

NZ Seed trade establishes Protocols for managing export seed through Lyttelton Port

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As a result of the Lyttelton Port Company vehicle booking system the NZ seed trade has established some export container protocols.

The NZ Grain and Seed Trade Association, NZ Seed Processors and transporters have collaborated to respond to Lyttelton Container Terminal's (and imminently Midland Port) new requirements with its Vehicle Booking System - a system of reserving time slots to bring in and pick up containers.

Following the voluntary guidelines should help shippers get NZ's excellent reputation for top quality seed products away to markets on time.

The protocol is presented as an easy-to-read graphic with a two-week time line showing the critical processes that need to be undertaken before the transport company drops off the container at the port.

With 14 days before the vessel sets sail, seed lots should be tested to confirm its export potential.

A week out from sailing exporters need to initiate the booking of the vessel, book the container, and issue shipping instructions.

At the 4-day mark exporters should forward export documentation to the port or logistics company and 48 hours before the ship sails the transport and seed processor should arrange a time for the container to be loaded on to the truck and delivery to the port.

Annually, our seed export season runs from February to June.

Pasture seed exports, such as ryegrass and clover, account for 45% of total export sales, vegetable seed (eg hybrid radish, carrot and beet seed) 46% and grains 9%.

According to MPI export turnover is forecast to increase by 5.3% to \$310m in 2022.

Most of the seed is exported out of Lyttelton to over 60 countries across the world with key markets being Europe, North and South America, South Africa and Australia.

NZGSTA general manager Thomas Chin says for the NZ seed trade to remain competitive on the world stage, we must work with all our supply chain partners to ensure the movement of truck, and containers to the port are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner.

"This is even more important given the ongoing issues with our already severely congested port sector as we approach our busy export season", he said.