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Improving Agricultural Export Legislation Compliance and enforcement



Regulating exports

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is improving agricultural export legislation, implementing a broader range of compliance and enforcement powers. These improvements are designed to better address acts of non-compliance and protect Australia's reputation as a country of safe and high quality export products.

We undertake a range of activities under Australia's export legislation to ensure agricultural exports comply with importing country requirements. These activities include sampling functions, audits, and inspections and certifying products for export.

Our exporters operate within these regulations as an everyday part of their business activities. Industry acceptance of, and compliance with, these standards underpins Australia's reputation as a high quality exporter.

Broader compliance and enforcement powers

Current agricultural export legislation provides the department with the tools to investigate, identify and rectify any export activities that do not meet the required standards. These tools assist the department to protect Australia's trading reputation and to ensure minimal market access disruption for compliant exporters.

The improvements will build upon our existing capabilities by providing a broader set of compliance and enforcement powers.

A stepped approach, designed to respond to acts of non-compliance in a proportionate and timely manner, will include issuing infringement notices, suspending export activities and other, more serious penalties. This will help to ensure that those doing the wrong thing don't bring the system down for all exporters.

Key points

- The regulation of goods provides assurance to trading partners on the integrity of Australian exports.
- The improved legislation will enable exporters to respond more quickly to changes in importing country requirements.
- Your feedback will help us deliver these improvements. Register your interest at: agriculture.gov.au/export-regulation-review.

