



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



Cargo Management eBulletin

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Providing information to the Cargo and Shipping industries on the latest AQIS developments

✦ New Managers in AQIS Cargo Management and Shipping

There have been a number of changes in management within the AQIS Cargo Management and Shipping branch. **Mr Tim Chapman** has joined AQIS from Customs as National Manager, Cargo Management and Shipping, replacing **Mr Robert Murphy** who has moved to another area of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

In addition, **Mr Colin Hunter**, currently National Program Manager of the Import Clearance Program, will be leaving this role later this month to take up the position of Regional Manager, AQIS South Australia. **Mr Robert Langlands**, currently National Program Manager of the Seaports Program, will be replacing Mr Hunter.

✦ Broker Re-accreditation Update

Brokers that need to complete the re-accreditation training package in order to maintain accreditation under the Broker Accreditation Scheme (BAS) are advised that training should be available through the CBFA website from early **April 2007**.

All brokers that gained accreditation prior to **1 September 2006** will need to complete the re-accreditation training. Brokers who gained accreditation after 1 September 2006 are not required to complete re-accreditation at this time.

As accreditation is valid for two years, AQIS is aware that some brokers' accreditation will lapse before the training becomes available in April. However, in these cases AQIS will extend the accreditation until the deadline for completion of the re-accreditation training (which will be six weeks after the training becomes available). Further information will be provided once the re-accreditation package is available. Any enquiries about re-accreditation or the BAS should be directed to AQIS via email at brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au.

After enrolling in the accreditation training package through the CBFA participants will need to complete via e-learning two mandatory online modules: "Quarantine Awareness" and "Compliance Agreements". Once these two modules have been successfully completed, participants can then attend the two-day training session held at their local AQIS regional office.

✦ Providers of a New Hot Water Quarantine Treatment Required

In an effort to avoid the spread of an invasive fresh water pest that has already caused significant damage in New Zealand, AQIS is seeking QAPs interested in providing a new hot water quarantine treatment for clients.

Didymosphenia geminata, more commonly known as “**rock snot**” because of its appearance, is a freshwater algae that grows very quickly, out competing other organisms and drastically changing the ecological balance of rivers and lakes. Overseas experience suggests that rock snot could be introduced to Australia through a range of different types of goods. These items include:

- porous goods (felt soled waders, leather top boots, neoprene wetsuits, and foam inserts in kayaks), and
- non-porous goods (rods, reels, fishing lines, flies, tackle boxes and nets).

AQIS is therefore introducing appropriate control measures for rock snot. Some of the treatment options would involve immersion in water at 45°C or hotter, with the possible addition of detergents or bleach.

If your QAP is interested in offering the above treatments as a commercial service to importers, you will need a suitable vessels for immersion, such as barrels, large tubs or tanks. The container would need to be fitted with something to keep items such as wetsuits underwater. Water temperature could be maintained above 45°C with an immersion heater. Alternatively the vessel could be filled with pre heated water, but care would have to be taken that the temperature was still above the required temperature at the end of the treatment period.



Photo courtesy of Biosecurity New Zealand

If your QAP is ready is ready to offer this treatment, you will need to contact your AQIS Approved Premises Officer (APO) so that they can inspect your treatment set-up and activate your premises in the AQIS system. This will mean AQIS can start directing goods to be treated to your QAP.

✦ Review of Quarantine Waste Management Practices

Quarantine waste is recognised as posing a high quarantine risk. Over the last 12 months, AQIS has been conducting a review of current quarantine waste management practices. This review aims to:

- ensure the current quarantine waste management practices are effective in managing current and emerging risks to Australia’s pest and disease free status, and
- provide consistency in the management of quarantine waste across all import activities.

This review started with a “stock take” of the current practices used to manage quarantine waste. This stock take information in turn provided the basis for the development of a Quarantine Waste Management Manual. The new Quarantine Waste Manual will contain all approved methods for the collection, storage, transport and treatment of quarantine waste. Additionally, it will also outline how a company can gain approval for a new waste treatment.

At present a scientific assessment of several practices is being undertaken by Biosecurity Australia. Once this assessment is complete AQIS will make the final draft of the Quarantine Waste Management Manual available to stakeholders to seek further feedback.

It is possible that the review may highlight some existing quarantine waste management practices that may need to be phased out. Should this happen, AQIS will work closely with all companies involved to develop alternative methods for managing the quarantine waste, and a period of time to adopt these methods.

If you would like to know more about the review into quarantine waste, please contact Ms Kerrie Boulton by either emailing kerrie.boulton@aqis.gov.au or alternatively by telephone on (02) 6272 5447.

✦ AFAS Update

The Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) is an important tool in AQIS's efforts to reduce quarantine risk, by addressing risks offshore before goods arrive in Australia. AFAS offers participating countries onsite industry and government training, so that fumigation providers can perform methyl bromide treatments to Australian quarantine standards. Implementing countries also develop and implement fumigation training, registration, monitoring and control systems. The AFAS program commenced in Indonesia in June 2004, followed by Malaysia in December 2005, Thailand in March 2006 and India in September 2006.

As part of AFAS, each country also has to undergo an annual Joint Systems Audit to ensure that fumigators are performing treatments to the required standard at all times. This also provides increased assurance to Australian industry that AFAS treatments have been performed correctly, reducing the chances that consignments have to undergo costly re-treatments on arrival in Australia. The 2007 round of Audits will commence in Indonesia in March 2007, followed by India in May 2007, and Thailand and Malaysia towards the end of 2007.

The AFAS system is currently in the process of expanding to China and the Philippines. AFAS training and assessment was delivered to 160 Chinese quarantine officials in four locations around China during 2006, in preparation for delivering training to fumigators. Initial AFAS training was also completed in the Philippines in 2006. It is expected that the Scheme will be fully implemented in both China and the Philippines by July 2007. Other countries are also expected to commence the AFAS process in 2007, with training in Papua New Guinea expected to commence shortly. [Click here for further information about AFAS.](#)

✦ AQIS Considers Account Client Trial for AIMS

AQIS is considering a trial with a small number of industry clients that would remove the inconvenience of up front payment obligations for regular users of AQIS services. It would also assist in reducing the considerable expenses currently incurred in debt collection and managing the issuing of credits for pre-payments for services that were not required.

The trial involves setting up the regular, financially reliable users of AQIS services as "account clients" in the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS), so they would not need to pay up front for AQIS services. Instead, they would be invoiced on a regular basis. AQIS believes that the trial has the potential to significantly reduce the burden on industry in relation to the timing of payments as well as the amount of time and expense AQIS devotes to revenue activities.

The trial represents part of a larger shift in AQIS finance systems. Over the past couple of years, AQIS has been developing electronic methods that standardise the way revenue is collected and processed across the organisation. New AQIS systems are making use of this technology already, but older systems such as AIMS cannot be easily modified to use the new technology.

✦ Trial of Proposed Inspection Procedure for Empty Containers from Giant African Snail (GAS) Countries

As part of a wider GAS review project, AQIS will be trialling a proposed Giant African Snail (GAS) inspection procedure for imported empty containers in Brisbane. GAS is a serious quarantine pest due to its rapid breeding rate and ability to eat a very wide range of plants, including Australian native species.

Normally when a container is imported from a GAS country, it must be set aside within the wharf area until AQIS officers can conduct a full inspection to make sure none of the snails have become attached. This differs to the approach taken for non-GAS containers, which only require inspection at the External Container Inspection Regime (ECIR) point prior to leaving the wharf area.

The three month trial in Brisbane involves selected empty containers from several GAS countries. Rather than undergoing a GAS inspection by AQIS officers inside the wharf area, these containers will be

inspected externally using an enhanced ECIR inspection, before being transported to designated quarantine approved premises (QAPs) for internal GAS inspection by an accredited person. Only containers loaded onto high visibility trailers, such as skels, will be allowed to participate in the trial thus facilitating the external inspection of the underside of containers. Extensive external and internal verification inspections will be carried out by AQIS staff to verify the effectiveness of the enhanced ECIR inspections.

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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in February 2007**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0447	Burnt Pine Longicorn season 06/07 commencement
2	PQA 0507	How to search ICON for plant species
3	PQA 0484	Changes to import conditions for used fresh water fishing and recreational water equipment
4	PQA 0509	<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> - revised host list
5	PQA 0021	Manufacturer's declarations - format requirements

✦ **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** ✦