



Outreach October 25, 2021

Thank you for your membership in and work with NAEGA

Welcome to New NAEGA Member AmSpec, LLC

AmSpec LLC is an independent testing and inspection company which started in petroleum and petrochemicals and has expanded to a number of different fields, including agriculture testing starting in 2015. AmSpec, LLC is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with a North American agricultural services home office in Webster, Texas, near Houston.

We are looking forward to AmSpec, LLC and its contributions to NAEGA

NAEGA Media of the Week Growth in Ransomware Attacks – October 2021

What is ransomware?

Ransomware is malware that targets systems and data for the purpose of extortion. It locks targeted individuals, businesses and governments out of their data and demands a ransom to supposedly regain access and/or prevent the exposure of information. **Even if victims do pay the ransom, there is no guarantee that they will get their data back.**

Both the FBI and CISA discourage victims from paying ransom in response to an attack.

Key infection methods

- Email phishing campaigns
- Remote desktop protocol vulnerabilities
- Software vulnerabilities



Major attacks

- **May 2021:** An attack on Colonial Pipeline sparked panic over US gas supplies; company paid over \$4 million to recover stolen data
- **JBS:** World's largest meat processing company paid an \$11 million ransom after an attack halted operations at US plants

Minimize your risk

1. Back up your data, test backup, and keep backups offline
2. Use multi-factor authentication
3. Update and patch systems
4. Keep security solutions up to date
5. Review and exercise incident response plan

This OUTREACH includes:

Member Notices & Opportunities

- NAEGA Reception and Board of Directors Meeting – November 8 & 9, New Orleans
- USDA Emergency Declaration and Waiver Procedures for Lower Mississippi
- Seminar on Detection of Genome Edited Products – November 3, 2021
- U.S. Coast Guard Cybersecurity Requirements
- U.S. Government Cybersecurity Summit
- Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange
- U.N. Food Systems Summit
- Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested.

News:

- John Miller – 1961-2021
- Korea Pesticide Positive List System Applications

Recent Actions:

- Letter in Support of Nominee for Chief Agricultural Negotiator at USTR
- NAEGA Travel to the Pacific Northwest

Future NAEGA Actions

- USTR Requests Input on Foreign Trade Barriers

Event Calendar and Notices

Member Notices & Opportunities:

Reception and Board of Directors Meeting – November 8 & 9, New Orleans

The NAEGA Board of Directors will meet in person at the [J.W. Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, LA](#) on November 9, 2021. NAEGA member representatives are welcome to attend both the meeting on November 9 and a reception Celebrating the Resilience and Reliability of the International Grain Trade on the evening of November 8, also at the J.W. Marriott. If you plan to attend the reception, please [RSVP through this link](#). We are looking forward to seeing many of you in person in November!

USDA Emergency Declaration and Waiver Procedures for Lower Mississippi

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared emergency for grain exporters located on the portion of the lower Mississippi River from Baton Rouge to the mouth of the river and issuance of waivers of official inspection and weighing on a shipment-by-shipment basis until October 30, 2021. The September 17, 2021 Emergency declaration along with the conditions required and procedures to follow to apply for a waiver [can be found here](#). NAEGA's policy on USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service contingency planning [is available here](#).

Seminar on Detection of Genome Edited Products – November 3, 2021

The Cereals and Grains Association is hosting a Webinar from 2:00pm-3:00pm Central, Wednesday, November 10, 2021 entitled “Detection of Genome Edited Products - Is It CRISPR?”. The webinar will examine the issues around detection methods as applied to genome edited grain and food and the technical limitations these methods. Information on registering to attend the seminar [can be found here](#).

U.S. Coast Guard Cybersecurity Requirements

The U.S. Coast Guard has begun verification of cybersecurity requirements, [initially announced in February 2020](#), to assess, document, and address computer system or network vulnerabilities for Maritime Transportation Security Act-regulated Facilities, including those covered by the NAEGA-NGFA Alternate Security Program (ASP). The ASP was updated in 2020 to reflect these requirements, which are intended to address increased cybersecurity threats. Facility owners and operators covered by the ASP who have not already done so should submit cyber amendments or annexes to their local Captain of the Port (COTP) as part of the facility’s annual audit.

U.S. Government Cybersecurity Summit

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are hosting a Cybersecurity Summit for Private Industry Partners in Food and Agriculture on Tuesday, October 26, 2021, from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The summit, which will provide a forum for sharing information among food and agriculture industry executives, has been convened to address “ongoing ransomware attacks affecting the food and agriculture sectors” and other threats cyber-attacks pose to the food and agricultural sector. Registration for this free event [is available here](#).

Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange

The NAEGA Plant Biotechnology Information Exchange (PBIE) continues to be improved and updated. Your advice welcome!

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

NAEGA’s U.N. Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) Library now includes alphabetized reporting on every member state statement made at the UNFSS. The Summit took place September 23-24th.

The Library also provides access to the official links to re-watch these statements when available and four collections of documents relevant to the UNFSS, collected ahead of last week’s summit:

1. Modern agriculture and trade resources specifically mentioning UNFSS 2021
2. UNFSS Pre-Summit 26-28 July 2021 – resources and analysis

3. Background Library, tracking the origins of UNFSS Game Changers and other proposals
4. COP26 – 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference

A comprehensive report on the development of the library and recommendations for future action have been posted on the [NAEGA Member's Only UNFSS](#) page along with background documentation on the project. NAEGA will continue to update the library and report on outcomes from the UNFSS and other initiatives related to food systems through the end of the year.

NAEGA members can access the Library [through this link](#) or through [the U.N. Food Systems Summit](#) page on the NAEGA website. If you have a NAEGA Member's Only website login, you should not have any issues accessing the site at its new address. If you need login credentials, or are having any trouble logging in, please let Patrick know.

Contracts and Best Practices Seminars – Your interest requested

On Wednesday, September 8, NAEGA held a virtual “public / for all NAEGA members Contracts & Best Practices Seminar. Over 80 NAEGA member employees attended the 5-hour session. Video clips will soon be made available on the NAEGA Member's Only website. You can find the NAEGA Sourcebook [used during the session here](#).

Seminars can be conducted in-person and / or virtually. Both in-person **private** (staff from only one company) and **public** (staff from two or more companies) are being scheduled through 2022. Given the strong attendance and interest from Members, we expect to hold another public virtual seminar in the near future.

The seminars are much valued NAEGA member service. The intensive and informative reviews of commercial and official practices are conducted in an interactive environment.

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!

News:

John Miller – 1961-2021

We were saddened to learn that John Miller, who served as NAEGA Board Chairman from 2002-2003 while with Bartlett Grain Company, [passed away on Tuesday, October 12](#). Following his time with Bartlett he moved to Scoular Company and then to BASF Railroad in 2008, where he worked until his death. He is survived by his wife, four children and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to GRACE Grapevine (P.O Box 412 Grapevine, TX 76099 or gracegrapevine.org), Future Farmers of America (ffa.org), Farm Foundation (farmfoundation.org), or a special charity of your choice.

NAEGA offers its condolences to John's family.

Korea Pesticide Positive List System IT Applications

On December 31, 2021 the Republic of Korea will permanently revoke or delete thousands of temporary maximum residue limits (MRLs) for agricultural products. These MRLs were set for

making a smooth transition to Korea's Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) Pesticide Positive List System (PLS). On January 1, 2022, U.S. agricultural exports must meet Korea's domestic MRLs, import tolerances (Its), or a default of 0.01 ppm.

In 2020 U.S. stakeholders identified 360 pesticide compounds as priorities for import tolerance (IT) applications, to avoid potential disruptions to trade and continue the smooth transition to the PLS. MFDS has reported to FAS that as of September 24, 2021, just 122 of those had been submitted to MFDS and 111 approved. FAS's has [redistributed this priority list](#) to stakeholders and is encouraging pesticide compound technology providers to submit the remaining IT applications as soon as possible to avoid any potential trade disruptions.

Future NAEGA Action :

USTR Requests Input on Foreign Trade Barriers

NAEGA is considering comments to the U.S. Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) for the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE Report). USTR is inviting interested persons to submit written comments to assist in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods and services. Comments related to the following categories of foreign trade barriers are encouraged: agricultural commodities, U.S. intellectual property, U.S. foreign direct investment by U.S. persons, especially if such investment has implications for trade in goods or services, and U.S. electronic commerce. The NTE report is published annually and is used U.S. negotiations aimed at reducing or eliminating these barriers and is a valuable tool in enforcing U.S. trade laws and strengthening the rules-based trading system. USTR will use this information to prepare 2021 report. The deadline to submit comments is October 26, 2021.

Your advice is welcome. USTR indicates it is most interested in practices that violate U.S. trade agreements, new or updated information on the barriers covered in the [2021 report](#), or information on new barriers.

Recent Actions:

Letter in Support of Nominee for Chief Agricultural Negotiator at USTR

NAEGA joined a broad coalition of industry partners in submitting a letter to the U.S. Senate Finance Committee in support of the nomination of Elaine Trevino to serve as Chief Agricultural Negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The letter noted Trevino's experience as an advocate for international trade and urged quick action by the Committee on her nomination. The letter as submitted [can be found here](#).

NAEGA Travel to the Pacific Northwest

NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) co-hosted an in-person regional industry workshop, on October 21, 2021 in Vancouver, Washington. Presenters included USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service, the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Maritime Administration, as well as Degesch America and the [Pacific Northwest Waterways Association \(PNWA\)](#)

While in Vancouver, NAEGA staff also attended the PNWA annual convention. We would like to thank the PNWA for Working Together to Make Trade Work with their assistance in facilitating last week's workshop.

Calendar & Member Notices:

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

September

October

30-31 – G-20 Summit – Rome, Italy

November

2 - NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting

3-5 – North American Plant Protection Organization Annual Meeting - Virtual

8 – NAEGA Reception Celebrating the International Grain Trade – New Orleans, LA

9 – NAEGA Board of Directors Meeting – New Orleans, LA

17-18 – USAEDC Annual Workshop – Virtual

16 – IGTC General Assembly – In Person/Virtual Hybrid - Geneva, Switzerland

29 - 12th WTO Ministerial Conference – Geneva, Switzerland

December

7 – NAEGA Contracts Committee Meeting

2022

March

13-15 – NGFA Annual Convention – Charleston, SC

April

25 - May 8 – Meeting of the Convention on biological diversity (CBD) COP 15 and COP-MOP

10 – Part 2 - Kunming, China

December

TBD – COP 16 – CBD – Turkey

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