



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service**



## **Cargo Management eBulletin No: 08-2004 (September)**

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

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### **✦ Introduction of ISPM 15**

From 1 September 2004, importers will have an additional treatment option for solid wood packing and dunnage entering Australia. This new option is based on the *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) # 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade (ISPM 15)*.

Although Australia will be accepting timber packaging and dunnage that meets ISPM 15 requirements from this date onwards, this material must also satisfy Australia's existing bark-free requirement. Australia has retained this additional requirement because of the potential for bark to contain a wide range of insect and pathogen pests of quarantine concern, and because bark could hamper inspection procedures and impact on fumigation effectiveness.

AQIS has implemented ISPM 15 as an additional treatment option – all other existing treatment options have been retained. This means that countries that have not implemented ISPM 15 will still be able to access the Australian market, and importers will be able to choose the treatment that best suits their business needs.

To assist industry, AQIS has prepared a list of frequently asked questions to provide additional information about how the ISPM 15 treatment will be implemented. **The list of frequently asked questions and answers can be accessed by clicking here.**

As an overview, ISPM 15-treated wood packing:

- **Will** need to meet Australia's bark-free requirement
- **Will not** require a treatment certificate,
- **Will not** need to satisfy the AQIS 21-day rule for maximum time between treatment and shipping, and
- **Will** be considered acceptable under existing AQIS Compliance Agreement arrangements.

To reflect these changes, AQIS has also developed new packing declarations, which are required for all containerised consignments entering the country. However, importers that choose to import non-ISPM 15 compliant timber packing and dunnage may still use the old versions of packing declarations. Examples of the new packing declarations, together with further information on the Australian implementation of ISPM 15, **can be accessed by clicking here.**

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## ✦ Changes made to Risk, Active and Random imported food categories

AQIS has recently issued notices to Advise Industry about amendments to the inspection and testing requirements for "Risk", "Active" and "Random" imported food categories. The amendments are the result of a new Ministerial Order, the Imported Food Control Amendment Order 2004, which came into effect on 18 August 2004. The changes to the food types in each category, and to the inspection and testing requirements, involved consultation and input from industry and other stakeholder groups.

Detailed information regarding changes to the types of food in each category and the tests that will be applied is available in Imported Food Notices 43/04, 44/04 and 45/04. **Click here to access these notices.** Many of the changes relate to types of food being removed from the "Risk" and "Active" categories. For example, canned mushrooms and soy sauce have been removed from the "Risk" category, while honey and raw prawns and shrimp have been removed from the "Active" category.

Further information on the changes is available from your local AQIS Imported Food office, or from the Food Safety Unit in Canberra.

<b>Food Safety Contact</b>	<b>Phone number</b>	<b>Regions serviced</b>
Sydney office	(02) 8334 7477	NSW, WA
Brisbane office	(07) 3246 8715	QLD, NT
Melbourne office	(03) 8318 6905	VIC, SA, TAS
Canberra office	(02) 6272 5515	Canberra

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## ✦ AQIS systems on track for CMR

AQIS has just completed a second round of user acceptance testing on the modifications to its electronic import management systems, to ensure a seamless transition once the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) is implemented by the Australian Customs Service (Customs).

The ICS will fundamentally change the way in which AQIS receives information from Customs. As a result, in-depth testing of new systems, and systems that have been modified is necessary to ensure business continuity upon implementation. The testing is undertaken as part of the AQIS Cargo Management Re-engineering Imports (CMRI) project, which has been working with Customs and Industry since October 2002. The first round of AQIS user acceptance testing was carried out in March 2004.

The outcome of this latest round of testing, which took place in June-July 2004, was very positive. It involved input and participation by AQIS staff from all regions around Australia. This involvement ensured regional differences were addressed, and confirmed systems were working properly in all locations. The primary focus was on the testing of all AIMS modules, including entries processed under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme. The outcome has increased confidence that the components of the AIMS system tested to date are of an acceptable standard to support current business practices from the "go-live" date of the Customs system.

Further testing of additional AQIS import applications are scheduled between now and the proposed implementation of the ICS in 2005. By ensuring all AQIS systems will be fully functional and in place, the impact on AQIS clients should be minimised.

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## ✦ Review of the August 2004 AQIS / Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC) meeting

The AICCC held its 38th meeting in Sydney on 25 August 2004. Ms Leigh Bryant attended her first meeting representing the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI).

The major discussion item for the meeting dealt with the alignment of strategic directions between major AQIS committees and Industry, through the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ). The two most important AQIS committees in this respect are the Cargo Management Committee (CMC) (consisting of import clearance managers from across the

country and senior head office managers) and the Regional Managers / Cargo Management Steering Committees (RC/CM SC) on the AQIS side. This alignment was seen as critical to achieve improvements in a range of activity areas such as CMR, AEP for commodities, ICON enhancements, a new Import Management Information System to replace AIMS, and Fees and Charging Reviews. The meeting noted that a paper outlining a five-year plan was in the final stages of completion and would provide the framework for the "way ahead".

In addition to the major agenda item above, committee members received papers / reports on a number of other issues such as:

- The Timber Quarantine project (including the introduction of ISPM15 standards, progress on the IRA on coniferous timber and classification of manufactured wooden articles),
- Financial matters (including the 2004/5 budget, the current fee and charging reviews as well as the programs' debtors position),
- Cargo Management Re-engineering and other IT projects (including e-results, Broker reports and issues relating to Business Continuity Planning for IT outages),
- Progress on the Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) Initiative, with continued improvements in efficiencies noted. The national interception rates for containers had moved from a national average of 3.89% on 2001-02 to 2.21% in 2003-04 which represented a considerable saving in cleaning and associated costs, and
- Reports from other associated councils and committees (such as the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council (QEAC), the Imported Foods Consultative committee (IFCC), CMC, IWGQ and RM / CM SC).

The meeting noted continued progress made in a range of areas but drew attention to the fact that, with continued growth in trade, service delivery issues to industry stakeholders was a matter of concern.

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

<b>Reference Number</b>	<b>Document</b> (Click to view relevant page of the AQIS website)	<b>Overview</b>
1	<b>Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) manual 1/08/04 - Chapter 1 Section A</b>	List of the most recent amendments to the CCC Manual
2	<b>CCC Manual 1/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 7</b>	AQIS Approved Treatments (Addition of acceptable heat treatment program)
3	<b>CCC Manual 1/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 13</b>	Preservatives for Treating Timber
4	<b>CCC Manual 1/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 14</b>	Acceptable Indonesian and Italian Treatment Providers List
5	<b>CCC Manual 1/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 15</b>	Unacceptable Treatment Providers List
6	<b>List of Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) for Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) 1 August 2004</b>	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
7	<b>Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0357</b>	Identification of Imported Timber to Minimum Genus Level
8	<b>Imported Food Notice (IFN) 42/04</b>	Notification of Laboratory Testing Capabilities Summary Matrices
9	<b>Notice to Industry 2/2004-05</b>	Harmonisation of the Giant African Snail inspection regime
10	<b>PQA 0360</b>	Changes to the Quarantine Proclamation 1998, Schedule 5 section 63 - Permitted seeds list
11	<b>CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 1 Section A</b>	List of the most recent amendments to the CCC Manual

<b>Reference Number</b>	<b>Document</b> (Click to view relevant page of the AQIS website)	<b>Overview</b>
12	<a href="#">CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 2</a>	AQIS COMPILE Questions
13	<a href="#">CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 4</a>	Packing Declarations (Annual packing declarations)
14	<a href="#">CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 7</a>	AQIS Approved Treatments (Addition of acceptable heat treatment program)
15	<a href="#">CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 14</a>	Acceptable Indonesian and Italian Treatment Providers List
16	<a href="#">CCC Manual 15/08/04 - Chapter 3 Section 15</a>	Unacceptable Treatment Providers List
17	<a href="#">List of QAPs for Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) 15 August 2004</a>	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
18	<a href="#">Updated Notice to Industry 19/2004/04</a>	Update - Changes to AQIS import requirements for wood packaging material under ISPM 15
19	<a href="#">IFN 43/04</a>	Amendment to Risk Categorised Foods
20	<a href="#">IFN 44/04</a>	Amendment To Active Surveillance Category Foods
21	<a href="#">IFN 45/04</a>	Amendment To Random Surveillance Category Foods
22	<a href="#">Further Update, Notice to Industry 19/2003-04</a>	Further updates - Changes to AQIS import requirements for wood packaging material under ISPM 15
23	<a href="#">PQA 0331</a>	Update on <i>ISPM 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade</i>
24	<a href="#">IFN 46/04</a>	Additions to list of approved fish processing establishments in Thailand
25	<a href="#">PQA 0362</a>	Changes to the approval system for countries exporting dairy products to Australia
26	<a href="#">PQA 0361</a>	Fresh mangosteens from Thailand require mandatory fumigation prior to export
27	<a href="#">IFN 47/04</a>	Extension to EML Consulting Services QLD Pty Ltd conditions of appointment to include Domoic acid and Paralytic Shellfish Poison analyses
28	<a href="#">IFN 48/04</a>	Amendment of appointment for Analytical Microlabs
29	<a href="#">IFN 49/04</a>	Notification of Laboratory Testing Capabilities Matrices
30	<a href="#">PQA 0364</a>	Cut flower imports from Malaysia – accreditation scheme

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**✦ Contact [cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au](mailto:cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au) if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information**

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