances must be rectified within 28 calendar days.

Major non-conformances

Major non-conformances relate to conformity differences or failures relative to the requirements in the GSAMS. They are deliberate or inadvertent actions or contraventions of the requirements of the Scheme and the export of compliant prescribed goods and/or supply to the domestic market.

Examples include:

- significant delays or failure to close out audit findings
- potential risk of cross contamination during process
- poor hygiene in processing and other significant process areas such as storage or inspection flow path.

Major non-conformances are to be addressed between the RE and the GTA Auditor. Major non-conformances must be rectified within 14 calendar days. In circumstances where the GTA Auditor needs advice on the issuance of the major/s or assessing the findings, further advice will be obtained from GTA or the department.

In circumstances where 3 or more major non-conformances are issued, the GTA Auditor must refer the audit findings to GTA and the department for further consideration.

Note: 3 or more major non-conformances may lead to suspension of GSAMS approval or suspension or revocation of export registration.

Critical non-conformances

A critical non-conformance relates to failure of the RE's operational system to maintain phytosanitary integrity. They are a deliberate and direct contravention of the GSAMS or Scheme requirements where it is judged the issuance of a major CAR is insufficient and could directly impact market access and/or supply to domestic or export markets.

Examples include failure:

- to close out CARs

- of the system to maintain phytosanitary integrity through the processing system and/or quality system.

GSAMS audits that reveal a critical non-conformance will be managed by the GTA Auditor, GTA and the department. Critical non-conformances must be rectified within 7 calendar days. The GTA Auditor must:

- issue a critical CAR
- refer the critical non-conformance to GTA and the department within 1 working day, where practicable.

Note: Critical non-conformances may lead to suspension of GSAMS approval or suspension or revocation of export registration, or criminal prosecution. All critical non-conformances must be referred to GTA and the department.

CAR closure timeframes

Up to:

- 28 calendar days for minor CARs
- 14 calendar days for major CARs
- 7 calendar days for critical CARs.

GSAMS audit process

- 1) The GSAMS audit is scheduled by the GTA Auditor.
- 2) Audit preparation is conducted by the GTA Auditor.
- 3) The GTA Auditor conducts an entry meeting on-site with the manager and audit contact to outline the audit process. A person in management or control of the RE must be present.
- 4) The GTA Auditor reviews the grain preparation plan (including grain sourcing scenarios).
- 5) The GTA Auditor collects and records objective evidence (documentation and observation/demonstration) for each section of the GSAMS.
- 6) The GTA Auditor identifies non-conformances and issues any CARs.
- 7) The GTA Auditor conducts an exit meeting with the manager and audit contact to present the audit findings, any non-conformances and CARs raised. A person in management or control of the RE must be present.
- 8) If, at the GSAMS audit
 - a) the GSAMS requirements have been fully met
 - i) The RE passes the GSAMS audit and an audit report is issued within 10 working days. The business will be recommended for continued GSAMS approval.
 - ii) GTA confirms the RE is listed on the GSAMS Business Register and sends the RE and the department an approval confirmation email.
 - b) CARs are issued

- i) The RE has an opportunity to rectify the non-conformance within the CAR closure timeframes (above mentioned).
 - ii) The CARs must state the specific requirement and/or subsequent legislative reference that has not been met.
 - iii) The CARs must contain evidence to support the non-conformance.
 - iv) Once the CAR is rectified and the GTA Auditor closes out the CAR, the RE will be recommended for GSAMS continued approval.
 - v) GTA confirms the RE is listed on the GSAMS Business Register and sends the RE and the department an approval confirmation email.
 - vi) Where the CAR is not rectified and the GTA Auditor cannot close out the CAR, the GTA Auditor fails the GSAMS audit. The GTA Auditor will work collaboratively with GTA and the department to determine the next steps.
- c) 1 or more critical non-conformances or 3 or more major non-conformances are identified
- i) The RE is deemed non-compliant.
 - ii) The GTA Auditor fails the GSAMS audit.
 - iii) The GTA Auditor will refer the matter directly to GTA. GTA will refer directly to the department within 1 working day (where practicable) and work collaboratively to determine the next steps.
 - iv) An audit report is issued to the RE within 10 working days.
- 9) A failed GSAMS audit may result in an audit within 3 months of detection as per Table 5 Rolling audit plan for non-compliant businesses, further investigation involving GTA and the department or suspension as per 2.13. The GTA Auditor manages the charging for the audit.

2.12 Varying, suspending or revoking a RE registration

Prescribed goods intended for export must be prepared and inspected at a RE registered by the department under the Act and its associated rules, policies, processes, procedures and guidance materials.

Under the Scheme, the department will continue to:

- conduct the initial assessment and audit of a new RE as part of the RE registration process
- manage the applications and audits for the variation of registration, registered export operations or registered functions of an existing RE registration
- vary, suspend or revoke an existing RE registration (initiated by the department or voluntarily by the occupier).

Further information on applying to become an RE or varying an existing RE registration can be found on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Exports policy: *Management of plant export registered establishments*.

2.13 Scheme suspension

GSAMS audits that reveal:

- 1 or more critical non-conformances, or
- 3 or more major non-conformances

may result in the audited business having its GSAMS approval suspended, meaning the RE is no longer approved under the Scheme.

Suspension from the Scheme may also occur where:

- GTA believes on reasonable grounds that the RE
 - committed a serious breach or failed to comply with the critical elements of the GSAMS or the Scheme Rules
 - acted fraudulently
 - aided, assisted, directed, encouraged, or otherwise conspired to enable another person who is not approved to conduct operational activities under the Scheme
 - provided false or misleading information during the GSAMS audit
- the RE has its export registration suspended or revoked by the department
- the RE fails to pay the applicable fees associated with GSAMS approval
- the RE is deemed by GTA and DAFF as not meeting the requirements of the GSAMS
- the RE accumulates outstanding major or critical non-conformances above the thresholds described above
- the RE fails to pay any fees in connection with the Scheme and/or with the contractual terms of the GTA Auditor
- upon GTA's discretion on a case-by-case basis.

REs are responsible for ensuring that CARs are rectified and closed out within the GTA Auditor's specified time-period or face suspension.

Where GTA suspends an RE, GTA will issue the RE a written notice outlining the details of the suspension and any conditions or prohibitions GTA considers appropriate in the circumstances.

GTA will provide the department with advance notice of any proposed GSAMS approvals, suspensions or modifications, prior to a decision being implemented. The department may suspend or revoke the registration of an RE as a result of GTA suspending or modifying a business's GSAMS approval.

GTA will update the GSAMS Business Register to reflect changes to an Approved Business's status.

2.14 Decision Reviews

GTA will manage the issues and complaints as per the GSAMS Decision Review Procedure in relation to the Scheme, including complaints relating to a GTA Auditor or GSAMS audit findings. Unresolved issues may be referred to the department and/or the Technical Steering Committee as required.

Further information can be found at [GSAMS Decision Review Procedure](#).

2.15 Change of scope

Notification to GTA

An Approved Business must notify GTA of any changes to the scope of its GSAMS approval.

An Approved Business must notify GTA, in writing, of changes to the business's ABN, responsible management personnel or ownership. Major changes may result in cancellation of the approval and the business re-applying for new approval.

Notification to the department

The department will continue to receive, assess and audit new applications for additional export operations/functions and/or variations to an existing RE in accordance with the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) Export Policy: *Management of plant export registered establishments*.

2.16 Relocation of an Approved Business

Relocating an Approved Business to a new site may be considered a significant variation to business operations. Any site alterations that can affect compliance with the requirements of the GSAMS must be submitted in writing to GTA for approval prior to implementation.

If an Approved Business relocates an existing site to a new location and wants to retain GSAMS approval, the following requirements must be met:

- the business must notify GTA in writing with details of the relocation.
- a new export registration must be submitted to the department in accordance with Exports policy: *Management of plant export registered establishments*.
- the new site must be audited by the department prior to the production and/or treatment or on-selling of grain for export purposes.

2.17 Records

All records used to verify compliance with the GSAMS may be kept in hard copy, soft copy, electronic or digital format, and must be:

- available for viewing by the auditor, GTA and the department
- stored for a minimum of 5 years or longer (if required for legislative, legal, or commercial purposes) and backed up (if electronic)

- stored in a manner to prevent alteration, damage, and deterioration.

3 Version history

The following table details the published date and amendment details for this document.

Version	Date published	Date last approved	Review type	Summary of review
1	1/07/2026	22/06/2026	New document	First publication of this document - to describe the Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard Scheme.

Appendix A: Application and approval table

Scenarios	Domestic Only	RE	Domestic and Export – Not RE	Domestic – seeking export	RE seeking variation
Who does this apply to?	Business adopting the GSAMS for domestic purposes	Existing RE business seeking GSAMS approval	Business seeking export registration and GSAMS approval	Business with GSAMS for domestic purposes seeking export registration and GSAMS approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RE with GSAMS approval seeking to vary its export registration including: Change of mgt control Additional function Variation to site operation Variation to site structure
Application	Business applies directly to GTA for GSAMS approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business does not need to submit another RE application form if already registered Business submits the GSAMS Application Form and supporting documents directly to GTA for GSAMS approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business applies to become a RE directly to DAFF Once audited and approved by DAFF, the business submits the GSAMS Application Form and supporting documents directly to GTA for GSAMS approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business applies to become a RE directly to DAFF Once audited and approved by DAFF, the business submits the GSAMS Application Form and supporting documents directly to GTA for GSAMS approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business completes the EX26 variation form through the DAFF website Applications are managed by DAFF
Approval	GTA conducts initial desktop assessment against the GSAMS to approve the business	GTA conducts initial desktop assessment against the GSAMS to approve the business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF conducts RE audit against RE Performance Standards to approve for export GTA conducts initial desktop assessment against the GSAMS for GSAMS approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DAFF conducts RE audit against RE Performance Standards to approve for export GTA conducts initial desktop assessment against the GSAMS for GSAMS approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approvals are managed by DAFF DAFF will determine if an onsite audit is required depending on the type of variation requested Business to be audited by DAFF where required

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GSAMS Scheme

Scenarios	Domestic Only	RE	Domestic and Export – Not RE	Domestic – seeking export	RE seeking variation against the relevant PS
Initial onsite GSAMS audit	Business is audited by a GTA Auditor against the GSAMS	Business is audited by a GTA Auditor against the GSAMS	Business is audited by a GTA Auditor against the GSAMS	Business is audited by a GTA Auditor against the GSAMS	N/A
Ongoing audit	Business undergoes periodic GSAMS audits as determined by GTA	Business undergoes periodic GSAMS audits by a GTA auditor as per 2.11	Business undergoes periodic GSAMS audits by a GTA auditor as per 2.11	Business undergoes periodic GSAMS audits by a GTA auditor as per 2.11	Business undergoes periodic GSAMS audits by a GTA auditor as per 2.11
Approval type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAMS approval for domestic purposes only • No RE registration • No GSAMS approval 	GSAMS approval issued by GTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAMS approval issued by GTA • RE registration issued by DAFF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAMS approval issued by GTA • RE registration issued by DAFF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAMS approval will continue • RE registration issued by DAFF

Glossary

Term	Definition
Applicant or GSAMS Applicant or Eligible Applicant	A business seeking to adopt the GSAMS that meets the Eligible Applicant criteria.
Approved Business	A business approved by GTA to operate under the Scheme.
Audit	A check performed by an auditor to verify that a business is meeting prescribed requirements.
Audit program or GTA Audit Program	A system of audit objectives and activities developed by GTA to ensure that an audit can be conducted in accordance with the Scheme Rules and the Deed.
Authorised Officer (AO)	A person authorised under section 291 of the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> (Cth) to be an authorised officer. The authorised officer may exercise powers and functions conferred on them through an instrument of authorisation.
Business or grain business	Under the Scheme, a business or grain business refers to any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a company • a partnership • a person in the capacity of trustee and conducts one or more of the following activities within the grain supply chain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • production • handling • processing • storage • marketing/trading • treatment.
Closed out	When evidence has been provided to the auditor demonstrating that a Corrective Action Request has been satisfactorily addressed; it will be considered closed out.
Corrective Action Request/non-conformance notification (CAR)	A formal notice from an auditor outlining a non-conformance and requesting the cause of non-conformance with requirements to be eliminated, with the objective of preventing reoccurrence.
DAFF	The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Deed	An agreement between the department and GTA stipulating the obligations and mutual expectations to maintain, verify and review the Scheme, including the department's periodic oversight arrangement via a technical steering committee and verification activities.
Domestic	Means of, relating to, or originating within Australian territory.
Facility	A fixed site where grain processing, treatment or testing is carried out.
GSAMS	The Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard (GSAMS); an industry-owned set of requirements based on the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice, associated Technical Guideline Documents and the department's export policy for the management of grain along the supply chain.
GSAMS Business Register	A register maintained by GTA listing approved, suspended or withdrawn businesses, the type of operation under the GSAMS and associated audit details.
GSAMS audit	A check performed by a GTA Auditor to verify that a business is meeting the requirements prescribed in the GSAMS, including verification that the business's policies and procedures are being followed and that employees are sufficiently trained.
GTA	Grain Trade Australia

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GSAMS Scheme

Term	Definition
GTA Auditor	A person approved by GTA to conduct a third-party audit of the GSAMS requirements in accordance with the Scheme Rules and the GTA Audit Program.
Inspection	The act of inspecting goods or transport units/conveyances to ensure that legislative, phytosanitary, or other certification and importing country requirements are met.
International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)	Phytosanitary principles for the protection of plant and the application of phytosanitary measure in international trade as outlined in the International Plant Protection Convention.
Mgt	Management
Pest	means: (a) a live or viable species, strain or biotype of a plant or animal; or (b) a pathogenic agent; that has the potential to cause (either directly or indirectly) harm to human health, animal or plant health, the health of plant products, or the environment, but does not include a seed of a plant. Note: Examples of pests are live animals such as vermin and rodents, and live insects. Different definitions may apply for phytosanitary and commercial quality purposes.
Phytosanitary	Relates to the health of plants or plant products, especially with respect to the requirements of international trade.
Plant Export Registered Establishment (RE)	An establishment that is registered under the <i>Export Control Act 2020</i> (Cth) for a kind of export operations in relation to a kind of prescribed plants or plant products.
Prescribed grain	means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plant products listed under section 1-7 of the Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021 • other cereal grains, pulses, oil seeds and processed grain products in relation to which the importing country requires a phytosanitary certificate or a phytosanitary certificate for re-export.
PS	Performance Standard
Quality system	A collection of operational procedures a facility has in place to meet a prescribed Standard.
RE	Plant Export Registered Establishment
Scheme	The Grain Storage Assets and Management Standard (GSAMS) Scheme; the supporting framework and assurance that legal, regulatory and operational requirements are consistently met by REs adopting the GSAMS.
Third-party	Impartial and independent of the supplier/customer relationship.
Verification	A process that is used to evaluate whether a product, service, or system complies with regulations, specifications, or conditions.
Verification activities	A set of activities performed to verify that operations and processes continue to meet the requirements of the Scheme and in accordance with the Deed.