Open ended workshop for the international movement of grain

Exporting procedures to manage infestations

David Heinrich
Manager Grain and Seed Exports
Topics within this talk

• Australia’s context
• Reforms to Australia’s export certification systems
• Issues for grain exports
Captain Cook's Endeavour

- The basic diet of the crew of the Endeavour was salted pork and a biscuit. This diet may not have been a favourite of the crew since it was served continuously and often had weevils crawling and scavenging around inside.
Australia’s direction

- Nil tolerance of insects on inspected product
  - Industries ongoing commitment to retain
- Receival standards for grain into central handling system
- National working party on grain protection
- Cooperative Research Centre on post harvest storage
- Strong legislative control on the export of grain products
Proportion of certificates issued 2010/11

Australia Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
National Working Party on Grain Protection

- The National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) is the industry body responsible for providing management and leadership to industry in the areas of post harvest storage, chemical use, market requirements and chemical regulations.

- Is a forum to ensure responsible use of treatments throughout the grain handling system to manage infestation.
Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity

• The Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity started operating in November 2005

• Post-Harvest Integrity strategy
  – collaborates with a range of universities, research organisations and grain exporters.
Outcomes from recent reforms to Australia’s export certification systems

- Revised Legislation
- Plant Export Operations Manual
- Advanced e-learning training
- Audit management system with inspection data interface
- Establishment of effective industry partnerships
- Manual of importing country requirements
Australia’s legislation

- Export Control Act 1982
- Export Control (Prescribed Goods - General) Order 2005
- Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Order 2011
Three ticks required before export

☑ Goods must be prepared in a registered establishment

☑ Goods must be inspected and be “export compliant”

☑ The container, vessel or package must be inspected and passed as “approved” before goods can be loaded.
Registered establishments

1. must be designed and operated so that any goods held there remain free from pests and other contamination.

2. must keep records of any cleaning and pest control done there for at least two years, as well as records of all goods received and loaded.

3. the goods can only be moved to another registered establishment in accordance with instructions from an authorised officer.
Export compliant goods

Export compliant goods must be:

1. free from pests
2. free from contaminants and
3. in a condition that allows any required phytosanitary or other certificate to be issued.

Goods are considered to be free from pests and contaminants if they do not contain:

1. live pest infestations
2. vermin, including rodents, and their waste
3. pests or contaminants above the levels specified by the relevant importing country.
Transport unit approval

- The transport unit will not infest or infect the goods with pests.
- Any cargo already loaded into the transport unit will not infest or infect the goods with pests.
- No material is present in the transport unit that is likely to harbour pests.
- No material is present in the transport unit that is likely to contaminate the goods.
- The transport unit is not in a condition that could result in the infestation or infection of the goods.
Ship rejections for insects

- 1982: 40% (45%)
- 2006: 30% (35%)
- 2007: 20%
- 2008: 10%
- 2009: 15%
- 2010: 5%
The Plant Export Operations Manual

• supports learning and understanding
• expands e-learning concepts
• details policy and procedures
• explains skills needed for competency
• is supported by downloadable work instructions
Issues to be addressed

- Letter of credit requirements on phytosanitary certificates
- Quality issues rather than plant health
- Poor vessel hygiene
- Acceptance of electronic certification