



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



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✦ Current issues concerning AQIS Cargo Management and the Cargo and Seaports Industries

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✦ Broker Re-accreditation Update

Re-accreditation will commence in March 2005 for persons currently accredited under three AQIS schemes:

- Containerised Cargo Clearance for FCL/X,
- Automatic Entry Processing, and
- LCL Packing.

There are over 1600 persons currently accredited under these three schemes, with accreditation set to expire at the end of March 2005. The re-accreditation training will be provided in the form of an on-line training package currently being developed by AQIS and the AICCC. The course will be delivered via the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) website and will run for the month of March 2005. Failure to complete a re-accreditation training package will mean that persons will no longer be accredited for the schemes. AQIS will keep industry informed of further developments.

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✦ AQIS Machinery Head Office is Moving

AQIS has announced that the head office for machinery and military inquiries will be moving from Canberra to Brisbane. The change will occur on 14 February 2005. From this date onwards, all machinery-related imports, non-standard machinery and military permit applications (standard permit applications can still be lodged in your local regional AQIS office) and applications for offshore inspections should be lodged directly to AQIS Brisbane.

Contact details for the new machinery office are:

42-44 Qantas Drive Eagle Farm Qld 4009

PO Box 222 Hamilton Qld 4007

telephone (07) 3246 8706

fax (07) 3246 8785

Email enquiries should be directed to either aqis.military@aqis.gov.au or aqis.machinery@aqis.gov.au.

Importers of new machinery are also reminded that they must provide a declaration from the exporter stating that the machinery has not been field tested or factory trialed. AQIS's major concerns in these situations are that the testing could introduce quarantine risk material, such as soil, animal or plant material, into the machine. Machinery that has only been driven on factory floors may still be regarded as "new".

AQIS is also reminding importers that machinery inspections should be undertaken at metropolitan Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs). Applications to inspect machinery at non-metropolitan QAPs may be considered, but only on a case-by-case basis. These

applications would require approval from the relevant AQIS Regional Manager, in consultation with the AQIS Machinery head office, with consideration being given to the Quarantine risk associated with each establishment's location.

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✦ ISPM 15 Certification Scheme for Exports Released

AQIS has released the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme (AWPCS), which enables Australian treatment providers and wood packaging manufacturers to produce material that meets the requirements of ISPM 15. Under this scheme, treatment providers and wood packaging manufacturers who meet the requirements of ISPM 15 will be authorised by AQIS to apply an internationally recognised certification mark to wood packaging material produced for use in the export trade.

Many countries, including Australia, have implemented systems to accept ISPM 15 compliant imports. A list of country implementation dates is provided on the AQIS website - [Click here for a link to this information](#).

Exporters of Australian commodities that use wood packaging material can use this list to help determine if they are subject to ISPM 15 requirements. ISPM 15 applies to all types of wood packaging, including wood pallets, dunnage (including timber used in the separation of cargoes in bulk ships), crating, packing blocks, drums, load boards, cases, pallet collars and skids.

The AWPCS is open to any Australian treatment provider or wood packaging manufacturer that can meet the requirements of ISPM 15. The AWPCS is one option that will be available to assist exporters in meeting importing countries' conditions of entry. Participation in the scheme is not mandatory, however importing countries may apply quarantine treatments or refuse to accept any commodity with wood packaging that does not carry the certification mark.

All applications for certification under the AWPCS must be lodged with a Joint Accreditation System Australia New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) accredited certification body. A list of certification bodies is available at www.aqis.gov.au. All applications must include a quality manual that clearly details the quality systems or procedures the company has in place to meet the conditions and requirements of the AWPCS.

When a treatment provider or wood packaging manufacturer becomes certified under the AWPCS, they will be listed on the AWPCS register. The register will be accessible via the AQIS website as soon as companies start becoming certified. Further information and copies of the AWPCS are available on the AQIS website. Please e-mail AQIS at Horticulture/Grains@aqis.gov.au if you need further assistance.

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✦ AQIS Fertiliser Team Wins Award for New Import Protocol

A team of five Import Clearance staff from AQIS offices in Canberra, Perth, Adelaide and Newcastle has won a Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council (QEAC) Award for its efforts in establishing new protocols for bulk fertiliser imports. The new system, developed in consultation with industry, takes a whole-of-supply chain approach to quarantine risks, in order to reduce the likelihood of consignments being re-exported, and to address risks offshore before consignments arrive in Australia. Furthermore, both the team and industry shared a common goal in providing "risk free" product to stakeholders.

The new protocols have had a significant impact on bulk fertiliser imports into Australia. To date, more than 85% of the supply chains certified will be subject to a less demanding inspection regime on the basis of their reduced risk. Perhaps most significantly, since the introduction of the protocol no bulk fertiliser shipments have been re-exported.

Products that are imported for use in rural areas, such as fertiliser, represent a significant quarantine risk due to their potential to impact directly on rural industries and the environment. Therefore, AQIS must ensure that the risk of introducing potentially damaging pests and diseases with these products is mitigated. Contaminated fertiliser shipments have been subject to re-export in the past, which had a significant financial impact on the importer.

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✦ Marine Polluter Fined

Vessel operators are reminded to take care of any AQIS Quarantine Risk Material (QRM) bags they may have on board, following the successful prosecution of an operator for pollution at sea. In January 2003 an empty plastic QRM bag was found washed ashore near Coffs Harbour, on the north coast of New South Wales. QRM bags are used aboard vessels to bond quarantine risk material such as food from foot and mouth disease risk countries.

AQIS's Seaports Program subsequently worked with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) to provide evidence in relation to a prosecution under laws covering pollution at sea. The Program was able to quickly identify where, when and to whom the bag was issued by tracing the uniquely numbered quarantine seal using AQIS's Vessel Monitoring System. This evidence was a vital part of AMSA's prosecution and resulted in a penalty of \$9750 for the illegal disposal of the bag.

The prosecution is the first of its kind and has set an important precedent - not least because the Seaports Program is currently working with AMSA on six similar cases.

✦ Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in December 2004 / January 2005

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
1	Notice to Industry 7/2004-05	AQIS Import Clearance Fees - End of twelve month fee reduction - Effective from 12 January 2005
2	List of Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) for Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) 1 December 2004	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
3	Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) manual amendment 1/12/04 - Chapter 1 Section A	Table of Amendments 2004, which lists the most recent amendments to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual
4	CCC manual amendment 1/12/04 - Chapter 3 Section 14	Acceptable Indonesian and Italian Treatment Providers List
5	CCC manual amendment 1/12/04 - Chapter 3 Section 15	Unacceptable Treatment Providers List
6	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0380	Machinery inspections at metropolitan Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs)
7	PQA 0390	Amended import conditions for panel products
8	PQA 0389	Importation of peeler cores as packing or dunnage
9	PQA 0392	Bamboo articles: Changes in the wording of the existing ICON case
10	List of QAPs for AEP 15 December 2004	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
11	CCC manual amendment 15/12/04 - Chapter 1 Section A	Table of Amendments 2004, which lists the most recent amendments to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual
12	CCC manual amendment 15/12/04 - Chapter 3 Section 13	Preservatives for treating timber
13	CCC manual amendment 15/12/04 - Chapter 3 Section 15	Unacceptable Treatment Providers List

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
14	Advice to Agents 11/04	Guidelines for Cruise Vessel Agents / Operators
15	PQA 0393	Notice to Industry - AQIS Import Clearance Fees - End of twelve month fee reduction
16	Notice to Industry 8/2004-05	Additional charges applicable for services supplied Wednesday 29 December 2004
17	Notice to Industry 9/2004-05	AQIS Operating Hours over the Christmas/New Year Period
18	PQA 0398	AQIS Cargo Logistics Unit Canberra contact information
19	List of QAPs for AEP 15 January 2005	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
20	CCC manual amendment 15/01/05 - Chapter 1 Section A	Table of Amendments 2005, which lists the most recent amendments to the Containerised Cargo Clearance Manual
21	CCC manual amendment 15/01/05 - Chapter 2 Section 7	AQIS Approved Treatment Certificates
22	CCC manual amendment 15/01/05 - Chapter 3 Section 13	Preservatives For Treating Timber
23	CCC manual amendment 15/01/05 - Chapter 3 Section 14	Acceptable Indonesian and Italian Treatment Providers List
24	CCC manual amendment 15/01/05 - Chapter 3 Section 15	Unacceptable Treatment Providers List
25	PQA 0391	Declarations for new machinery
26	PQA 0399	Relocation of the Administration Function for Machinery and Military
27	PQA 0372	Burnt Pine Longicorn - changes to methyl bromide rate
28	PQA 0037	Update - Burnt Pine Longicorn season in New Zealand
29	PQA 0400	Non-commercially prepared cooked taro tubers
30	PQA 0306	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) - Indonesia
31	PQA 0403	USA Citrus preclearance - Industry coordinator
32	PQA 0401	Lettuce Mosaic Virus

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✦ Contact cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information

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