

National
Grain and Feed
Association



North American
Export Grain
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For Release
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U.S. Coast Guard Grants Interim Approval to Alternative Security Program for Export Grain Facilities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Coast Guard has granted interim approval to the alternative security program developed by the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA), in consultation with the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA), for companies operating export grain-handling facilities.

NAEGA and NGFA members in good standing are eligible to participate in the alternative security program, which will be finalized and administered by NAEGA. Those NAEGA and NGFA members wishing to be included as “subscribers” to the alternative security plan were required to submit a letter to the Coast Guard by Dec. 31, 2003 stating their intent to participate. The interim approval is scheduled to become final once the Coast Guard completes a more detailed review of the alternative security program and any amendments deemed necessary are agreed upon by NAEGA.

Coast Guard rules stipulate that all covered facilities by July 1 be in compliance with either the agency’s national facility security plan or an alternative security program (such as the one developed and submitted by NAEGA for NAEGA and NGFA members). The alternative security program is scheduled to remain in effect for five years.

The headquarters offices of the NGFA and NAEGA are collocated, and the two organizations have a joint operating and services agreement.

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The alternative security program was developed in the aftermath of final rules issued by the Coast Guard on Oct. 22 implementing provisions of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 that require facilities that receive commercial vessels greater than 100 gross register tons on international voyages – such as facilities engaged in exporting bulk commodities – to develop and implement a facility security plan meeting specific Coast Guard requirements. Other types of facilities required to develop facility security plans under the Coast Guard regulations are those handling oils, including vegetable oils; facilities handling certain explosive or dangerous cargos, including ammonium nitrate fertilizer or fertilizer mixtures; and those receiving vessels certified to carry more than 150 passengers.

The alternative security program is designed to assist NAEGA and NGFA members in complying with the Coast Guard's national security plan in a way that cost-effectively addresses the security environment found at export grain facilities. The alternative security program provides a framework for communication and coordination to identify threats and reduce vulnerabilities to terrorist actions in and near export facilities operated by NAEGA and NGFA member companies. It also delineates specific actions to be taken by such facilities during various declared maritime security levels.

Further information on the alternative security program for export grain facilities is available by contacting NAEGA at (202) 682-4030.

The NGFA, established in 1896, consists of 1,000 grain, feed, processing, exporting and other grain-related companies that operate about 5,000 facilities that handle more than two-thirds of all U.S. grains and oilseeds. The NGFA's membership encompasses all sectors of the industry, including country, terminal and export elevators; feed manufacturers; cash grain and feed merchants; end users of grain and grain products, including processors, flour millers, and livestock and poultry integrators; commodity futures brokers and commission merchants; and allied industries. The NGFA also consists of 36 affiliated state and regional grain and feed associations, as well as two international affiliated associations.

NAEGA, established in 1912, is a not-for-profit trade association comprised of 35 private and publicly owned companies and farmer-owned cooperatives involved in and providing services to the bulk grain and oilseed exporting industry. NAEGA member companies ship practically all of the bulk grains and oilseeds exported each year from the United States.