

1 **Data Systems and Information Development Committee**
2 **Adopted at the 100th Annual Convention**
3 **June 15, 2024**

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5 The Data Systems and Information Development Committee recommends that ACSA:

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7 1. Support the utility and expansion of the cottonshipping.com tool, a calendar-based application
8 that provides the availability of shipment ready dates, such as a report of available open
9 shipments (in bales) by day, by warehouse code, or a report including the number of days out
10 and / or next available date by warehouse for new shipment scheduling;
11
- 12 2. Recommend software providers facilitate the further improvement to cotton flow by enhancing
13 visibility and communication of the data, such as adding notification alerts when a new batch
14 is received, create a daily email notification to the shipper when receipts have not been
15 canceled for loads past their ship dates within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's)
16 specified time requirement and add an interactive chat / communication tool for on-the-spot
17 discussion and resolve of ready dates;
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- 19 3. Urge collaboration with USDA-Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), Cotton Warehouse
20 Association of America (CWAA), and Cotton Growers Warehouse Association (CGWA) to
21 audit current participation in the electronic phytosanitary application process and establish
22 active outreach to non-participating parties to ensure comprehensive enrollment for shippers
23 and warehousemen in the program;
24
- 25 4. Urge the ACSA ePhyto Working Group to continue communication with USDA-Animal &
26 Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop and support an electronic interface in
27 addition to the manual process for phytosanitary applications through the Phytosanitary
28 Certificate Issuance and Tracking System (PCIT);
29
- 30 5. Encourage collaboration with USDA-APHIS and other appropriate USDA officials to work
31 with the United Nations ePhyto Industry Advisory Group to assist in initiating full
32 implementation of electronic phytosanitary certificates both domestically and in consuming
33 countries;
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- 35 6. Develop a working group to modernize system digitalization tools and encourage adoption by
36 all relevant stakeholders;
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- 38 7. Encourage collaboration with The Seam, EWR, Inc., or other industry resources to educate
39 ACSA members concerning the emerging opportunities and risks associated with artificial
40 intelligence;
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- 42 8. Urge the USDA to enhance communication and transparency with state warehouse licensing
43 authorities as federal regulatory requirements change; further, as industry initiatives are
44 proposed, approved, and implemented, encourage state regulatory authorities and the USDA
45 to collaborate on education efforts and to strive to attain regulatory consistency within the
46 industry;
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- 48 9. Recognizing the establishment of the ACSA working group focused on banking procedures
49 and the benefit of outreach to authorities and participants in the Pakistani marketplace, urge

1 similar outreach and advocacy focused on the Bangladeshi marketplace, including drafting and
2 circulating a sample Letter of Credit;

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4 10. Encourage Cotton Incorporated (CI) to annually review and upgrade the software parameters
5 of the Engineered Fiber Selection system to better consider warehouse bale location and
6 sequences when evaluating and constructing loads to increase warehouse efficiency and more
7 appropriately determine the next bale available for a load; further, urge CI to conduct training
8 when changes are made to the system;

9
10 11. Urge engagement with the National Cotton Council (NCC), The Seam, EWR, Inc., and other
11 program developers to fully understand data visibility and functionality of the U.S. Cotton
12 Trust Protocol (USCTP); further, work with the USCTP staff to allow data, including field-
13 level data, to be pulled from their system into proprietary sustainability program systems;

14
15 12. Work with NCC, the USDA, and warehouse system providers to standardize warehouse tariff
16 formats, noting that having standardized tariff formats will enable the USDA and bale owners
17 to understand more clearly normal warehouse charges and any penalty charges imposed on
18 cotton in storage, and further noting the importance that this format is used for the public tariff
19 as well as the loan tariff;

20
21 13. Request ACSA members to report to ACSA staff emerging challenges with regulatory
22 processes in consuming marketplaces;

23
24 14. Urge the USDA and other federal agencies to utilize modern Application Programming
25 Interfaces and electronic filing, processing, and responses, which are currently done manually,
26 for:

- 27 a) Extra Long Staple Competitiveness filings to the USDA-Commodity Credit Corporation;
- 28 b) Export Sales Reports;
- 29 c) Export Declarations and other documents to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection;
- 30 d) Export Credit Guarantee Program loan documents;
- 31 e) Spot quotations; and
- 32 f) National Cotton Database Classing data;

33
34 15. Urge USDA-APHIS to:

- 35 a) Maintain the current fee structure for phytosanitary certificates and amendments;
- 36 b) Ensure correct interpretation of regulations and requirements by foreign governments and
37 agencies; and
- 38 c) Publish clear and reasonable guidance concerning warehouse compliance requirements for
39 conducting phytosanitary inspections and originating applications for phytosanitary
40 certificates and to promulgate an accurately maintained database of compliant warehouses
41 as prescribed by the USDA-APHIS Export Program Manual section 4-2-1; further, urge
42 EWR, Inc. to embed the compliance list into the cottonshipping.com tool;

43
44 16. Noting the U.S. cotton industry must maintain a post-departure filing option with the
45 Automated Export System, continue to engage U.S. Census Bureau and provide input into the
46 final approved regulations for post-departure to U.S. cotton;

47
48 17. Collaborate with USDA officials to resolve issues including:

- 49 a) Thirty (30) day longevity window policies in all consuming countries for phytosanitary
50 certificates;

- 1 b) Acceptance of electronic signatures on phytosanitary certificates on plain paper, notably in
- 2 Vietnam;
- 3 c) Upland and ELS cotton rejections in Turkey due to seed content; and,
- 4 d) Electronic phytosanitary system disallowing marks to be split between bookings;
- 5
- 6 18. Urge warehouses, truckers, and / or ocean carriers to provide accurate and preferably in real
- 7 time or, at a minimum, the same day reporting on load details to the merchant shipper or their
- 8 agent including but not limited to bales, mark(s), trailer(s) / railcar(s) / container number(s),
- 9 and seal number(s).