



# National Grain and Feed Association

[www.ngfa.org](http://www.ngfa.org)

## Promoting Safety in the Grain, Feed and Processing Industry

### Overview

NGFA is a broad-based organization representing and providing services for grain, feed and all related commercial interests. We represent more than 1,000 companies comprising about 7,000 facilities in more than 300 congressional districts. NGFA-member companies handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic and export markets.

### NGFA Member Firms

- Consist of more than 1,000 companies comprising about 6,000 facilities.
- Handle more than 70 percent of all U.S. grains and oilseeds utilized in domestic and export markets.
- Encompass all sectors of the industry.
- Represent a balance of small and large companies, including both privately owned and cooperative firms.

The NGFA is committed to promoting safety and health in the workplace, and shares the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) commitment to protecting employees. NGFA worked with OSHA to develop the grain handling standard, 29 CFR 1910.272, which was promulgated in 1988, to address fires and explosions.

**Safety Seminars:** Since 2012, NGFA has partnered with several state and regional grain and feed associations to conduct a series of regional safety compliance seminars. Currently, educational outreach on federal OSHA regulatory requirements has been provided through a total of 14 seminars to more than 1000 members in the grain, feed and grain processing industry.

**Combating Combustible Dust:** In 2012, OSHA published a new Globally Harmonized Standard (GHS) for Labeling rule in the *Federal Register* that amended the hazard communication standard (HCS). Under the new rules, combustible dusts are deemed to be chemical hazards, which conflicts with the definition of dust in the grain handling standard. These rules apply to the shipment of products that could produce combustible dusts when subsequently used in "processing" or in ways where dust could possibly be generated. The potential economic and procedural impact on grain, feed and processing facilities could be significant. NGFA and several other agribusiness organizations began settlement negotiations with OSHA but were unable to agree with either the process that OSHA used to adopt the final rule or the substance of the rule itself. Both sides have filed briefs in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. An oral argument is expected in late 2014 with a final decision in early 2015.

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## Membership Profile

- Country elevators that provide storage, merchandising and farm supply services to farmer-customers.
- Feed mills that manufacture premixes and complete feeds for the livestock, poultry, aquaculture and pet food industries.
- Export elevators that merchandise and ship U.S. grains, oilseeds and processed commodities to foreign customers.
- Cash grain and feed merchandisers who buy and sell grains, oilseeds and grain products.
- Commodity futures brokers and commission merchants who provide hedging services to grain buyers and sellers through the use of futures markets.
- End users of grain and grain products, such as:
  - grain processors and millers who process raw grain into myriad products – such as flour, corn meal and syrup, and soybean oil and meal – for human and animal consumption, and industrial uses;
  - livestock and poultry integrators; and
  - biofuels producers, who manufacture fuel ethanol and soy diesel, as well as coproduct ingredients for animal feed.
- Allied industries, such as banks; railroads; barge lines; grain exchanges; biotechnology providers; engineering and design/construction firms; insurance companies; computer/software firms; and other companies that supply goods and services to the industry.