



Improving agricultural export legislation

Plant Rules: Changes to qualification requirements for marine surveyors from 1 July 2022

December 2021

Background

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE), in collaboration with the Australasian Institute of Marine Surveyors (AIMS), is updating the Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2021 (Plant Rules) to improve export bulk vessel survey and inspection practices. The updates will provide greater assurance that bulk vessels comply with agricultural export legislation. Under the changes to the Plant Rules, the qualifications, experience and evidence required to become an Accredited Grain Surveyor under the AGSA scheme will change from 1 July 2022.

Changes to qualifications for Accredited Grain Surveyors

Marine surveyors must hold at least 1 of a combination of the following qualification and experience options:

Qualification	Experience	
Hold or have held either a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master Class 1 (Unrestricted) Certificate OR Master grade Certificate of Competency as outlined under <i>Schedule 1 of Marine Orders 71 (Masters and deck officers) 2014</i> made under the Navigation Act 2021. 	Either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 months served on a bulk carrier with at least 6 months in the capacity of Chief Officer OR 3 years' experience as a marine surveyor of bulk carriers. 	
Advanced Diploma of Maritime Operations (Master Unlimited).		+
Diploma or Advanced Diploma of Marine Surveying with the modules for dry bulk cargo and grain operations.		+
Diploma of Maritime Operations (Watchkeeper Deck) with modules for dry bulk cargo and grain operations.		+



Evidence required when applying for accreditation

When applying to AIMS for the AGSA scheme, applicants must provide the following evidence:

Qualification requirement evidence	Experience requirement evidence
<p>Certified copy of your qualification (see one of the 4 options under qualification and experience requirements on Page 1).</p> <p>If option requires dry bulk cargo and grain operation modules, also provide a copy of your transcript showing completion of the relevant modules.</p>	<p>Provide as applicable to demonstrate the relevant experience requirement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sea service record OR • the following evidence supported by an Australian Commonwealth Statutory Declaration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ discharge notices ◦ evidence of sea service ◦ employer or client reference ◦ resume OR • the following evidence for 3 years marine surveying experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 3 verifiable Fitness to Load Surveys for each of the previous 3 years.

Initial accreditation

To be accredited, marine surveyors must have performed at least 10 bulk vessel surveys in no less than 2 months and no more than 2 years. They must have been accompanied by another accredited marine surveyor (or a person who was a qualified marine surveyor prior to commencement of the AGSA scheme).

If these 10 supervised surveys were completed more than 3 years ago, marine surveyors will also need to provide evidence they performed at least 3 bulk vessel surveys in the most recent 3-year period.

Maintaining accreditation

To maintain accreditation, marine surveyors must continue to perform at least 3 bulk vessel surveys every 3 years.

You must provide the following evidence of your attendance at these surveys:

Your name as an attending surveyor listed on the Fitness to Load (FTL) certificate that is provided to the authorised officer at the completion of the survey.	OR	Submission of a separate listing of your ship surveys which must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • date • ship's name • grain type • port of survey • attending FTL surveyors name and signature • master's signature and ship's stamp.
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