



**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**

#### **✦ "*Broker Reports*" Released in Western Australia**

A new AQIS system designed to keep brokers and other importers up to date with their quarantine entries has just been launched in Western Australia. The "*Broker Reports*" system allows brokers to monitor the progress of AQIS services and fees related to each quarantine entry via the Internet. It will allow them to see the status of each entry, how much they currently owe and then (if the entry is finalised) find out the total amount owing, before the actual invoice is sent off from AQIS. This system is expected to eventually have a payments function so that brokers can make a direct payment to AQIS via the Internet site. The system has been designed for maximum flexibility by the end user (the broker / importer) and can be accessed through the Internet via a secure password logon.

There are significant potential cost savings in this system for AQIS and for clients. For AQIS, it should reduce the time spent dealing with queries and disputes, while allowing it to better align its costs to the correct services. For brokers, one of the biggest advantages will be the ability to monitor and view more detailed information on each entry than has been possible previously with existing systems.

The "*Broker Reports*" system has been developed in response to a need identified by Industry to provide brokers and importers with as much information as possible to confirm AQIS services and fees on an import declaration. The system has been developed and tested with detailed involvement over the past months by a peer group of Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) members and, more recently, a reference group of NSW brokers. Feedback on the facility throughout the trials has been positive and indicates that the reports will be useful in a number of areas. In particular, it should help brokers to monitor the progress of entries through the quarantine processes and thus proactively assist in the cargo clearance process. It will allow brokers to view a 'snapshot' of AQIS services and charges recorded against entries in the AQIS system, in turn assisting brokers to recover AQIS charges from their clients. It was also noted that the system would be useful in minimising costs to brokers relating to unpaid AQIS fees from broker clients.

The facility will be implemented in a staged process throughout Australia, commencing with brokers in Western Australia from mid-February 2004. Once introduced in Western Australia, Queensland will be the next State to be offered access to the "*Broker Reports*" system.

It should be noted that the "*Broker Reports*" system will not replace the existing e-mail broker notification system in the short term - AQIS will maintain the e-mail Broker Notification process that is currently running. Once the system is fully implemented, AQIS will assess the ongoing need for the e-mail notification. Brokers in Western Australia interested in using the new system should contact the Broker Reports team by sending an email to: [brokerreportsadmin@aqis.gov.au](mailto:brokerreportsadmin@aqis.gov.au).

## ✦ AQIS Simplifies Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) Re-registration Process

As part of AQIS's ongoing commitment to improving its systems, it is changing the re-registration process for Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) for 2004-05 in order to streamline the process for industry. Previously, each of the 2200-plus businesses with QAP registration across Australia has been required to complete the entire seven-page application form each year when applying for re-registration. However, in recognition of the time this requires to complete, and in line with AQIS's goal of reducing regulatory burden, businesses applying for QAP re-registration will now only need to complete and return a single-page form. This form will be pre-printed with the current registered details of premises to simplify the re-registration process further. AQIS will be mailing out these new re-registration forms during March 2004 to all registered QAPs. Also, in response to a number of queries and suggestions from industry, AQIS will be sending out the invoice for the 2004-05 registration fee (\$800) at the same time as the new re-registration forms.

AQIS has also made a small modification to the registered name section of the application form. If a QAP is not registered in the name of a legal entity (such as a company or a natural person), then the original registration application form will need to be completed. This will allow AQIS to update the previous non-legal entity QAP name (such as a business name or trading name). Any QAPs that are registered under the names of non-legal entities will receive copies of this form, together with additional information to assist in the re-registration process.

AQIS reminds businesses with QAP registration that they are required to disclose any changes to the status of the business or any staff in relation to any offences described in the *Quarantine Act 1908* and other relevant legislation. Businesses are also encouraged to return their completed re-registration forms by 31 May 2004 in order to ensure they remain registered in the 2004-05 financial year.

Further details in relation to the re-registration process can be obtained by contacting the Quarantine Approved Premises Officer in your regional AQIS office:

NSW	(02) 8334 7512	Nth QLD	(07) 4030 7823	VIC	(03) 8318 6948
ACT	(02) 6230 7979	SA	(08) 8305 9777	WA	(08) 9311 5308
Sth QLD	(07) 3264 8760	TAS	(03) 6421 7613	NT	(08) 8999 2136

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## ✦ Update on AQIS-Related CMR and ICS Issues

Although the implementation date for the Imports release of the Australian Customs Service (Customs) Integrated Cargo System (ICS) is temporarily delayed, AQIS is continuing to develop its own systems to support streamlined cargo movements under the new CMR declaration processing arrangements. AQIS, as a major stakeholder in controlling the movement of goods imported to and exported from Australia, has worked closely with Customs throughout the ICS development process and has implemented separate CMR projects of its own to manage AQIS IT developments and business changes for its Exports and Imports functions. AQIS Cargo Management has responsibility for the development of import systems, through the AQIS Cargo Management Re-engineering (Imports) (CMRI) Project.

There are currently 23 staff involved in the CMRI Project (IT contractors and permanent AQIS officers) and at this stage, total project costs are expected to be around \$2.7 million. The project is overseen by a distinct AQIS governance committee, which is comprised of key stakeholders from AQIS, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, import industry representatives and representatives from the Customs CMR project. Industry representation regarding quarantine and imported foods matters is co-ordinated through the Chair of the AQIS / Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC), and through the involvement of the ICS User Representative.

AQIS has three main objectives for its CMRI Project:

- To maintain business continuity for AQIS import entry management systems;
- To ready AQIS business processes in preparation for CMR; and
- To put in place arrangements to support enhancements to existing AQIS entry processing for the longer term.

Similar to the current arrangements, AQIS processing of import entries under CMR will continue to operate downstream of Customs. AQIS will use information already entered into Customs systems, transferred across into its own computer systems. As is the case for current processes under COMPILE, under CMR AQIS will continue to receive import declaration data from the Customs system based on the operation of AQIS profiles in the ICS. Whilst AQIS has had input into the ICS design process (to ensure that the

system is capable of supporting AQIS entry processing requirements) the CMRI Project's primary focus is on reviewing and enhancing AQIS entry management systems to allow AQIS to receive and process import declarations in line with ICS functionality, and effectively exchange data with the Customs system.

From a broker's perspective, the AQIS system changes under CMR are not expected to impact significantly on the data currently required by AQIS on an import declaration. Similarly, the CMRI Project will not materially change current AQIS operational practices for reviewing documentation, inspecting goods and processing import entries from a quarantine perspective. The major, noticeable differences between current arrangements and those introduced under CMR will include:

- Replacement of the existing process for lodging a quarantine entry (via the Joint Entry Management System – JEMS) with an integrated declaration process whereby information is supplied for both Customs and AQIS purposes through a combined declaration protocol;
- Revisions to existing profile questions to make them more straightforward and 'user-friendly'; and
- Inclusion of additional data on an AIMS direction.

Information regarding AQIS data requirements is being advised to Industry through the Customs communications networks – that is, through advice to 3rd party software providers and direct to Industry representatives through meetings and, at this stage, through the various rounds of planned Industry information seminars regarding import declaration processing. AQIS is working with Customs to ensure that the AQIS components of import declaration processing are sufficiently covered in the Customs training and publicity material. AQIS also provides advice on questions arising from Industry to Customs in their information sessions and provides the information back through either AQIS industry notices or, more often, through the Customs communications channels.

In addition to the IT systems development outlined above, CMRI Project activities are also aimed at ensuring AQIS staff are trained in using the new version of its entry management systems, and developing contingency arrangements and business continuity plans associated with the introduction of the ICS.

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### ✦ Seaports Form Changes

Shipping agents are reminded that AQIS has made amendments to several vessel clearance forms, which became effective on 1 March 2004. These changes relate to the Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (QPAR) and the introduction of the AQIS Ballast Water Log. Both documents are the result of close consultation between the shipping industry and AQIS staff in order to ensure that quarantine controls were enhanced while minimising any effects on clients' operations.

Several changes have been made to the QPAR (AQIS Form 6):

- A question has been added that provides for vessels to indicate the estimated date and time of arrival at anchorage - for vessels intending to anchor prior to berthing;
- Questions related to the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) have also been updated to reflect the improved level of knowledge about the species' distribution and to bring the document in line with New Zealand requirements; and
- Questions relating to livestock and grain cargoes have been modified and now include a requirement to declare any kind of animal or plant meal carried in recent cargoes. The number of cargoes that require reporting of animal or plant meal has been increased from six to ten.

With regard to ballast water management, industry comments and suggestions made during the post-implementation review of Australia's ballast water reporting requirements indicated that the existing system could be simplified. As a result, AQIS has replaced the former two ballast water reporting forms (Ballast Water Treatment/Exchange Log and Ballast Water Uptake/Discharge Log – AQIS forms 26a & b) with a single document – the AQIS Ballast Water Log (AQIS form 26). The new document is more closely aligned with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) template and continues to reflect IMO guidelines. AQIS will continue to monitor, assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the revised documents and will consider further enhancements if and when these are required.

Further details on how to complete these updated forms, and all other Seaports documents can be accessed by [clicking here](#) or by contacting [seaports@aqis.gov.au](mailto:seaports@aqis.gov.au).

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

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
1	<a href="#">Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0313</a>	Stockfeed from New Zealand
2	<a href="#">PQA 0311</a>	Changes to feather import conditions following avian influenza in Asia
3	<a href="#">PQA 0314</a>	Changed documentation requirements for imported dried fruits and vegetables
4	<a href="#">Imported Food Notice 06/04</a>	Labelling of importer details on duty free alcohol
5	<a href="#">PQA 0315</a>	New ICON case for cooked and boiled banana leaves
6	<a href="#">PQA 0316</a>	Phoxim as a preservative for soft wood ply in shipping containers
7	<a href="#">PQA 0318</a>	Workshop for brokers and importers on new pet food requirements, to be held on 4 March 2004
8	<a href="#">PQA 0319</a>	Offshore Ethylene Oxide (ETO) fumigation
9	<a href="#">PQA 0317</a>	QAP requirement changes for imported stockfeed subject to ruminant DNA testing
10	<a href="#">Imported Food Notice 08/04</a>	Extension to EML Consulting Services QLD conditions of appointment
11	<a href="#">Notice to Industry 14, 2003-04</a>	NT container inspection procedures for Giant African Snail (GAS)
12	<a href="#">PQA 0320</a>	Notice to Industry - NT container inspection procedures for GAS
13	<a href="#">PQA 0296</a>	New and used horse equipment

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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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