



Volume 76, No. 1 | January 5, 2024

ngfa.org/newsletter | ngfa@ngfa.org | Editor: Sarah Gonzalez, NGFA

Inside This Issue

NEWS

1 NGFA publishes new guidance document for OSHA recordkeeping rule

2 [NGFA to continue efforts to prevent future rail crossing closures](#)

EVENTS

2 [Registration for NGFA's annual convention opens Jan. 8](#)

SUPPLEMENTS

3 [NGFA launches new internal database system](#)

3 [Extra Supplements](#)



NEWS

NGFA publishes new guidance document for OSHA recordkeeping rule

NGFA published a new guidance document to provide members with an overview of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) final amended e-recordkeeping rule for injury and illness that took effect on Jan. 1, 2024. The [OSHA Electronic Recordkeeping Rule Guidance Document](#) provides an outline of important issues related to injury and illness data that NGFA member companies may wish to revisit in light of the new rule.

The first deadline for the latest information required to be submitted under this rule is March 2. OSHA has established a secure website, known as the [Injury Tracking Application](#) (ITA), which offers three options for data submission: 1) manually enter data into a webform; 2) upload a CSV file to process single or multiple establishments simultaneously; or 3) transmit data electronically via an application programming interface (API).

As noted in the guidance document, employers might consider reviewing their injury/illness reporting policies to evaluate how they are reported.

Under this rule, OSHA requires establishments with 100 or more employees in certain designated industries to electronically submit information from their OSHA Forms 300 and 301 to OSHA once a year. Notably, the new rule updates the list of employers considered to be in "high-hazard" industries and creates new obligations for some employers.

One positive aspect of the final rule is that the grain, feed, processing and milling industries have been removed from the list of high-hazard industries.

Establishments with 20 to 249 employees in certain industries will continue to be required to electronically submit information from their OSHA Form 300A annual summary to OSHA once a year. All establishments with 250 or more employees that are required to keep records under OSHA's injury and illness regulation will also continue to be required to electronically submit information from their Form 300A to OSHA annually.

More requirements for different industries and a brief history of the rule are summarized in the [guidance document](#).

NGFA to continue efforts to prevent future rail crossing closures

Since publication of the latest *NGFA Newsletter*, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the reopening of railroad crossings at Eagle Pass and El Paso, Texas, on Dec. 22 following a shutdown that lasted five days.

CBP had announced it would temporarily close the crossings beginning early on Dec. 18 "after observing a recent resurgence of smuggling organizations moving migrants through Mexico via freight trains."

Once CBP announced the closures, NGFA and the North American Export Grain Association (NAEGA) worked with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to convince the Department of Homeland Security and CBP of the importance of reopening these crossings to agriculture trade between the United States and Mexico.

The closure of the two rail crossings immediately impacted the flow of grain and oilseeds for both human and livestock feed. According to USDA data, rail represents 64 percent of grain and oilseed exports to Mexico, including 15,565,138 MTs of grains and oilseeds exported via rail in 2021 and 3.45 MTs of grains and oilseeds in the third quarter of 2023.

"We call on the governments of the United States and Mexico to continue to dialogue and to put in place measures on both sides of the border to ensure this does not happen again," NGFA and NAEGA noted in a Dec. 22 press release after CBP announced it would reopen the crossings. "The free flow of trade across the border is critical to food security for our countries and the region at large. A plan must be in place to keep the border open to commerce between our nations."

NGFA will continue to work with federal officials and members of Congress to ensure a plan is in place to avoid shutting down rail commerce between the U.S. and Mexico if the government must take emergency actions to address increasing migrant numbers at the border.

EVENTS

Registration for NGFA's annual convention opens Jan. 8

Registration opens on Monday, Jan. 8 for NGFA's 128th annual convention, which is March 17-19 in Orlando, Fla. at the Omni Orlando Resort at Championsgate.



Confirmed speakers include Scoular CEO Paul Maass; Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw; and Nathan Gonzales, the publisher and editor of Inside Elections.

Each year, hundreds of industry members gather for the annual convention where NGFA distributes several awards to industry volunteers, conducts business meetings of each of its committees and the Board of Directors, and announces the results of its most recent election.

Go to ngfa.org/convention to register next week.

SUPPLEMENTS

NGFA launches new internal database system

To improve efficiency for its members, NGFA has launched a new database and communications system. The system allows NGFA staff to streamline event registration, dues payments and external communications to NGFA members, among other functions.

The new database and website are live so members will be prompted to sign into a new account to pay membership dues and to register for the upcoming annual convention.

NGFA will be scheduling training sessions for the new systems if members would like to attend.

Extra Supplements

NGFA in the news:

Bloomberg: [US-Mexico Border Railroad Crossings Reopen After Five Days](#)

Hagstrom Report: [Rail crossings open as Biden talks to Lopez Obrador](#)

DTN: [Texas-Mexico Border Rail Crossings Reopened, Ending Five Days of Drama Over Ag Exports](#)

Reuters: [US reopens Mexico rail crossings after closure sought to stem migration](#)

High Plains Journal: [Ag groups glad to see Mexican rail closures ended](#)

Other news:

Agri-Pulse: [Dairy Farmers of America purchases first-ever inset carbon credits](#) (*log in*)

KCUR: [Biofuels could get boost with federal bill](#)

NGFA | 1400 Crystal Drive | Suite 260 | Arlington | VA | 22202