



# Market Requirement Information Package

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## Transport and Shipping

### Identify a suitable carrier and the best route

The key message is speed and reliability. The longer that sealed containers sit on docks and shipboard in tropical temperatures, the greater is the risk of aflatoxin development.

### Inspect containers for cleanliness & suitability

Ensure these have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Use only food-grade containers, and ensure they do not have any gaps and leaks through which water or insects can enter.

### Load grain and insert moisture absorbents

Compare risks for bagged versus bulk grain. Bagged grain will allow more air movement, and reduce condensation. Bag material could have an effect – Hessian and similar absorbent bags will allow better aeration, but synthetic woven bags can shed dripping moisture.

Insert absorbants to reduce humidity and minimise condensation. These are commercially available and based on diatomaceous earth (bentonites, zeolites) or silica-gel. They can come with adherent strips for attachment to sides of container. One such product is 'Container Dri<sup>®</sup> II' ([http://www.sud-chemie.com.au/Product%20Flyers/Container\\_Drill\\_AP.pdf](http://www.sud-chemie.com.au/Product%20Flyers/Container_Drill_AP.pdf)).

### Protect the container from excessive heat during transport

Maize should be regarded as a perishable food product. Containers should be loaded shortly prior to shipping, and not left on wharves for long periods in summer.

On ship, containers should be loaded below deck, where it is cooler ('no top stowage').

### Oversee the protocols for hand-over of shipment to client

#### Ensure the importer is notified on arrival

Determine when the shipment will arrive at its destination, and request the importer to oversee container storage until quarantine procedures are completed. Request the importer to facilitate clearance when possible.



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### **Ensure mycotoxin testing is conducted as soon as possible after arrival**

Advise the importer that this is perishable material that needs to be placed into ventilated storage as soon as possible. It must not be left in the container for long periods.

Advise local authorities that any required mycotoxin testing needs to be done quickly, so that the material can be placed in suitable storage

Determine at which stage the responsibility for any further potential deterioration passes to importer – this should be covered in the contract and insured.

### **Review effectiveness of these protocols and modify as required.**

This set of protocols will only remain useful if any deficiencies and possible improvements are brought to the notice of the Maize Association of Australia.