

Essential services

FAR is working with other primary industry groups and MPI to develop a list of services considered essential for our sector. See below for the current list that FAR has submitted to MPI (it is changing all the time). We hope that this provides some guidance around who and what may operate. All support businesses must go through the same essential service registration process as farms i.e., if they have six or more employees they must complete the Safe Practices Registration Form on the MPI website.

Category	Essential services to support arable production
Food safety and verification	Independent Verification Authorities
Growing/production	On farm growing operation
Growing/production	Grain and seed merchants and traders
Growing/production	Rural contractors (cultivation/drilling/harvesting)
Growing/production	Agronomists/advisors/crop scouts
Processing and storage	Packaging companies including pallets and crates
Processing and storage	Grain and seed stores
Processing and storage	Grain and seed processing and dressing plants
Processing and storage	Mills – flour, feed, oil seed crushing
Processing and storage	Malting facilities
Transport	Shipping to domestic and international markets
Transport	Ports
Transport	Trucking companies – grain, seed, animal feed, essential farm supplies, livestock
Relevant support services	Mechanics/ farm machinery parts and engineers
Relevant support services	Tyre providers
Relevant support services	Fuel deliveries
Relevant support services	Irrigation repair services
Relevant support services	Electrical engineers and electricians
Relevant support services	Agrichemical and fertiliser companies supplying products and services
Relevant support services	Delivery of bees for pollination
Relevant support services	Laboratories – seed testing and diagnostics
Relevant support services	IT support and computer technicians
Relevant support services	Post-harvest facilities
Relevant support services	Labour supply contractors
Relevant support services	Waste collection
Relevant support services	Fumigators and fumigation facilities for quarantine purposes
Relevant support services	Chemical manufacturers and importers

Essential service documentation

MPI advise that due to the time pressures of getting their essential services registration process up and running, they are currently not providing any formal response to registrations.

At this stage, staff in essential services do not officially require any documentation; if they are asked why they are out and about, they should respond that they work at an essential business. They should carry their driver's licence at all times.

Additionally, many employers are choosing to supply staff with a short letter outlining their job and place of work. You may choose to do this if you wish ([click here to download a template you can use](#))

Once the registration process is completed, MPI plan to contact businesses to organise a site inspection. Then a certificate will be issued.

In the interim you can continue to operate, but MPI expect that you will already have robust health procedures in place.