

Changes to air cargo security examination

The Australian Government is implementing enhanced air cargo security examination requirements for all outbound air cargo irrespective of destination by **1 March 2019**. This change is being introduced in response to evolving threats. The Department of Home Affairs is leading this change, with more information on the Home Affairs website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/transport-security/air-cargo-security

Your assistance is requested

While the Australian Government and the air cargo industry have been communicating these changes to affected stakeholders, I am writing to request your help in ensuring the broader agriculture industry is aware of the upcoming change and the importance of preparation is understood.

This is to support producers and other participants in the air cargo supply chain in understanding the process and technical requirements, as well as understanding how the change will impact their current arrangements.

This change may cause delays and affect the ability of some businesses, if not prepared, to export products. By raising awareness amongst producers we can assist them to manage this change and continue to meet importing countries' requirements and maintain our premium overseas markets.

Exporters to contact their current air cargo supply chain

In the first instance, exporters should refer to the [Department of Home Affairs website](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au) about available options to meet the 1 March 2019 requirements. Exporters may also contact the regulated business/s in their current air cargo supply chain to understand how their cargo may be examined. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has collaborated with the Department of Home Affairs and developed further guidance on the changes and a series of questions to assist exporters engage with their current air cargo supply chain, available at www.agriculture.gov.au/export/from-australia/air-cargo-changes

It is particularly important that exporters consider their ability to continue to meet importing country requirements as, depending on their situation, this may require changes to their existing arrangements prior to 1 March 2019. Non-compliance with the examination or importing country requirements is likely to delay or prevent uplift of cargo.

If there are unresolved issues following these discussions or further information is required, exporters should contact the Department of Home Affairs at guidancecentre@homeaffairs.gov.au or call 1300 791 581.

More information

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources will continue to work with the Department of Home Affairs to raise awareness of the impending changes and, where possible, assist exporters' transition to these new air cargo screening requirements. If you have any further queries, please email HAengagement@agriculture.gov.au.