

**Gins, Compresses, & Domestic Trade Committee**  
**Adopted at the ACSA 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention**  
**May 27, 2016, - Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Dallas, TX**

**GINS**

1. We remind gins all packaging must be in compliance with methods and materials approved by the National Cotton Council Joint Industry Bale Packaging Committee (JCIBPC) for loan eligibility. Tie length specifications should be strictly adhered, to ensure production of only true gin universal density bales (21x55x28). It is urged on any experimental packaging that in addition to durability, that safety for fire issues and stacking be considered before approval.
2. We recommend that gins strictly adhere to the format of the Permanent Bale Identification (PBI) as outlined by the National Cotton Council PBI Task Force and that tags be both machine and human readable. PBI tags must be prominently displayed and affixed to the bale in a manner, which they cannot be detached from the bale. PBI tags should not be placed in the heads of the bales and/or under the bagging as domestic customers cannot scan the tags in this manner. We also recommend that the task force agree on a bale placement location of the tag and require two separately placed stickers that are bar code readable.
3. We urge producers and gins to make every effort to prevent contamination of cotton by foreign matter prior to and during the ginning process in that escalating incidences of contamination are damaging the reputation of US cotton both domestically and abroad. We encourage gins to maintain product liability insurance in case of contamination. Further protection should be given in instances when naked cotton is in transit between the gin and the warehouse.
4. We strongly urge gins to maintain bale weights at 500 pounds net weight.
5. We urge the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to maintain and enforce a maximum bale moisture content level of 7.5%, with no tolerances, for cotton to be eligible for the CCC Loan Program and that the CCC establish methods of testing for moisture content prior to entry into the Loan Program. We further urge the CCC to immediately prohibit cotton ginned with any water spray system for the purpose of adding moisture (weight) that would exceed 7.5% from entering the CCC Loan Program.

**WAREHOUSES**

1. (a) Urge the USDA to have uniform warehouse compliance agreements throughout the U.S. cotton industry.  
  
(b) We request that all warehouses obtain compliance agreement from the USDA for the performance of phyto-sanitary inspections and such compliance is listed in their tariff along with the expiration date and meet USDA-PPQ phyto-sanitary standards. Also, we encourage

streamlining of the process and issuance of phyto-sanitary documents, and its acceptance by foreign entities and/or government.

2. We recommend one storage location for each single CCC licensed code.
3. We continue to endorse the idea of converting the U.S. cotton warehouse system from a storage based system of operation to a service based system of operation, in which the most efficient warehouses will be the most successful.
4. We recommend that warehouses discontinue the use of outside storage and that the USDA monitor and limit the practice. Failure to discourage this practice at locations noted for continual overflow creates a disincentive to build additional warehouse space. We also urge the USDA not to approve bale packaging materials for the outside storage of loan or CCC owned cotton until such materials have been approved by the Joint Cotton Industry Bale Packaging Committee pursuant to strict and objective testing procedures encompassing all possible weather conditions.
5. We urge all cotton warehouses to inspect all bales prior to shipment to assure they are Grade A bales and to maintain at all times experienced and properly trained personnel at all locations who can recognize Grade A bale condition and that they notify shippers prior to time of loading of any short or damaged bales so bales may be cut from the shipment and claims filed.
6. We urge warehouses to have sufficient personnel to operate during all normal business hours Monday through Friday.
7. We urge warehouses publish holidays and closings in their tariff. Closings to be reasonable and holidays restricted to Federal Government holidays. As a reminder the U.S. Warehouse Act, as Amended (735.30) '(a) Each licensed warehouse shall be kept open for the purpose of receiving cotton for storage and delivering cotton out of storage every business day for a period of not less than six hours between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.
8. We recommend that ACSA and members of the cotton warehouse industry open dialog regarding fees for late pickup of cotton and that charges not be assessed for order changes when the cotton has not been broken out for loading. We recommend warehouse operators adopt loading procedures which will assure carriers are loaded within two hours of arrival and accept responsibility for detention if delays in loading are incurred during hours of service.
9. We recommend that warehouses adhere to shipper's orders (printed and/or EWR transmission) regarding load appointments and that the dates are confirmed to the shippers upon receipt of the order.
10. We strongly request that warehouses process sample requests promptly.
11. We recommend that warehouses not exceed the industry ratified standard for late pickup charges and that they adhere to the 48 hour window before executing the charge.
12. We want to remind warehouses that any increase in all tariff charges will ultimately affect the price the farmer receives, as well as negatively impact the competitiveness of US cotton in the world market. We urge that non-warehousing charges such as West Texas Boll Weevil

Maintenance fees not be included in tariff charges.

13. We recommend all warehouses utilize Early Shipment Order (ESO) option in provider programs-
14. We request that the FSA Warehouse License and Compliance Branch take appropriate action to assure that all CCC licensed warehouses are in compliance with the US Warehouse Act regulations and provisions of their published tariffs, and recommend that members notify the USDA whenever violations occur.
15. We urge shipping warehouses to comply with CCC regulation regarding canceling electronic warehouse receipts within 24 hours, or one business day, after shipment of cotton. We urge that the warehouse notify the shipper of loading on to the truck within 24 hours via EWR, Inc. including load details, bale nos., mark, trailer / railcar / container number and seal number. We also recommend warehouses to provide and affix their seal in accordance with regulatory guidelines to loaded trailers, railcars or containers.
16. We remind our members of their rights under the ACSA/CWAA Agreement to file an arbitration claim against a warehouse for its failure to timely comply with a shipping order and recover damages of one month's storage.
17. We urge the reinstatement of stop storage dates in warehouse tariffs.
18. We urge cotton warehouses to maintain adequate records regarding arrival and departure of carriers that include printed legible driver's name and trucking company name.
19. We recommend all warehouses to ensure that the amount of insurance coverage provided will at all times be in an amount and scope adequate to fully cover the interests of the holders of EWRs.
20. We strongly urge ACSA members utilize the newly approved Batch 23 program in order to provide merchants and USDA with sound data on shipping order submissions and executions of such by participating warehouses. It is imperative the trade make serious consideration to participate in this program as very few have done so since approval by USDA of the software in October, 2014.
21. Recommend that EWR participating warehouses upload current bale location onto the EWR receipt in order to allow shippers to better optimize shipping orders which will increase warehouse efficiency and lower warehouse operating costs. Urge shippers to identify warehouses not using bale locations on EWR's and discuss with the warehouse the benefits of utilizing bale locations.

## **SHIPPERS**

1. We acknowledge that shippers are responsible for the performance of their vendors and recommend that they develop a monitoring program of their performance. Shippers should establish and maintain clear lines of communication with warehouses, transportation companies, and customers and should assume the responsibility as the focal point of information between all entities.

## **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS**

1. We urge members to use Southern Mill Rules in their domestic contracts.

2. We recommend that ACSA and AMCOT along with NCTO Cotton Committee form a working committee to review and update the Southern Mill Rules including the Pima rules section of the Southern Mill Rules.
3. We urge mills to have sufficient personnel readily available for scheduling and verifying deliveries.
4. We request mills to be aware of the Hours of Service Regulations for truckers which may drastically impact their costs and service for cotton deliveries, and to review and if necessary expand their receiving hours.
5. We request that mills give ample notice to shippers in regard to mill shut downs or any changes in appointments or destination. Mill should pay shipper for any additional costs incurred due to appointment changes.
6. We remind mills that they are required to return any rejected bales to the shipper in merchantable condition including patching any tears or sample holes. Also any rejected bales should be returned with proper identification, such as shippers mark, all tags, especially PBI number.