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Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



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✦ Current issues concerning AQIS Cargo Management and the Cargo and Seaports Industries

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✦ AFAS to Expand to Malaysia

AQIS will shortly be expanding the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) to Malaysia. The expansion of AFAS to Malaysia is the result of a close working relationship between AQIS and the Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Division (CPPQ), Department of Agriculture, Malaysia.

AQIS expects to receive and publish a list of Acceptable Malaysian Treatment Providers by the end of September 2005. Once published, a 30 day phase in period will commence where AQIS will begin accepting fumigation certificates from Malaysian AFAS accredited fumigators. During this period, AQIS will continue accepting all valid Malaysian treatment certificates (providing the facility is not on AQIS's Unacceptable Treatment Provider List). But once this period is finished, certificates from Malaysian methyl bromide fumigation companies will only be accepted by AQIS if they are valid and are from facilities on the AQIS list of Acceptable Malaysian Treatment Providers (i.e. the list of AFAS Registered Malaysian Treatment Providers produced by the CPPQ). This will bring Malaysia into line with imports from Indonesia, where certificates are only accepted from fumigators that have demonstrated an ability to perform effective treatment for quarantine.

Industry can periodically check the AFAS web site at www.aqis.gov.au/AFAS for updates on the implementation of AFAS for Malaysia. AQIS will publish the list of Acceptable Malaysian Treatment Providers on this site and at www.aqis.gov.au/treatmentproviders as soon as it is available. In the interim, industry may contact Malaysian methyl bromide treatment providers to confirm that their company will be included on the CPPQ Register. [Click here for further information about AFAS in Malaysia.](#)

AQIS will provide additional notices to industry with updates on the implementation of AFAS for Malaysia. AQIS is also working in collaboration with other countries to facilitate the accreditation of their fumigation treatment providers under AFAS. AQIS anticipates implementing AFAS for Thailand in November 2005 and AFAS for India by 31 December 2005. For further information on AFAS, please contact AFAS@aqis.gov.au.

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✦ Planning Continues for Introduction of CMR for Imports

The Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS) – Imports component was released on 19 July 2005, with the cutover to mandatory ICS reporting scheduled for all imports arriving on or after 12 October 2005. AQIS's core systems are in place in preparation for the cutover, and have demonstrated their ability to process production data received from the ICS.

AQIS preparations for ICS cutover are nearing completion and are well advanced to support the target 12 October cutover date. In particular:

CMR Help Desk – AQIS has established a dedicated ICS help desk in the Melbourne Regional Office. AQIS support staff will be based at the help desk throughout the ICS transition period (September - October 2005) to address the peak of anticipated Industry queries, as well as answering internal AQIS staff questions. Contact details for the AQIS help desk are planned to be published to industry clients in early September.

Business continuity plans – AQIS has developed business continuity plans for adoption in the event of either short or longer-term outages in AQIS and Customs electronic systems. Desktop trials of the AQIS plans will be conducted in AQIS regional offices in early September.

Testing - Planned AQIS testing of message exchanges between AQIS's electronic systems and the ICS is complete, with remaining activity focussed on monitoring and testing of ICS fixes of interest to AQIS. AQIS is continuing to support industry testing of 'end-to-end' Customs/AQIS system functionality.

In-house Training – An on-line training package that covers changes to the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) and new AQIS applications developed for CMR was rolled out to AQIS system users during June - July 2005. Key AQIS system users have now completed this training, with AQIS's current focus on completing training in ICS functions of interest to AQIS by mid September.

Information regarding AQIS requirements under CMR is provided in Customs information materials, and on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au (following the Hot Topics to the CMR web page). AQIS is also working closely with the ICS User Representative to help industry with their preparations – the ICS User Representative can be contacted via email on zalai@icsrep.com.au.

✦ Face to Face Training Now Available for Class 1 QAP Re-accreditation

Re-accreditation is continuing for operators of Class 1 Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs), which is being delivered in on-line as well as face to face formats. All QAPs operating under the Scheme are reminded to enrol their Accredited Persons in either of these two training options, if they have not already done so. Nomination forms for the training options are available from www.aiccc.com and should be lodged via email to facilitate registration.

For operators that opt for the on-line training package, this will remain open until **21 October 2005**. So far, about 500 Accredited Persons have chosen to use the on-line system for re-accreditation purposes.

The delivery of the face to face training package is being scheduled between now and **21 October 2005**. The face to face training will take approximately 6.5 hours and will be delivered at your AQIS Regional Office. If enrolling in the face to face training sessions, Accredited Persons must register with the AICCC no later than **10 October 2005**. Those premises that have already enrolled do not need to take any further action - they will receive confirmation of their training dates and venue from the AICCC as soon as these details have been finalised with AQIS.

Please note that any Accredited Persons who do not complete re-accreditation training by 21 October 2005 will have their Accredited Person status suspended and will not be permitted to undertake tasks covered by this Scheme. Once a person has their accreditation suspended, it can only be re-activated upon completion of a full accreditation training course.

If you need further information on re-accreditation training for the Class 1 QAP Scheme, please contact AQIS at ic.ca@aqis.gov.au.

✦ AICCC Meeting – August 2005

The latest AICCC meeting was held in Sydney on 17 August 2005. The major discussion item concerned progress made against the 2005/06 Import Clearance business plan in terms of operational, business improvement and information technology priorities. This covered areas such as the expansion of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS), reviewing the

management of quarantine incidents and breaches, and investigating enhancements to ICON and the AQIS Import Management System.

Other items of interest were:

Budget – AQIS forecast a slight surplus for the Import Clearance Program in 2005-06, where revenue was estimated at \$94.7 million and expenses at \$94.6 million. This revenue would be higher than in the previous year because of an end to the temporary reduction of fees for some AQIS services.

CMR – AQIS noted that it was well placed to support the new Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS) when the cutover occurred on 12 October 2005. AQIS had developed detailed business continuity plans to address short and long term outages, and established a dedicated help desk in Melbourne to assist industry. Industry generally expressed concerns at the cutover date of 12 October 2005 as it perceived that there were a wide range of outstanding issues, both Government and industry, which had the potential to cause considerable problems.

Timber quarantine – AQIS studies indicated that inspection-based regimes were ineffective for addressing the pest risk associated with solid wood packaging and dunnage. Therefore, AQIS proposed that inspection would be removed as an option for the clearance of this type of material, and that it be subject to mandatory treatment in accordance with ISPM 15 standards. It was proposed that these revised import arrangements could be introduced in early 2006.

Co-regulation projects – AQIS had made modifications to a number of its co-regulation schemes and had almost completed a project that would provide much more information on the conditions of QAP approval nationally. Registration of businesses in the Broker Accreditation Schemes had also been finalised and training of accredited persons via the “Guardian” on-line system was complete. A number of businesses had also signed up to the new External Container Scheme which allowed industry to improve the throughput of containers awaiting post-cleaning assessment.

Automated Entry Processing (AEP) – A trial of the AEP scheme on a range of commodities (new tyres, New Zealand Finfish and New Zealand Dairy Products) had been completed, with positive results. The outcomes of the trial supported the rollout of the Scheme to the general broker community, as well as its expansion to cover a wider range of commodities. Again, an on-line training package has been developed which will assist in the accreditation of brokers for this scheme.

Onshore quarantine fumigation project – An audit of the Onshore Fumigation Scheme indicated that there was an unacceptable number of fumigation failures. To address this problem, AQIS was developing a new strategy for onshore fumigation that would cover issues such as revising the AQIS methyl bromide fumigation standard, training specialist fumigation monitoring officers, and revising compliance agreements so that fumigators had to demonstrate ongoing competency. Essentially, the onshore scheme would mirror the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) introduced off-shore.

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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in August 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 04, 2005-06	Increased activity to reduce the number of outstanding entries
2	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0431	Notice to nursery stock and seed importers
3	PQA 0432	Import Conditions for Processed Cereal Products
4	PQA 0433	Import of animal food (including pet food)
5	PQA 0419	Biologicals Unit; Clearance Letters
6	Updates to the Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) Resources Document, 15 August 2005	Changes to the CCC Resources Document

Reference Number	Document (Clicking on the links below will take you to the relevant page of the AQIS website)	Overview
7	PQA 0428	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) Malaysia
8	Notice to Industry 05, 2005-06	Changes to the acceptance of methyl bromide fumigation treatment certificates from Malaysian treatment providers
9	Notice to Industry 06, 2005-06	Implementation of profile questions for minerals and ores
10	PQA 0434	Imported Food Program – Imported Vegetable Survey
11	Imported Food Notice 4/2005	Amendment to List of Approved Fish Processing Establishments - Department of Fisheries, Thailand
12	Imported Food Notice 5/2005	Notification to Industry and Regions to Cease Using Ampersand (&) Characters in Foreign Certificate Codes
13	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/18	Quarantine Approved Premises – Class One Sea And Air Freight Depots Scheme – Commencement Of The Face-To-Face Re-Accreditation Training Package
14	Compliance Agreement Notice 2005/19	Reminder: Procedure for Notifying AQIS of Branch ID Linking
15	Advice to Agents 03/05	Asian Gypsy Moth Detections

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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 ✦