



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

✦ AFAS Commences in Malaysia

From 1 December 2005, AQIS will only accept treatment certificates from Malaysian methyl bromide treatment providers if they are covered under the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS). As first advised in Notice to Industry 12, 2005-06, the change will apply to all fumigations performed on or after this date.

Previously, AQIS has accepted documentation from all treatment providers in Malaysia, providing the facility was not listed by AQIS as under investigation, unacceptable or suspended. But AQIS, in collaboration with the Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Division (CPPQ), Department of Agriculture, Malaysia, has now developed a register of methyl bromide treatment providers that have demonstrated their ability to perform effective methyl bromide fumigation treatments.

Prior to 1 December 2005, there was a 60 day phase in period, during which AQIS accepted treatment certificates issued under the old system, as well as those under AFAS. But for all fumigations performed on or after 1 December 2005, AQIS will only accept accompanying treatment certificates if they are valid and are from facilities on the list of acceptable Malaysian treatment providers.

So far there are 28 providers on the list. However, this number is expected to increase as additional treatment providers complete their training and gain their certification. Importers are encouraged to check that their treatment provider is on the list of acceptable treatment providers. If not, then the goods may be subject to methyl bromide or other treatment upon arrival in Australia in order to address quarantine risks. [Click here to view the AFAS Malaysia list.](#)

The AFAS system is also expected to expand shortly to Thailand and India. AQIS will provide industry with updates as the rollout of AFAS continues.

✦ Changes to AQIS Fees and Operations due to New Import Declaration Threshold

AQIS has made changes to fees and cargo clearance operations as a result of a new government duty threshold. The threshold change, from \$250 to \$1000, was introduced on 12 October 2005 concurrent with the changeover to reporting to the new Integrated Cargo System (ICS).

As a direct result of the change, AQIS will receive fewer IDs (Import Declarations) and will be required to process some 600,000 additional Self Assessed Clearances (SACs). As the AQIS Import Clearance Program operates under 100% cost recovery, the fee increase is necessary to

maintain AQIS's revenue base at its current levels and to provide for additional resources required to process the increase in SACs.

Fee changes

Two AQIS fees have been modified as a result of the threshold change - ID air (from \$6.50 to \$14.00) and ID sea (from \$6.50 to \$7.00). This will ensure revenue received for AQIS services remains in line with the cost of providing these services. The ID air fee has increased more than the ID sea fee because the change in the Customs threshold has a greater impact on the provision of air cargo clearance by AQIS staff.

The revised fees have been prepared in close consultation with the AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC), and are based on the forecast of continuing growth in imports for the 2005-2006, 2006-2007 and 2007-08 financial years, as indicated by the AQIS cost-recovery model.

An updated version of the AQIS Fees and Charging Guidelines for the Import Clearance Program is available from AQIS Website: www.aqis.gov.au/charging. The amendments are on pages 6 - 8.

Operational changes

The significant increase in the number of low-value goods reported on SACs has led to periodic delays in AQIS screening activities. To address this, AQIS has taken a number of steps to minimise delays to the movement of goods reported on SACs. These include increasing existing resources devoted to screening activities and the recruitment and training of additional staff, as well as working co-operatively with Customs to implement changes to the ICS which are necessary to streamline the AQIS screening process for goods reported on a SAC.

To further minimise the potential for delayed cargo clearances, particularly during the peak importation period leading up to Christmas, AQIS is encouraging SAC reporters to:

- Report to the ICS as early as possible. This will maximise the timeframes for AQIS screening prior to the arrival of goods;
- Lodge Import Declaration style (Long Form) SACs for goods that are known to be subject to quarantine and are perishable, or other time-critical consignments. Providing this additional data allows for fully automated AQIS risk assessments;
- Avoid using the SAC indicator on cargo reports for goods transshipping through Australia to overseas destinations;
- Avoid lodging multiple SACs for a single consignment (such as in instances when delayed cargo status messaging is experienced); and
- Ensure the goods are described accurately in all SAC declarations.

✦ Changes to AQIS Requirements for Newly Manufactured Plywood

AQIS has reduced quarantine requirements for the importation of newly manufactured plywood and veneer sheets for most countries as a result of a review of the quarantine risks these commodities pose. The new rules came into effect on 4 November 2005.

AQIS recognises that the manufacturing processes involved in the production of plywood and veneer sheets significantly reduce quarantine risks. However, there is a possibility that these products may become re-infested after production. Therefore these products must be accompanied by a manufacturers' declaration stating that they were containerised within a certain time after manufacture. If this is not supplied, the goods are subject to a full unpack and inspection at a Quarantine Approved Premises, or a verification inspection prior to treatment.

Previously, products from Canada, Europe, Israel, Japan, the UK, the USA and New Zealand had to be accompanied by a manufacturers' declaration stating that they were containerised within 90 days of manufacture. For all other countries, a 21-day rule was applied.

But as a result of the review, the 90-day requirement has been expanded to cover imports from all countries, except for eight countries that have been identified as being of high risk. These have been identified on the basis of the interception record and specific dry wood pests. These high risk countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Fiji, Western Samoa and Vanuatu.

Plywood and veneer sheets from all countries (except those considered to be high risk) may be released if accompanied by a valid manufacturer's declaration stating the product has not been pre-used and has been containerised within 3 months (90 days) of manufacture.

Please note that the new conditions only apply to plywood and veneer sheet and do not include products or articles made from plywood and veneer, or for plywood that is used as timber packing. For products or articles made from plywood and veneer please refer to **Definitions of Timber and Timber products**. For details on packing material made of newly manufactured plywood please, please refer to **Cargo Containers -Quarantine aspects and procedures**.

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✦ **November 2005 AICCC Meeting**

The most recent meeting of the AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee was held on 23 November 2005 in Brisbane. A full report will appear in the next eBulletin. Briefly, the major topic discussed at the meeting was project management and work planned or currently underway by the AQIS Import Clearance and Seaports programs. One of the most important aspects of many of these projects was the collaborative approach adopted between AQIS and Industry, and the scope for industry to comment and participate directly in the process. Other issues discussed in detail included the impact of the introduction of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS), quarantine issues associated with timber imports, and ongoing work in the co-regulation area.

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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in September 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 19, 2005-06	Changes to the acceptance of methyl bromide fumigation treatment certificates from Thai treatment providers
2	Notice to Industry 20, 2005-06	Extension of 3 month rule for newly manufactured plywood and veneer sheet
3	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/20	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) – Malaysia
4	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/21	Continuation of AEP Under ICS
5	Notice to Industry 21, 2005-06	Temporary change to manual giant African snail (GAS) holds for Melbourne and Brisbane
6	Notice to Industry 22, 2005-06	Extended opening hours for entry processing at AQIS offices in major ports
7	Notice to Industry 23, 2005-06	AQIS Import Clearance Fees – Fee Amendments Due to Customs Threshold Change - Effective from Monday 14 November 2005
8	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0448	Changes to Schedule 5 of the Quarantine Proclamation November 2005
9	PQA 0447	Burnt Pine Longicorn season 05/06 commencement
10	PQA 0428	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS)

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
11	PQA 0452	Notice to Industry 24-11-2005: Additional hosts of Guava Rust
12	Notice to Industry 24, 2005-06	Delayed implementation of profile questions for Minerals and Ores
13	Notice to Industry 25, 2005-06	Extended Opening Hours for Entry Processing at Sydney AQIS Office
14	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/22	Quarantine Approved Premises – Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme – Extension of the On-Line Re-Accreditation Training Package
15	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/23	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) – Thailand
16	PQA 0442	Federal Court Appeal Decision Regarding the Importation of Pig Meat into Australia
17	Notice to Industry 26, 2005-06	AQIS Cargo Screening Activities - Reducing Delays in Processing of Goods Reported on Self Assessed Clearance (SAC) Declarations
18	PQA 0450	USA citrus fruit - preclearance coordinator
19	PQA 0449	Notice to Bulb Importing Industry - Removal of 20,000 bulb quota for non-accredited bulbs

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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** ✦