



NGFA



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Informing Official Inspection and Weighing Service Providers About Facility Employee Workplace Safety Policies during COVID-19 Pandemic

Introduction:

The National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) and North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) jointly are providing this information to member companies in the event it may be helpful in communicating COVID-19 employee workplace safety policies and practices to on-site Official grain inspection and weighing personnel (Official personnel) serving their facilities. This includes personnel employed by the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS), Officially Designated Agencies and/or Delegated-Designated States. Use of this information is totally optional, and obviously will vary based upon the level of communication already occurring between facility management and Official personnel.

Resources:

NGFA's COVID-19 webpage [ngfa.org/covid-19] contains workforce protection information and guidance developed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and other federal agencies related to COVID-19.

Communicating to FGIS Field Office, Officially Designated Agency and/or Delegated-Designated State Agency:

In conveying its policies and practices on COVID-19-related employee workplace safety, facilities may wish to contact the appropriate FGIS Field Office, Officially Designated Agency, and/or Delegated-Designated State (Agency Office) to communicate those policies by:

1. Informing the Agency Office of the facilities' policies regarding the use of face masks, social distancing (where practical), disinfection and sanitation measures, use of shared space, etc., that should be observed by Official personnel while on site at the facility, including Official personnel working at Official laboratories on the property of such facilities.
2. If sufficient supplies are available and as practicable, consider offering to provide face masks to Official personnel working at the facility if the Official agency currently does not have access to such supplies.
3. Ask for the name of the contact person at the Agency Office to coordinate future modifications of the company's policies and practices that may be warranted at either export or domestic grain handling facilities or the Official laboratory, based upon the evolving risk profile of COVID-19.
4. Identify whether there are differences between the company and the Agency Office concerning COVID-19 employee workplace safety policies and practices, and whether they may have an impact on the continuity of Official inspection and weighing service operations.

5. Coordinate with the Agency Office on the availability for Official personnel of hand sanitizer gloves, disinfecting wipes, hand soap and other sanitation supplies that may be required by the facility under its COVID-19 workplace safety policy and practices, and whether any excess supplies can be made available to Official inspection personnel if they do not have access to sufficient supplies.

Disclaimer: NGFA and NAEGA make no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the accuracy, application or use of the information contained in this publication. Further, nothing contained herein is intended as legal notice. Competent legal counsel should be consulted on legal issues. Grain handling facilities should contact experienced safety and health legal counsel or a third-party expert if they have questions about the proper way to implement the items addressed in the document.