PRESS RELEASE

26 February 2019 – for immediate release

Views sought for draft Gafta Standard for Analysis of agricultural commodities

In July 2017 Gafta announced plans to develop and rebrand its Trade Assurance offering with the aim of closer alignment with Gafta Contracts and striving to raise the international standards for the fumigation, analysis and supervision of agricultural commodity trade.

The latest development sees the launch of a draft revision of the Gafta Standard for Analysis and Testing, along with a revised Code of Practice for the Gafta Approved Register of Analysts.

The Standard has been reviewed and developed by industry, for industry using an Expert Group made up of Gafta Approved Analysts. The Expert Group considered current best practices to ensure relevance while seeking ways of setting a new benchmark for the analysis and testing of agricultural commodities.

The requirements for the Approved Register include new requirements alongside the existing Gafta Ring Test Scheme. The key change is a requirement for Approved Analysts be independently audited against the requirements of the Gafta Standard for Analysis or to hold accreditation to ISO17025:2017. The introduction of an audited requirement to the Approved Register of Analysts adds robustness to the scheme and aligns it with the requirements for the Approved Registers of Superintendents and Fumigators, both of which have an audited requirement.

Views are now sought from the wider industry and stakeholders through a 6 week consultation period. The consultation document can be found on the Gafta website and all comments and feedback should be sent via email to ApprovedRegisters@gafta.com before the deadline of Friday 5 April 2019.

Gafta’s Approved Registers are independently assessed registers of service providers who are authorised to provide their services under the terms and conditions of Gafta Contracts. Gafta develops the standard forms of contracts on which it is estimated that 80% of the world’s trade in grain is shipped. The Approved Registers include Analysts, Fumigators and Superintendents.

The Gafta Approved Registers have their own branding and logos, with Approved Members able to promote their status using the ‘Approved’ logos on their website and stationary. The logos can be viewed on the Gafta website.

Following the consultation period, the Gafta Standard for Analysis and Testing and Code of Practice will be published in June 2019. There will be a 24 month transition period meaning all Gafta Approved Analysts will need to provide evidence of conformance to the revised Code of Practice by 31 May 2021.

Notes:
Gafta is the Grain and Feed Trade Association representing international trade in agricultural commodities since 1878. It has 1,800 members in 95 countries. Its aim is to promote international trade in agricultural commodities, spices and general produce, and to protect our members’ interests worldwide.

Contact: Sarah Mann, Technical Manager (Approved Registers)
Email: SarahMann@gafta.com
Tel: 07715 642 902