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Improving Agricultural Export Legislation Authorised Officers



The Australian Government empowers Authorised Officers to carry out certain tasks under agricultural export legislation. These officers assist in providing assurance to our trading partners of the effectiveness of export controls, and work to ensure consistency and quality within our export chains.

Functions undertaken by Authorised Officers include the power to inspect goods, conduct audits, issue certificates and give directions on how exported goods must be handled.

There are three classes of Authorised Officer: departmental officials, state and territory officials and non-government authorised officers – the latter of whom can be employed by a registered establishment or engaged on an individual basis.

Depending on importing country requirements, certain functions within the export chain may be undertaken by appropriately qualified non-government Authorised Officers – for example inspection of meat, fruit and vegetables.

Empowering Authorised Officers

The existing requirements related to appointments and obligations of non-government Authorised Officers are managed through administrative arrangements. These arrangements enable the department to set out which functions non-government Authorised Officers can exercise by class, or on an individual basis.

Authorised Officers employed by the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments have these requirements detailed in public service legislation.

Improved export legislation will incorporate the administrative arrangements currently in place for non-government officers. This will help to improve transparency and provide assurance to our trading partners as to the independence and impartiality of non-government officers when undertaking these functions.

Key points

- Authorised Officers provide important assurance to our trading partners as to the effectiveness of Australia's agricultural export controls.
- Australia has three classes of Authorised Officers to perform specific functions and exercise powers under export legislation, including inspections, audits and issuing certificates.
- Non-government Authorised Officers can undertake certain activities in the export supply chain, subject to trading partner requirements.
- Improvements to export legislation will ensure greater transparency over the functions and conditions imposed on non-government officers.

