



Notice to Industry

14/2006-07

New AQIS Payment Option for Self Assessed Clearance (Short Form) Declarations Available From 20 November 2006

The purpose of this notice is to advise that from 20 November 2006, industry will be able to make payments for AQIS services on Short Form Self Assessed Clearance (SAC) declarations from within the Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS). This new payment option in the ICS follows the release of functionality on 31 October 2006 to allow payments for AQIS services on Full Dec Format Self Assessed Clearance declarations.

The release of this new functionality allows industry to make payments for AQIS services that may be required in relation to imported goods entered on Full Dec Format SACs and/or Short Form SACs. Such services might include entry processing and/or any fees associated with subsequent inspections or treatments. This new payment facility is not in any way related to charging for SAC screening - this screening remains free from AQIS charges, in line with current practice.

Types of declarations

Import Declarations (FIDs) are lodged where the Customs value of the goods being imported is above the import entry threshold (currently AUD\$1000), while SACs are lodged where the value of the goods imported is at or below the entry threshold. Full Dec Format SACs contain essentially the same information as FIDs, while Short Form SACs only have basic information, such as goods description.

Brokers were already able to make payments within the ICS on FIDs, and more recently on Full Dec Format SACs. The changes introduced on 20 November 2006 allow the same types of payments to be made on Short Form SACs in cases where the SAC has been upgraded into the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) for documentary clearance, inspection or treatment.

Making Payments on Short Form SACs

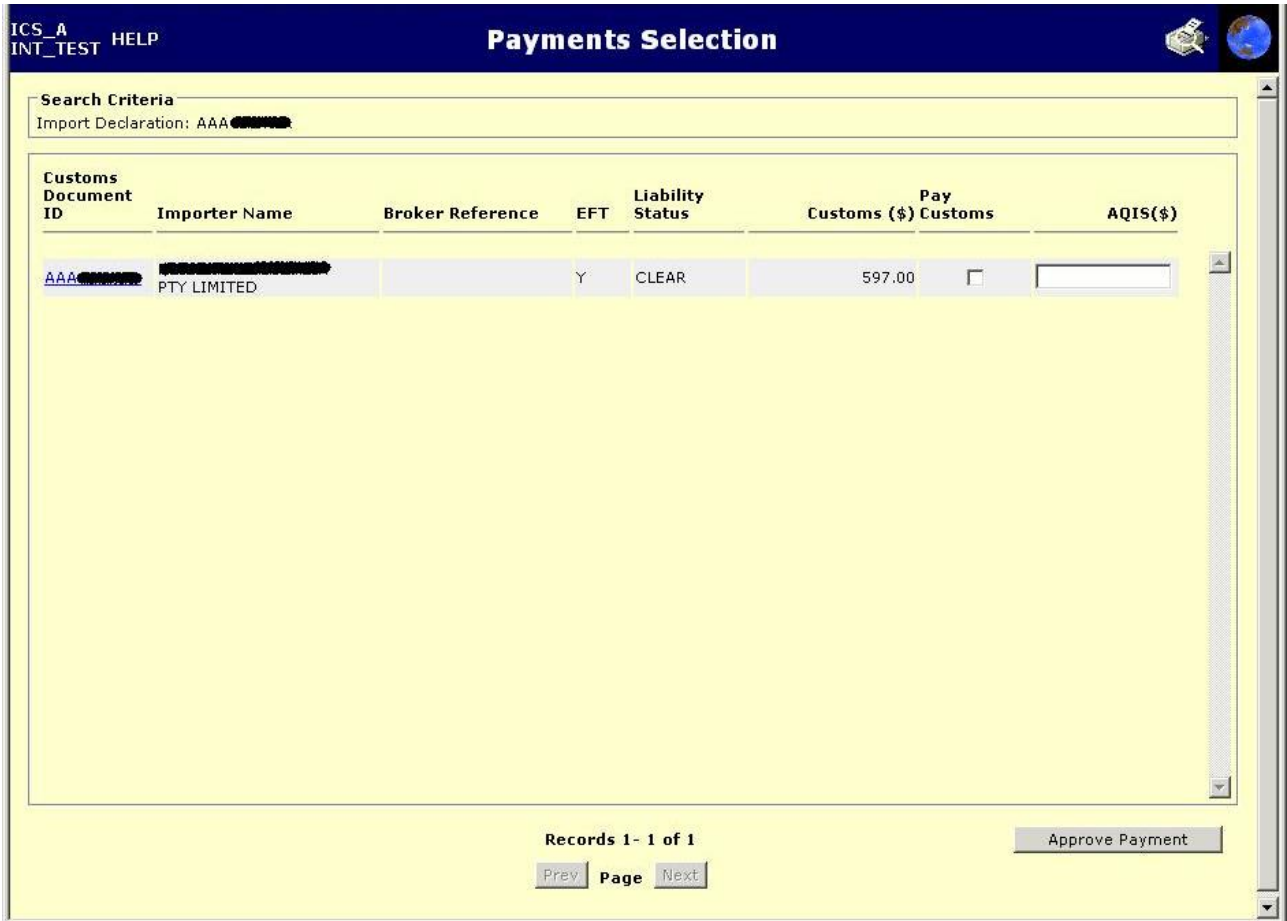
If an industry party wishes to make a payment via the Customs Interactive facility for AQIS services on a Short Form SAC, which has been determined to be of quarantine concern and has been upgraded into AIMS, the following procedure should be followed:

- Lodge the declaration in the normal manner and confirm that the declaration has been sent to AQIS and has been upgraded to an AIMS entry;
- Retrieve the declaration in the ICS using the Import Declaration search;
- Payments can then be nominated against the declaration on the ICS "Payments Selection" screen (see figure 1). Enter the payment amount in the "AQIS(\$)" field (as per current procedures for IDs and Full Dec Format SACs). An error message will be generated if a payment value is entered for goods that are not subject to quarantine. Note that the same ICS error is generated if the declaration has been sent to AQIS but has not been upgraded to AIMS.

- Click on “Approve Payment” to complete the transaction.

Note that EDI users will use equivalent facilities in their own software, but must still ensure that the SAC declaration has been sent to AQIS and upgraded to AIMS before they make a payment.

Figure 1: Sample ICS “Payments Selection” screen



Further information

Should you require further information, please contact the AQIS National AIMS Administrator on (02) 6272 4698.