



**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**

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### **✦ New AQIS Timber National Co-ordination Centre**

AQIS is centralising the operations of its timber-related activities to the AQIS Victorian Regional Office in Melbourne. The resulting National Co-ordination Centre (NCC) for Timber and Timber Products will commence its operations on 15 August 2005.

The new NCC will have responsibility for coordinating day-to-day operations of AQIS's timber related activities from all regions around Australia. Timber related activities to be performed in Melbourne will include:

- Responding to all timber enquiries through a centralised timber imports email address and telephone enquiry line,
- Issuing non-standard timber permits – such as woodchips and sawdust, and
- Low risk wooden article assessments.

The establishment of the NCC will only affect clients that dealt with the Canberra office on timber-related issues – these functions will now be performed by the NCC. Client issues that are already managed through the AQIS Regional Offices, such as booking inspections and clearance of quarantine entries, will continue to be managed in this way.

From 15 August 2005, the National Co-ordination Centre for Timber and Timber Products can be contacted by telephone between 9.00-12.30 and 1.30-4.00 on (03) 8318 6929, or via email on [timber.imports@aqis.gov.au](mailto:timber.imports@aqis.gov.au).

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### **✦ New Executive Director for AQIS**

Peter Yuile is AQIS's new Executive Director, replacing Meryl Stanton after her five years in the role. Peter, who took up his appointment at the beginning of this month, was most recently Deputy Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services. In this role, he had particular responsibility for aviation, transport security, safety and investigations, regional policy and programs, and people and performance management.

During his career he has worked on developing Australia's trade and economic relations particularly with Asia — including three years in Korea, where he was the Counsellor (Trade Policy) in the Australian Embassy. Peter has also worked on corporate management and government relations issues, and has been closely involved in natural resource access and economic, social and environmental management issues relating to forests and fisheries.

He has also worked in the former Departments of Trade and Primary Industries and Energy, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

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### ✦ Improving Fumigation Effectiveness for Plastic-wrapped Products

Many commodities imported into Australia are wrapped in plastic for ease of handling and storage, but this wrapping can sometimes inhibit the penetration of chemicals used in the fumigation process. These wrappings are commonly cut or slashed prior to onshore fumigation, where this needs to be undertaken. This can delay clearance of consignments and involve additional costs to importers. Use of perforated plastic wrapping can avoid this. AQIS does not currently have any standards in place that establish how much perforation is required.

To address this, AQIS has initiated a process to introduce a standard relating to plastic wrapping perforations. AQIS is proposing to adopt the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standard for perforations of plastic wrapping. This standard outlines a set number of perforations per set area, such as nine perforations of 0.6cm diameter/100cm<sup>2</sup> or 20 perforations of 0.4cm diameter/100cm<sup>2</sup> area on the plastic wrap. Full details of the USDA standard can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Please note that if AQIS adopts this standard, goods that are not wrapped with perforated plastic will still be accepted. However, in these cases the plastic will need to be slashed before fumigation, in line with the current practice.

As part of this process, AQIS has sought industry feedback on this proposal and advice regarding the use of the existing USDA perforation standard. AQIS has already received a number of comments on this proposal from within AQIS and from industry, and is in the process of considering whether any further changes to the standard are warranted. Once this review process is complete, AQIS will inform industry of any new options to facilitate clearance. AQIS is hoping to implement this standard by December 2005.

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### ✦ Upcoming AICCC meeting – August 2005

The next meeting of the AICCC will be held in Sydney on 17 August 2005. The major issue for consideration will be business planning and budgets, along with a number of other regular issues. These include:

- progress reports on:
    - Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) for imports,
    - The Import Clearance Performance Management System
    - Timber and associated quarantine issues, and
    - Co-regulation
  - Financial matters
  - Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) reports:
    - High Volume Low Value (HVLV), Air Cargo and containers,
    - External Container Inspection Regime (ECIR), and
    - Seaports.
  - Biosecurity issues
  - Committee Reports:
    - Quarantine Exports Advisory Council (QEAC)
    - Cargo Management Committee (CMC)
    - Regional Managers/Cargo Management Steering Committee (RM/CM SC)
    - Imported Foods Consultative Committee (IFCC)
    - Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ)
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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in July 2005**

<b>Reference Number</b>	<b>Document</b> (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	<b>Overview</b>
1	<b>Notice to Industry 1 2005/06</b>	National Co-ordination Centre for Timber and Timber Products in Melbourne
2	<b>Notice to Industry 2 2005/06</b>	Changes to the AQIS Import Clearance fees and the implications for nursery stock clients
3	<b>Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0429</b>	Notice to Industry 2/2005-06 Changes to the AQIS Import Clearance fees for nursery stock clients
4	<b>Notice to Industry 3 2005/06</b>	National Co-ordination Centre for Timber and Timber Products in Melbourne
5	<b>PQA 0426</b>	Notice to Industry 3/2005 National Co-ordination Centre for Timber and Timber Products in Melbourne
6	<b>PQA 0431</b>	Notice to nursery stock and seed importers
7	<b>Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/12</b>	Quarantine Approved Premises – Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme – Expiry of Accreditation
8	<b>Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/13</b>	Quarantine Approved Premises – Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme - Accreditation Expiration
9	<b>Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/14</b>	Procedure for Notifying AQIS of Branch ID Linking
10	<b>Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/15</b>	Quarantine Approved Premises – Class One Sea And Air Freight Depots Scheme - Accreditation Expiration - Reminder

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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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