



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

✦ AQIS Review of Giant African Snail Risk Countries Almost Complete

AQIS is nearing completion of its review of countries that pose a risk for the importation of the Giant African Snail, and has released a draft version of its final list.

The AQIS GAS Country Action List was reviewed for two main reasons:

- To ensure that it accurately reflects the distribution of GAS and the risk posed by the importation of shipping containers from these countries, and
- To reduce the two current lists in operation to a single version that would apply across Australia. At present there are two GAS country lists in operation – one which applies to all Australian states and territories, and a second list of additional countries which applies to containers destined for the Northern Territory only.

AQIS has revised the list in consultation with Biosecurity Australia and a consultant statistician, and considered information from the international literature, trade volumes and AQIS GAS interception data. The number of countries on the draft version of the new list has increased, but many of the new additions have low volumes of imported container trade with Australia (less than 500 containers per annum).

AQIS has notified World Trade Organisation (WTO) member countries affected by changes to the GAS Country Action list. These countries also have the opportunity to provide further supporting scientific evidence to AQIS about their GAS status, which may in turn result in their removal from the list. Non-WTO member countries on the GAS list have also been informed directly by AQIS.

AQIS will provide further information to industry about the final AQIS GAS Country Action List when the notification process is complete. The List is expected to be finalised for Australia-wide implementation in August 2005. [Click here to access the final draft of the AQIS GAS Country Action List.](#)

✦ AFAS System Expands in Indonesia

The number of Indonesian fumigators participating in the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) continues to increase, with 66 fumigators now accredited under the system. This is a significant increase from the 20 operators that were originally accredited when AFAS came into effect in June 2004.

Under the AFAS scheme, the Indonesian Agricultural Quarantine Agency (IAQA) maintains a list of Indonesian fumigation companies that have been assessed and certified for performing methyl bromide fumigations that meet AQIS standards. Under AFAS, fumigation certificates from Indonesian treatment facilities will only be acceptable if they are valid and:

- Are from companies on the list of Acceptable Indonesian Treatment Providers, or
- Are from unregistered companies but have been endorsed by an IAQA quarantine officer with IAQA's AFAS identification number, IAQA's official seal, and the signature of the monitoring Indonesian quarantine officer.

A complete list of acceptable Indonesian methyl bromide treatment providers can be found in the **Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) Resources Document** ([click here](#)).

Indonesian fumigation companies seeking IAQA Registration should contact Mr Suparno SA or Mr Turhadi in Jakarta, Indonesia on telephone (62 21) 780 5641 extn 1512, or (62 21) 781 6483.

The implementation of AFAS has also proved to be of significant benefit to AQIS and importers alike. For example, there was a 6% reduction in quarantine redirections due to failed fumigations in the first quarter of 2005, compared to the same (pre-AFAS) period in 2004. AQIS is now working with authorities in India, Thailand and Malaysia and is hoping to have AFAS systems in place in these countries by the end of 2005.

✦ Review of the April 2005 AICCC Meeting

The AICCC held its 40th meeting in Sydney on 13th April 2005. The major discussion items revolved around the implementation stage of the Value / Efficiency project, with members noting that the establishment of National Coordination Centres had already moved a range of functions from Canberra to other locations (Fertiliser to Newcastle, Machinery and GAS to Brisbane) with further commodities to follow. Other measures under consideration were the establishments of National Information and Contact Centre, National Centralised Bookings and National Zetafax Handling which would potentially deliver substantial resource savings.

Other items of particular interest to industry were:

Import Clearance Performance Measurement System - A progress report was tabled outlining developments and improvements in the monitoring systems employed by AQIS to track compliance with a range of quarantine requirements. The report was based on a survey of more than 2000 ISPM 15 marked timber packing items in January 2005. AQIS was also using the Container Examination Facilities of the Australian Customs Service to check on Quarantine compliance.

Timber Quarantine - Issues covered included further developments in the ISPM 15 area and measures under consideration for green sawn timber imports. Major changes had also been made in the risk classification of panel products such as MDF, Masonite and Particleboard, following close co-operation between AQIS and Biosecurity Australia (BA). While these changes had already resulted in a substantial drop in referrals, AQIS was considering changes to the risk classification of a number of other products. Industry expressed its appreciation of the results of the close co-operation between AQIS and BA.

Co-regulation - The meeting received progress reports on major re-accreditation training for Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) and Brokers. In the QAP area, substantial changes in the registration criteria were planned for many QAP classes and would be introduced in 2005-06. AQIS also advised that it would substantially upgrade its compliance audit functionality. Encouraging expansion was reported in the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme.

CMR - The meeting received a detailed briefing on AQIS progress in this area, concentrating on end to end industry testing and progress in the Business Continuity Planning area in case problems arose with the new system.

Imported Food Program – Administrative changes were discussed which would see all food issues (both import and export) handled by the Technical Standards Branch of AQIS. This co-location should achieve better technical and resource effectiveness in the food safety area.

2005/6 Budget and Business Planning – Some detailed discussions took place on these topics involving the Import Clearance and Seaports Programs, following industry input provided out of session. There was general agreement on the budget and business goals.

Biosecurity issues - BA gave a detailed report on some issues in connection with its current restructure. The report also described how the combined AQIS and BA projects were delivering positive outcomes for Industry by collaboratively reassessing quarantine risks associated with a range of commodities.

Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) - The meeting received detailed reports on IQI, and noted continuing improvements and cost savings related to external container inspections in most regions. The meeting also discussed alternative intervention measures for IQI activities in the air container and HVLV areas.

Other issues - Other issues discussed included IT developments, reports on e-learning projects, Quarantine Awareness, and reports from a range of other committees such as the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council and AQIS's Cargo Management Committee. The committee also again discussed the composition of its membership to ensure that all relevant industries interests were adequately catered for.

✦ Training Available for the External Container Scheme

Online training is now available for industry personnel wishing to become accredited for the External Container Scheme (ECS). The ECS has been implemented to allow industry to assess the external cleanliness of imported shipping containers after they have been washed at an appropriate Quarantine Approved Premises. The containers are ordered into quarantine for external cleaning from ECIR stations due to the presence of excessive external contamination. The scheme, developed jointly by AQIS and industry, represents significant time and cost savings for eligible companies as they will no longer require a Quarantine Officer to inspect the container after it has been cleaned.

The ECS operates under the framework of an Import Clearance Compliance Agreement established between AQIS and each company signed onto the scheme. Businesses interested in the ECS can access information on the AQIS website at:
www.aqis.gov.au/iccomplianceagreements.

Businesses that are not already operating under another Compliance Agreement need to complete and return copies of the Standard Terms, the External Container Scheme Schedule, and a completed Registration and Request for Details form. Businesses already signed onto a different AQIS Compliance Agreement will be covered by the standard terms of the existing Scheme.

Once a company has signed up to the ECS, employees performing the container inspections must first complete an online training package which is followed by a practical training session. To register for the on-line training component, companies must apply to the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ) via email at iwgq@aiccc.com. Each company will then receive access details for the online training system.

Upon the completion of the on-line element of the accreditation process, participants then need to complete a practical training session conducted by a Quarantine Officer before gaining their accreditation. The practical training will focus on particular elements of the External Container Scheme and will be available within your region. Participants should note that they cannot carry out any ECS activities unless their employer has signed up to the scheme. **Further information on the ECS can be accessed by clicking here.**

CMR Update

AQIS is continuing its preparations for the "switch-on" of the Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS) planned for 20 July 2005. AQIS has commenced training its staff to operate the upgraded versions of its systems. This training will be carried out with officers in New South Wales and South Australia in June, and then rolled out to staff in all other regions in

July/August 2005. AQIS is also migrating its new import management systems into a production environment in early June in readiness for the July ICS implementation and an expected full reporting 'cutover' to the ICS in October 2005.

AQIS representatives are participating in discussions with industry and Customs regarding business continuity arrangements, to ensure that industry will not be unduly affected in the event of major systems outages during the ICS implementation period. A set of draft AQIS operating principles for quarantine and imported food clearance activities during an outage were distributed in early May 2005 for industry consideration.

To assist industry testing in preparation for ICS implementation, AQIS will participate in upcoming 'business simulation' exercises being planned by Customs for late June 2005. In the interim, AQIS has been supporting co-ordinated 'end-to-end' testing of a set of critical Customs/AQIS system functions by industry software developers and nominated industry clients.

Industry should note that the changeover to the ICS may affect businesses operating under AQIS compliance agreements that elect to establish multiple branches as part of their ICS client record. Under the existing COMPILE system, users are restricted to a single COMPILE User Site ID for each office within a business reporting to Customs. However, under the ICS, system users will have the option to register multiple branch identifiers, or share a single branch identifier across multiple offices. The operation of AQIS penalties against businesses that register multiple branch identifiers against a single compliance agreement will be unaffected. Accordingly, AQIS does not require businesses that elect to set up multiple branches for their ICS reporting to establish additional compliance agreements. However, businesses that elect to 'share' a branch identifier between different compliance agreement holders (offices) within the organisation are advised that AQIS penalties applied to the shared branch will apply to all compliance agreement holders who report using the offending branch. [Click here for further information \(Compliance Agreement Notice 01/2005\)](#).

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✦ Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in May 2005

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
1	Amendments to the Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) Resources Document - 1 May 2005, Appendix 1	Acceptable Indonesian and Italian Treatment Providers
2	Amendments to the CCC Resources Document - 1 May 2005, Appendix 2	Unacceptable Treatment Providers
3	Amendments to the CCC Resources Document - 1 May 2005, Appendix 4	Amendments
4	List of Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) for Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) 1 May 2005	Updated list of QAPs with AEP approval
5	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0414	On arrival verifications for air freight perishables
6	Compliance Agreement Notice 10/2005	Re-accreditation reminder - Containerised Cargo Clearance for FCL/X, Automatic Entry Processing for FCL and LCL Packing schemes
7	PQA 0415	Change to import conditions for

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
		Malus spp., Pyrus spp., Prunus spp., and Vitis spp. germplasm
8	Amendments to the CCC Resources Document - 15 May 2005, Appendix 2	Unacceptable Treatment Providers
9	Amendments to the CCC Resources Document - 15 May 2005, Appendix 4	Amendments
10	Notice to Industry 14/2004-05	Revised AQIS Giant African Snail (GAS) Country Action List
11	PQA 0413	Extension of Burnt Pine Longicorn season for New Zealand timber
12	PQA 0306	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) - Indonesia
13	PQA 0416	ISPM 15 acronyms used in France and Spain

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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** ✦