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Improving Agricultural Export Legislation Streamlining and consolidating



The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is streamlining and consolidating agricultural export legislation, making it easier to understand, administer and use.

There are currently 17 acts and over 40 legislative instruments that make up the agricultural export legislation framework.

This regulatory framework is important as it underpins Australia's reputation as a supplier of safe and reliable food and other commodities. It also provides assurance to our trading partners that their specific requirements are met. The existing legislation has served its purpose well, but much of it is due to sunset (cease to be law) in April 2020. The Australian Government is using this opportunity to improve the regulatory framework, whilst maintaining Australia's commitment to meeting importing country requirements.

Improving the structure

Wherever possible, requirements that are common across commodities will be incorporated into the improved Export Control Act.

Export-related provisions within other agricultural legislation—such as the *Australian Meat and Livestock Industry Act 1997*— will also be incorporated.

Export Control Rules

The other parts of the Orders and Regulations will be consolidated in the Export Control Rules, made by the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. Similar to the current Orders, the Rules are legislative instruments, made under the improved Export Control Act, that are subject to parliamentary checks and balances.

These Rules will set out the operational requirements that agricultural exporters must meet—such as where and how products are to be prepared, and the permits and certificates necessary to export from Australia.

Key points

- We're consolidating the current agricultural export legislation into an improved Export Control Act and associated Export Control Rules.
- These improvements will maintain existing regulatory oversight while removing duplication and making export provisions consistent across commodities where possible.
- Improvements will make the legislation easier to use, whilst maintaining Australia's commitment to meeting importing country requirements.
- The overall level of government regulatory oversight will be maintained.
- Formal consultation on the exposure draft of the Bill is planned from 2017.
- Your feedback will help us deliver these improvements.
- Register your interest at: agriculture.gov.au/export-regulation-review.



The Rules will also provide detail on requirements that are common across commodities, as well as commodity-specific requirements.

Assisting Australian farmers

Consolidating and streamlining export legislation will assist exporters, farmers and primary producers by reducing duplication, and associated administrative burden, across the framework.

While these improvements will alter the appearance of the current framework, the overall level of regulatory oversight provided by the government will be maintained to support market access.

Improved legislation also gives the government greater flexibility in regulating agricultural exports into the future. This will assist in maintaining existing market access opportunities and in securing access to emerging markets.

Get involved

An exposure draft of the new legislation is expected to be available for comment from 2017.

Your feedback and input will help us deliver these improvements. To register your interest in consultation and engagement activities, visit agriculture.gov.au/export-regulation-review.

