



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

3/2006-07

### **Implementation of eLodge facility for Industry**

The purpose of this notice is to advise that eLodge will be available to the importing industry from 12 noon on Monday 14 August 2006.

AQIS introduced its new Permit Application Tracking System (PATS) on 7 August 2006, which provides AQIS officers with information about the receipt and status of import permit applications. To support this initiative, an electronic lodgement facility for import permit applications, eLodge, will be available to importers from 12 noon on Monday 14 August 2006.

eLodge allows importers to submit import permit applications electronically via a link on the AQIS website - [www.aqis.gov.au/importapp](http://www.aqis.gov.au/importapp). The eLodge facility can be used for import permit applications for all commodities except live animals, which are expected to be included in late 2006.

PATS contains information on all permit applications for all commodities, not just those lodged electronically. When application forms are submitted electronically, this information is automatically captured by PATS and immediately made available to AQIS officers Australia-wide to answer client queries regarding the status of their permit application. Clients need only provide the application reference number and the AQIS officer will be able to locate the application within the system.

Electronically lodged permit applications have a lower lodgement fee than those which are manually lodged.

Import permits are normally issued within 10 working days in line with the AQIS Service Charter. However, many 'standard' import permits can be issued within 2-3 working days of receipt at the permit issuing area. Processing times can be further reduced by submitting applications and payments electronically, or by submitting hard-copy applications and payments (cheque or credit card payment form) directly to the permit issuing area. Please note that applications can not be progressed until all required information and payments are provided.

AQIS would also like to take this opportunity to thank industry representatives involved in the user acceptance testing of the eLodge facility. Feedback received was positive, particularly in regard to how easy the system is to use.

#### **Further information**

Further information regarding PATS and eLodge is available from the AQIS website at [www.aqis.gov.au/importapp](http://www.aqis.gov.au/importapp) or by emailing [icon@aqis.gov.au](mailto:icon@aqis.gov.au).