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## HeadsUp

A COMMENTARY  
ON INDUSTRY ISSUES

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Confidential

CropLife members only

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### [COVID exemptions update](#)

**With everchanging lockdown restrictions throughout Australian states and territories, it is important that CropLife members are aware of the essential worker arrangements that are in place for each jurisdiction.**

CropLife is continuing to directly engage daily with relevant Ministerial Offices and Government Departments in all jurisdictions to ensure all appropriate exemptions remain in place and there is greater clarity around the regulations.

Where there have been drafting errors or oversights in health border exemptions, we are ensuring to have them corrected as a matter of urgency, with a priority on jurisdictions that are introducing permit systems. We have been specifically working with the NSW Government for the last couple of weeks to address their exemption orders ahead of the introduction of the permit system. We also continue to work with the NSW Government and in cooperation with the NSW Farmers Association to ensure clarity of our industry's exemption requirements. While our specific industry is not currently referenced, we do qualify under 'Agriculture - biosecurity and food safety' personnel undertaking critical duties and essential worker applications should be made accordingly. A new more specific category may be added in the coming days at which time new applications should be submitted. Please note that vaccination requirements exist for employees to qualify for the permit.

While our industry falls under at least one of the essential worker categories in all jurisdictions, being: agriculture/food safety and/or agricultural, veterinary chemicals and vaccine production, transportation and distribution and/or critical manufacturing, it is important to understand that this does not grant a de facto travel or exemption for all employees. Exemptions only apply to employees whose duties are critical to maintain operations and the timely manufacture and distribution of products essential for crop and food production. Importantly, it must be evident that the employee cannot perform their duties from home.

Please note that there will also be fines for employers and employees who do not carry their worker permit when travelling to and from work. We strongly encourage all employees to carry a supporting letter from their employer on letterhead to confirm the employee's essential worker status and the category under which they are exempted.

The links below will take you to the current exempt worker requirements for each jurisdiction, with information on authorised providers and authorised worker permits.

- [NSW](#)
- [VIC](#)
- [QLD](#)

- [ACT](#)
- [NT](#)
- [WA](#)
- [SA](#)
- [TAS](#)

Should any member company have difficulty with state government authorities regarding their operations under these exemptions, they should contact CropLife so that direct representation can be made to address these issues as a matter of urgency.

## [Agriculture Visa](#)

The Government has announced the introduction of an agriculture visa. The Agricultural Worker Visa is designed to provide long-term workforce relief to Australian farmers and our critical industries.

The announcement, co-signed by Deputy Prime Minister, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, the Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne and Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Alex Hawke MP, confirms that regulations to enable the creation of the Australian Agriculture Worker Visa will be in place by the end of September. The Government said the visa would be open to partner countries, which would be confirmed pending government negotiations.

Read full [media release](#).

## [Australian Manufacturing Industry Submission](#)

A new Senate Inquiry into the Australian Manufacturing Industry has been launched, seeking comment and submissions by 10 September. It's likely that CropLife will put in a general submission on behalf of our collective membership, however, given the scope of the Inquiry, Member companies may wish to make their own submission specific to their individual capabilities and needs.

The specific details sought include, what manufacturing capacities Australia requires for economic growth, national resilience, as well as the role that the Australian manufacturing industry has played, is playing and will play in the future. Insight into the drivers of growth in manufacturing in Australia and around the world and the strengths of Australia's existing manufacturing industry, as well as opportunities for its development and expansion is sought. In addition, advice into the Government's actions, which can assist the Australian domestic manufacturing industry in attracting investment into research and development such as supply chain support, government procurement and trade policy will be beneficial.

Further information on submissions is available [here](#).

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All previous Heads Up alerts can be found through the [member section of our website](#).

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### **Please note:**

As an employee of one of CropLife Australia's member companies, you currently receive CropLife Australia's Heads Up, a service by CropLife Australia providing a commentary on industry issues. To unsubscribe, please send an email to: [info@croplife.org.au](mailto:info@croplife.org.au) and write 'unsubscribe Heads Up' in the subject box.

