



“Working Together to Make Trade Work”

OUTREACH April 28, 2014

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

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Reports on NAEGA Actions

NAEGA Clause 20 Certificates

NAEGA has recently issued four certificates under Clause 20 of the NAEGA 2 contract for winter weather events in New Orleans. At the end of January of this year, the GIPSA-FGIS field office closed due to an ice storm. This prevented exporters from receiving official inspection and delayed shipments.

NAEGA panels are currently working their way through three other events that resulted in Clause 20 declarations: Canadian rail delays; lower Mississippi oil spill; and a natural gas pipeline explosion in the Pacific Northwest.

Mexico – “Soil Pod” Issue

NAEGA continues to work actively to oppose the new overarching Mexican phytosanitary import policy. Mexican SENASICA officials recently expressed “the USDA APHIS phyto-sanitary certification has no value to their phyto-sanitary risk management and is only seen as a document necessary to clear customs.” We are also working with APHIS in trying to facilitate trade and

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understanding in light of the implementation of the [new measures](#) we continue to oppose. For instance, we know that:

1. For bagged grain: USDA APHIS has requested of Dr. Javier Trujillo consideration of an officially drawn Federal Grain Inspection Service sample for rail cars, or containers, stuffed with bagged U.S. grain, such as pulses.
2. For bulk conveyance: USDA APHIS has reiterated requests to Arturo Calderon for information on consignments reported to be contaminated with soil, for those both past and future. For past shipments, APHIS would appreciate a copy of the data on contaminated shipments presented by DGIF during their recent visit to Nuevo Laredo, and any additional information on the grain volume specifically associated with observed soil contamination, by product (lentils, black beans, wheat, etc.). For instance, if a shuttle train of 100 railcars arrives with a single phytosanitary certificate (PC), it would be useful for us to know how many of the railcars were actually found contaminated, not just that contamination was associated with the PC for 100 railcars. For future shipments, APHIS is asking to receive notice of contaminated cargos within 30 days (before USDA file samples are discarded), including product type, consignment quantity, contaminated quantity, date of U.S. inspection, and place of loading.
3. APHIS will notify the pertinent exporters of their intent to review the FGIS file samples of shipments reported by Mexico as contaminated with soil and, if requested by the exporter, will provide the results of the analysis.

Vietnam – Plant Law Regulations

NAEGA is reviewing new plant law regulations that include measures related to crop biotechnology that are being implemented by Vietnam. We are concerned with requirements the new regulations place on imports, for example, just how approved crop biotechnology needs to be identified if grain and oilseed shipments destined for Vietnam may contain the biotech event. NAEGA members with some concerns or understanding of the implementation and impact of the new regulations are encouraged to weigh in.

USDA FAS recently issued a related [GAIN Report](#) on the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Circular 2, which outlines the approval process for agricultural biotechnology to be used as food and feed. Circular 2 became effective on March 10, 2014 and biotech developers have already submitted dossiers to MARD seeking food and feed approval.

World – Trip Report on IPPC Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

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A report by NAEGA Senior Advisor, Kirk Miller, on the recent meeting of the International Plant Protection Commission’s (IPPC) Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) meeting in Rome, Italy is now available. Topics of interest to NAEGA were the proposed International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) for grains and oilseeds; electronic phyto certification procedures; container pest inspection and certification procedures; and observer status guidelines, new phyto technologies and procedures. The trip report can be found on the “Members’ Only” page [here](#).

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

2014

May 6 – Comments to USDAAPHIS on Monsanto’s request for nonregulated status for corn genetically engineered for protection against corn rootworm and resistance to the herbicide glyphosate. A copy of the Federal Register notice can be found [here](#).

May 19 – Comments to USDA-APHIS on Dow AgroSciences’ petition for nonregulated status for cotton genetically engineered for resistance to the herbicides 2,4-D and glufosinate. A copy of the Federal Register notice can be found [here](#).

NAEGA Actions on Current Issues are tracked on both the Member’s Only Section under their relevant committee pages and the on the Personal Page’s site. Updates to tracked issues are posted in this section.

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NAEGA Member Participation Opportunity

Your Input Needed – USDA APHIS Proposed Fee Increases

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced proposed changes to the fees it charges to recoup the costs of conducting agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) at U.S. ports of entry and overtime rates worked by APHIS officers. APHIS indicates adjustments are essential for the AQI program to have the financial stability it needs to continue the critical work of keeping U.S. agriculture safe and productive agriculture.

The [proposed AQI fee](#) structure ensures that no one party pays more than the costs of the services they incur. APHIS is proposing to add a \$2 fee per sea passenger to recover costs associated with inspecting cruise vessels and passenger baggage, and to add a \$375 fee to recover the costs of APHIS services for monitoring the application of or providing treatments to imported cargo to minimize pest risks. APHIS also proposes to raise user fees for inspections of commercial trucks

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with a transponder from \$105 to \$320 a year, and commercial trucks without a transponder from \$5.25 to \$8 per crossing.

APHIS is also concurrently proposing to adjust the hourly rates charged when APHIS employees perform work associated with AQI activities on Sundays, holidays or other after-hours periods so APHIS can recover the true cost of providing the services. The overtime rates would be raised commensurate with the anticipated cost of providing AQI services through 2018. [This proposed rule](#) will also be available for a 60 day comment period. This is the first proposed change to overtime rates since 2002.

A [Questions and Answers](#) factsheet on the AQI Program Cost and Fees has been made available.

NAEGA to Host Brazilian Trade Team – Washington D.C. – June 2, 2014

In coordination with the U.S Wheat Associates, NAEGA will host a Brazilian trade team at its office at 1250 I St. NW Washington D.C. on Monday, June 2 at 2:30pm Eastern. NAEGA members are welcome to join the meeting.

The Brazilian team members are:

- 1) Mr. Adriano Campos, Director - Grande Moinho Cearense S.A.
- 2) Mr. Sergio Chesini, Supply Director - Predileto Alimentos S.A.
- 3) Mr. Edson Csipai, Manager of Wheat Origination - Bunge Alimentos S.A.
- 4) Mr. Irineu Pedrollo , Wheat Supply Manager - J. Macedo S.A.
- 5) Mr. Antonio, Bolzani, Suppy Manager, M. Dias Branco S.A.
- 6) Mr. Osvaldo Seco, Assistant Regional Director - US Wheat Associates, Inc.

Additional background and biographies will be forthcoming.

[Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the NAEGA Member’s Only Page.](#)

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New Issues & Opportunities for NAEGA Consideration

U.S. – White House Drops Plan to Consolidate Trade Agencies

It has been reported the Obama administration has decided to drop a plan to consolidate a number of federal trade agencies. The president had proposed to bring together the agencies into a new department to eliminate redundancy among programs and services to make it easier for U.S.

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companies increase exports. However, the proposal was widely criticized and it is now apparent Congress is not interested in such action. Because of this, the White House will no longer pursue the consolidation.

If you would like more information or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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NAEGA Calendar & Member Notices

2014

April

29 – Washington, DC – NAEGA and US Wheat Associates meet with Japanese Executive Millers Team

May

17-18 – Qingdao, China – Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting.

19 – Unified Export Strategy (UES) application due to USDA FAS for NAEGA 2015 International Programs funding under the USDA programs including the Market Access Program (MAP).

20 – US Biotech Crops Alliance Board of Directors Meeting – Location and Time: TBD

June

2 – Washington, D.C. – NAEGA and US Wheat Associates meet with Brazilian Trade Team at 2:30pm at its office, 1250 I St. NW, Washington, D.C.

10 – London, United Kingdom – International Grains Council (IGC) Grains Conference – Tower Hotel, Tower Bridge – You can register [here](#).

July

1 – Washington, DC – NAEGA 2013 Market Access Program (MAP) Contribution Report Due

2-4 – Geneva, Switzerland – United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS) meeting discussing explosive dust.

7 – Geneva, Switzerland – WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee Meeting

15-16 – Alexandria, VA – U.S. Agricultural Export Development Council (USAEDC) Attaché Seminar

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September

TBT – Denver, Colorado – NAEGA Board Meeting – Hosted by CoBank

18-19 – Beijing, China – APEC Food Security Ministers Meeting

29-October 3 – 7th Meeting of the Parties/Conference of the Parties for the So-called Cartagena Biosafety Protocol under the Convention on Biodiversity, which governs trans-boundary movements of Living Modified Organisms for feed, food and processing. More information can be found at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>

October

13 – Geneva, Switzerland – WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) Committee Meeting

November

10-11 – Beijing, China – APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting

17-20 – Baltimore, MD – USAEDC Annual Workshop

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