



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



Cargo Management eBulletin

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

✦ IT service delivery

A computer outage earlier last month caused a number of problems with the provision of AQIS services. However, the incident has highlighted a number of additional steps that AQIS will be able to take in the future to minimise the impact on Industry clients.

The outage itself on 6-7 July 2004 was the result of an unsuccessful system update, which affected the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS), the Quarantine Premises Register (QPR) and Automatic Entry Processing (AEP).

Each time AQIS systems are updated, AQIS conducts extensive system and user acceptance testing prior to their roll-out across the country, in order to prevent any bugs or system errors arising. However, in light of the recent outage, protocols governing testing regimes are now being expanded, and enhanced procedures have been established. Following this incident, AQIS installed new hardware that has resulted in increased processing speed.

✦ Changes to the AQIS container seals policy

From 9 August 2004, AQIS will be changing its policy covering the way that containers are re-sealed, in order to achieve a nationally-consistent approach. In the past, containers in some regions have been re-sealed with an AQIS-issued seal after a quarantine inspection, regardless of whether the container requires further quarantine intervention.

A review into the use of AQIS issued seals has recently been completed. Under the new policy, AQIS-issued seals will only be used to re-seal containers requiring further quarantine intervention (i.e. the container requires additional inspection, treatment, sampling etc). Under these circumstances, the AQIS officer will supply a seal and record the seal number on the quarantine entry.

For containers that don't need any further quarantine intervention (i.e. they have passed quarantine), AQIS will not supply a seal or record seal numbers in the quarantine entry. If, for security reasons, the importer requests the container to be re-sealed, the importer or their agent will be required to supply a seal and perform any administrative duties relating to the use of the seal (such as recording the seal number on the invoice or in a database). If requested, AQIS officers will verify the industry-supplied seal number by signing consignment documentation. [Click here to view the ICON alert on this issue.](#)

✦ QAP reaccreditation process complete for 2004-05

The 2004-05 round of annual Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) re-registrations has been successfully completed, with a number of new requirements incorporated. This year, premises were required to provide evidence that they were registered as a legal entity (i.e. a Pty Ltd company etc.) for QAP registrations to be processed. Formerly, QAPs could be registered in the name of a non-legal entity, such as a business name or trading name.

In addition to these requirements, AQIS also streamlined the reaccreditation process by cutting down on paperwork and reducing the regulatory burden for industry clients. In previous years, each of the 2200-plus premises with QAP registration had to complete the entire seven-page application form, but this year many QAPs whose situations had not changed were instead able to use a pre-printed single-page form. AQIS appreciates the additional administrative effort that these changes caused for businesses with QAP registration, and is looking at further improvements to the system for 2005-06 to make the process even easier.

✦ Deferral of reaccreditation training for Accredited Persons under the QAP Class 1 Scheme

AQIS is reminding Industry clients accredited under the Quarantine Approved Premises – Class 1 Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme that their accreditation, which expired on 30 June 2004, has been extended for the time being. The re-accreditation process has been delayed to allow a review of the scheme to be completed by AQIS. The expiry dates on accreditation certificates was printed as 30 June 2004. The extension to the accreditation has been made to ensure that interruptions to trade and business operations are avoided.

All industry clients accredited under the Scheme (with the exception of those accredited within the previous 6 months) will be required to undertake reaccreditation training at some stage during 2004, but the dates for this training have not yet been set.

Further notification will be distributed to industry once information relating to the re-accreditation training is available. In the meantime, operators of premises under the QAP Class 1 Scheme are reminded to ensure that all accredited persons working in their businesses are made aware of the extension to their accreditation.

✦ Next AICCC meeting scheduled for August 2004

The next meeting of the AICCC will take place in Sydney on 27 August 2004. The major item for discussion will be the strategic direction of the AICCC, in addition to a wide range of other items for discussion as listed below:

- Progress reports on:
 - The Value/Efficiency project
 - Timber and associated quarantine issues
 - CMR / ICS issues
- Financial matters – 2004-05 budgets and charging review
- Reports on the Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) Initiative
 - High Volume Low Value (HVLV)
 - Air Cargo and Containers
 - External Container Inspection Regime (ECIR)
 - Seaports
- Bio Security Issues
- Committee reports:
 - Quarantine Exports Advisory Council (QEAC)
 - Cargo Management Committee (CMC)
 - Imported Foods Consultative Committee (IFCC)
 - Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ)
 - AICCC Secretariat Report

✦ Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in July 2004

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0352	Uncooked prawns batch requirements
2	PQA 0351	Release (dispensation) requests to the Biologicals Unit are no longer processed within 24 hours
3	PQA 0255	Sudden Oak Death (<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>) interim restrictions for timber imports from USA and Europe
4	PQA 0353	Certification requirements for the quarantine heat treatment of wood at 56°C for 30 minutes
5	PQA 0355	Plant Biosecurity Australia's review of micro-organism permit conditions
6	Imported Food Notice (IFN) 32/04	AGAL name change to National Measurement Institute
7	Notice To Industry 1/2004-05	Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) in Indonesia
8	PQA 0357	Identification of imported timber to minimum genus level
9	Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) manual amendment 15/07/04 - Chapter 1 Section A	Table of amendments made in 2004
10	CCC Manual 15/07/04 - Chapter 1 Section C	Definitions - addition of a definition for Phytosanitary certificates
11	CCC Manual 15/07/04 - Chapter 3 Section 7	AQIS Approved Treatments - addition of Phytosanitary Certificates for treatments
12	IFN 33/04	Suspension of appointment of Food Laboratories Australia Pty Ltd
13	PQA 0354	New requirements for labelling of animal based stockfeed
14	PQA 0358	Use of AQIS seals
15	Advice to Agents 09/04	Ships' Crews' Mail
16	Advice to Agents 10/04	Ships' Stores (foodstuffs)
17	PQA 0306	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) - Indonesia
18	PQA 0339	New Import Conditions for pig meat
19	IFN 34/04	Extension to Microserve's conditions of appointment to include paralytic shellfish poison
20	IFN 35/04	Extension to Silliker Microtech Pty Ltd conditions of appointment to include Domoic Acid analysis

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
21	IFN 37/04	Suspension of appointment of Western Sydney Area Health Services appointment for pesticides and microbiological analyses
22	IFN 40/04	Appointment of PathCentre and Dairy Technical Services as analysts under the <i>Imported Food Control Act 1992</i>
23	IFN 41/04	Extension to Amdel Pty Ltd conditions of appointment

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

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✦ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY ✦