



Outreach August 12, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

NAEGA Media of the Week

Objectives of SPS Measures Submitted to the WTO in 2020

The WTO Committee on SPS Measures has released a report on the 2,122 SPS measures submitted to the Committee in 2020. The graphic below shows those requests by their objective



Source: [WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures \(SPS\)](#)

Member Notices & Opportunities

- NAEGA Committee Meetings – August & September
- U.S. Coast Guard Alternate Security Workshop – September 9

- Board of Directors Meeting – September 13-14
- Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange
- U.N. Food Systems Summit
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested.

Current & Ongoing Actions

- CFIA Proposes Changes to Canadian Feed Import Requirements
- APEC Workshop on Non-Tariff Measures
- USDA/APHIS Proposal to Exempt Certain GE Plants from Regulation

Recent Actions:

- Comments on U.S. Food Security Strategy
- Egypt Single Window Customs System

News:

- U.S.-China Trade
- USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Confirmed
- WTO Report on 2020 SPS Measures

Member Notices & Opportunities:

NAEGA Committee Meetings

NAEGA Committees will be meeting ahead of the Board of Directors meeting on September 14, to discuss items of interest and prepare reports. The Grades & Inspections Committee will meet Tuesday, August 24 at 9am Central Time on; the Contracts Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 7 at 2pm Central Time; and the Production Technology Committee will be meeting at a time and date that will be confirmed shortly. If you are not a member of one of these committees and would like more information on their activities, please contact Patrick (phayden@naega.org) or Gary (gcmartin@naega.org).

U.S. Coast Guard Alternate Security Workshop – September 9

NAEGA-NGFA Alternative Security Program (ASP) subscribers are welcome to attend the U.S. Coast Guard's annual Alternative Security Program (ASP) Workshop on Thursday September 9, 2021, at the offices of Witt O'Brien in Washington, DC. NAEGA works with the USCG to administer the ASP to support compliance with the U.S. Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA). Grain export facilities operated by members in good standing are welcome to subscribe and use the ASP. If you are interested in attending or would like more information on the ASP, please contact Patrick at phayden@naega.org.

Board of Directors Meeting – September 13-14

The NAEGA Board of Directors will meet in person at the NAEGA Offices in Arlington, VA on September 14, 2021. NAEGA member representatives are welcome to attend both the meeting on September 14 and a welcome dinner on September 13. More information on the meeting, including agenda items and options to join virtually will be available soon. We are looking forward to seeing many of you in person in September!

Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange

The NAEGA Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange (PBIE) continues to be improved and updated and open to NAEGA members. . Developed by and at the request of membership, the PBIE contains detailed information on commercialized and pre-commercialized gene-edited and transgenic seeds used to produce the crops you use and market. To our knowledge, the PBIE is the first and only platform to contain a searchable database of gene-edited seeds.

Currently, only NAEGA members have access to this unique tool. As part of membership your company is allowed up to 5 unique users for the PBIE at no cost. To gain access NAEGA Member representatives send the names and email addresses of designated company users to Patrick at phayden@naega.org. Each designated person is provided unique login information and instructions on use of the platform. Please let us know if you have any questions!

U.N Food Systems Summit

Policy Team– Your Involvement Requested!

Our policy team continues to engage with governments and relevant stakeholders on the [U.N. Food Systems Summit \(Summit\)](#). The policy team will be updating and you are welcome to comment [on this draft NAEGA statement](#).

Your involvement is requested! As part of the NAEGA Policy Team on the UNFSS, members will work through virtual meetings to help guide our multifaceted effort to promote the positive contribution of trade in grains and oilseeds to sustainable food systems. We plan to convene the first meeting of this team as soon as we are able. If you or a colleague has an interest in joining this policy team, please contact Gary or Patrick.

Member’s Only Document Library

A new section of our [Member’s Only website dedicated to the U.N. Food Systems Summit is operational](#). In addition to different forms of media and links to outside resources, the page provides access to [a trade document library](#) that is exclusive to NAEGA members. The library was developed with a unique trade policy lens to review documents, declarations and outcomes related to the 2021 UNFSS. There are two “Collections”, the first with resources directly linked to the UNFSS, and the second with background pre-UNFSS resources. The library has been updated to include documents and statements from the UNFSS Pre-Summit held virtually and in Rome, Italy from July 26-28. The library is maintained by Agriculture Dialogues International (ADI) and is for the use of NAEGA members only. NAEGA members can contact ADI directly through the library website.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested

We are now scheduling virtual Contract and Best Practice Seminars for several NAEGA members companies over the next several months. We are also considering virtual and in person **private** (staff from only one company) and **public** (staff from two or more companies). See the calendar below for currently scheduled seminars.

The seminars are an intensive and informative review of commercial and official practices taught in an interactive environment. We recently completed extensive work with Senior Advisors built

around a private Virtual Contracts and Best Practices Seminar that included critical review of trade execution documents.

Please let us know when, how and where you would like to participate in the NAEGA Contracts and Best Practice seminars. [Click here](#) for more information on the in-depth, interactive programs NAEGA conducts!

Current & Ongoing Activities:

APEC Workshop on Non-Tariff Measures

The Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Workshop on Non-Tariff Measures affecting the grain trade, with whom NAEGA has been with since 2019, is seeking comment [on draft recommendations](#) and [guiding questions](#) on MRLs and Documentation, ahead of the next workshop on August 24-25.

Comments are due to APEC by Friday, August 13. The Contracts, Grades & Inspections, and Production Technology Committees are considering the draft documents. Your input or comments are welcome.

CFIA Proposes Changes to Canadian Feed Import Requirements

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has announced a proposed amendment to Canada's feed regulations that would require all grain used for feed, as well as single ingredient grain and oilseed meals feeds, be imported by a license holder or that the products would either need to be registered, or the product manufacturing facility would need to be registered. Feed importers would be required to provide the following information at the time of import: importer name and address; name and address of person who they received the feed from; country of origin; address of first destination of feed in Canada and description of the feed. The proposed changes [can be found here](#).

Comments are due to CFIA by September 10, 2021 and the Grades & Inspections Committee is now vetting the proposed change. Your input or comments are welcome.

USDA/APHIS Proposal to Exempt Certain GE Plants from Regulation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [has proposed the addition of three modifications](#) that genetically engineered plants could contain and be exempt from USDA's biotechnology regulations. APHIS describes these modifications as "similar and functionally equivalent to modifications that could otherwise be achieved through conventional breeding." Notable modifications are:

- 1) The same or distinct loss of function mutations in the paternal and maternal alleles of a single gene resulting from repair of a targeted DNA break in the same location on two homologous chromosomes in the absence of a repair template.
- 2) A contiguous deletion or any size generated using an externally provided repair template, on one or two homologous chromosomes.
- 3) A change resulting from repair of two targeted double strand breaks on a chromosome, or at the same location on two homologous chromosomes, when the repair results in a contiguous deletion of any size in the presence or absence of a repair template, or in a

contiguous deletion of any size combined with an insertion of DNA in the absence of a repair template.

[The *Federal Register* notice can be found here](#). APHIS is accepting comments through August 18, 2021, The Production Technology Committee is considering a response. Your input or comments are welcome.

Recent Actions:

Comments on U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy

NAEGA has submitted comments to Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative, on [their draft "refresh" of the U.S. Global Food Security Strategy \(GFSS\)](#). The first GFSS covered strategy between FY 2017-2021, with the refresh covering FY 2022-2026.

While the draft covers three broad objectives numerous goals and strategies within each objective, NAEGA's comments focused on the objective of "Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture-Led Economic Growth and the U.S. Approach to Science, Technology & Innovation". Our comments emphasized the need for "symbiotic relationships across value chains, starting with local production that often connects smallholders to domestic markets and ultimately the world for products derived from agriculture" and argued that "ensuring a trade supportive and least trade distortive environment to allow for consumer access is a core food system principle". NAEGA's comments [can be found here](#).

Egypt Single Window Customs System

Egypt's new single window customs system (NAFEZA) and Advanced Cargo Information (ACI) pre-clearance system are now being implemented. We understand the ambitious project is intended to create a single point of entry for trade data, eliminating duplicative manual processes by providing the data to all government ministries with responsibilities over imports and cover all imports of goods and commodities. Further NAFEZA window incorporates the ACI.

NAEGA staff attended a US Embassy in Cairo webinar featuring Mr. Gamal Kotb, General Manager of Misr Technology Services (MTS), the public/private company responsible for developing and administering NAFEZA. MTS has begun rolling out the NAFEZA for imports of some products and **all imported goods are subject to the online digitized information management system on October 1, 2021.**

IMPORTANTLY exporters to Egypt may need to register on CargoX to be a verified supplier in the ACI. CargoX is a blockchain system that automates "know your customer" requirements to establish a verified supplier identifier. Subsequent imports of goods are then inputted via the use of the CargoX token for the company and that information will, in turn become available to government agencies for their review. Consulting with brokers, agents and/or counsel for guidance on becoming a verified supplier and complying with the new single window requirements may be advisable. We understand:

- The obligations to register fall to "importers of record," which include CIF sellers, but not necessarily FOB sellers.

- The system does not currently accommodate electronic Letters of Credit or Bills of Lading, but they are looking into such functionality for the future.
- 25,000 foreign suppliers have already registered on ACI, including 85 multinational corporations.

NAEGA will continue to monitor the implementation of the single window and report on any further developments. We stand ready to assist. Your advice and concerns are welcome.

News:

U.S.-China Trade

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission is monitoring bilateral trade between the two countries. A recently published report found that although U.S. exports to China were up 32 percent year-on-year in Q2 2021, the U.S. trade deficit with China reached \$158.5 billion, a 20.4 percent increase from the same period in 2020, a reflection of increased U.S. consumption and Chinese production. Under the U.S.-China Phase One agreement, China has purchased \$68 billion of promised goods, off-pace to meet China's commitments under Phase One. The report [can be found here](#).

USDA Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Confirmed

The U.S. Senate [has confirmed the nomination of Jennifer Moffitt](#) to serve as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Undersecretary Moffitt joins USDA from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, where she just served as undersecretary and was previously deputy secretary. Before that, Moffitt spent 10 years as managing director at Dixon Ridge Farms, her family's organic walnut farm in California.

The Undersecretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs oversees domestic and international marketing of U.S. agricultural products and ensures the health and care of animals and plants. The office also manages the Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service and the national regulatory program that develops and enforces organic labeling.

WTO Report on 2020 SPS Measures

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) reported on members' compliance with notification requirements under the SPS Agreement and the trade concerns raised in the SPS Committee in 2020. Key findings in the report include:

- Over 2,000 SPS notifications were submitted by WTO members in 2020, an all-time high.
- The number of trade-facilitating SPS measures in 2020 was more than twice as high as in 2017.
- Almost half of the trade concerns discussed in the SPS Committee in 2020 referred to food safety.
- More than half of the trade concerns raised up to 2020 have been resolved or partially resolved.

The report as released [can be found here](#).

Calendar & Member Notices:

Click [here](#) for a copy of the IGTC Calendar

2021

August

24 – NAEGA Grades & Inspections Committee Meeting - Virtual

September

7 – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting – Virtual

9 – IGC Independent UNFSS dialogue: Resilience of the Grains Trade for the Benefit of the Global Food System - Virtual

9 – NAEGA/NGFA ASP User Meeting – Washington, DC

14– NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – Arlington, VA

24 - U.N. Food Systems Summit – New York, NY

TBD - Private Virtual NAEGA Contracts and Best Practices Seminar

October

11-24 – Meeting of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP 10 - Kunming, China - Tentative

18-23 – Potential NAEGA Regional Events in the U.S. Pacific Northwest

30-31 – G-20 Summit – Rome, Italy

November

15-18 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Baltimore, MD

16 – IGTC General Assembly

29 - 12th WTO Ministerial Conference – Geneva, Switzerland

2022

March

13-15 – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

December

TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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