

# GrainGrowers Member Update

## Grain Contaminants: Receival Standards, Grower Rights & Responsibilities

15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Purpose

- ✚ In light of recent statements by some bulk handlers, GrainGrowers is publishing this member update “Grain Contaminants: Receival Standards, Grower Rights & Responsibilities”. This update is designed to help growers, contractors and freight providers understand their current rights, obligations and liabilities when delivering grain to buyers and warehousing providers. These requirements are set out in the current receival standards and terms and conditions of individual businesses.
- ✚ Australian grain growers have built a reputation on producing and delivering the highest quality grain to domestic and export markets. Understanding current receival standards is important in order to maintain access to premium markets and also to ensure that growers are not unwittingly penalised.

### Key Points

- ✚ Growers are encouraged to be aware of their obligations and liabilities relating to delivering grain to buyers and warehousing providers.
- ✚ Growers must deliver grain according to the individual receival standards and terms and conditions of the individual buyer or warehousing provider.
- ✚ Deliveries of grain that include contaminants that have NIL tolerance may result in the rejection of delivery and growers may become financial liability to the buyer/warehouse provider.
- ✚ Contaminants that have NIL tolerance include (but are not limited too) pickled grain, non-approved chemicals, stored grain insects, sticks, gravel, fertiliser and gumnuts (*Eucalyptus spp.*).
- ✚ Growers should be aware that contaminants may be found, and action taken by the receiver, at any point during or after the receival process.
- ✚ If growers are unsure of their obligations and liabilities, call your local storage and handling provider and seek clarity BEFORE delivery.

### Concerns?

- ✚ If growers have any concerns regarding current receival standards or other terms and conditions in either purchase or warehousing contracts, please contact your local National Policy Group member or email the GrainGrowers team at [enquiry@graingrowers.com.au](mailto:enquiry@graingrowers.com.au)

Details of the National Policy Group at <http://www.graingrowers.com.au/policy/policy-group>

## Background and grower responsibilities

Current harvest activities and recent comments made by Viterra in their 5<sup>th</sup> November harvest report have helped place focus on grower responsibilities relating to grain deliveries.

In particular, Viterra noted that ***“If contaminants are found while unloading, growers may be liable for the contamination of stock in storage, stock replacement, cleaning and other associated costs.”***<sup>1</sup> In related media coverage (reported on ABC Country Hour, week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> November), gumnuts (*Eucalyptus spp.*) were used as an example of a contaminant that has NIL tolerance, because they are deemed to be a Tainting Agent. Therefore growers who deliver grain that include gumnuts may be liable for the contamination of stock in storage, stock replacement, cleaning and other associated costs.

Grain receival and warehousing standards are governed by the terms and conditions of individual bulk handling companies, although they usually align to Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Trading Standards.

Growers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the GTA Trading Standards, the Receival Standards of the bulk handler or buyer, and the Storage/Handling/Warehousing Agreement Terms & Conditions of the individual provider. Growers should be aware of their obligations relating to receival standards, in particular contaminants that have NIL tolerance, and the liabilities if such contaminants are found.

Growers should also be aware that contaminants may be found, and action taken by the receiver, at any stage of the delivery process, including sampling and unloading. Furthermore, bulk handling companies may be able to assign responsibility, and therefore take remedial action, for a contaminant that is discovered after the delivery process is complete. (i.e. after the truck has left the site).

**If unsure, call your local storage and handling provider and seek clarity BEFORE delivery.**

The following links are provided for your reference (note that this is not an exhaustive list):

What	Website link
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GTA Trading Standards</li> <li>▪ GTA Storage and Handling Agreement (template)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards">www.graintrade.org.au/commodity_standards</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.graintrade.org.au/storage_and_handling">www.graintrade.org.au/storage_and_handling</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CBH Receival Standards</li> <li>▪ CBH Warehousing Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.giwa.org.au/standards">www.giwa.org.au/standards</a> , <a href="#">Link CBH Standards 2017-18</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Link CBH Warehousing Agreement 2017-18</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bunge Receival Standards</li> <li>▪ Bunge Warehousing Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://bunge.com.au/receival-standards/">http://bunge.com.au/receival-standards/</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Link Bunge Warehousing Agreement 2017-18</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Viterra Receival Standards</li> <li>▪ Viterra Warehousing Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.viterra.com.au/index.php/receival-standards/">www.viterra.com.au/index.php/receival-standards/</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Link Viterra Warehousing Agreement 2017-18</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emerald Receival Standards</li> <li>▪ Emerald Warehousing Agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Link Emerald Commodity Information 2017-18</a></li> <li>▪ <a href="#">Link Emerald Warehousing Agreement 2017-18</a></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grainflow (AWB/Cargill) Receival Standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="http://www.grainflow.com.au/growers/Receival+Standards.htm">www.grainflow.com.au/growers/Receival+Standards.htm</a></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> [http://viterra.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Weekly-Harvest-Report\\_WE-5Nov17.pdf](http://viterra.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Weekly-Harvest-Report_WE-5Nov17.pdf)

▪ <b>Grainflow (AWB/Cargill) Warehousing Agreement</b>	▪ <a href="#">Link Grainflow Warehousing Agreement 2017-18</a>
▪ <b>GrainCorp Receival Standards</b>	▪ <a href="#">Link GrainCorp Harvest Guide 2017-18</a>
▪ <b>GrainCorp Warehousing Agreement</b>	▪ <a href="http://www.graincorp.com.au/grains/agreement-forms">www.graincorp.com.au/grains/agreement-forms</a>

Growers should also note that buyers and bulk handling companies may adjust receival standards during harvest and between seasons.

For additional information, growers are also referred to the **Growing Australian Grain** publication<sup>2</sup> which links to the **Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice**<sup>3</sup>. The Growing Australian Grain publication provides information for grain growers and their advisers about managing risks with inputs, grain handling and safety on-farm. Some parts of the guide will not apply on all farms and the detail of some practices and regulations varies depending on the specific farm circumstances, state and region. Please refer to more detail where required, such as the state and territory laws and codes of practice.

Finally, growers who store grain on farm are encouraged to review the [Monitoring stored grain on farm](#) booklet<sup>4</sup> and the [Biosecurity Manual for Grain Producers](#) booklet<sup>5</sup>. For more information and tips on how to implement farm biosecurity on your property go to the Grains section of the Farm Biosecurity website; or visit the Grains Research and Development Corporation web site [grdc.com.au](http://grdc.com.au) and search for 'storage'.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://grainsguide.grainproducers.com.au/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.graintrade.org.au/grain-industry-codes>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Monitoring-stored-grain-on-farm-2017.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Biosecurity-Manual-for-Grain-Producers.pdf>