



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

50/2005-06

Implementation of the Revised Giant African Snail (GAS) Country Action List

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry that the revised GAS Country Action List will be implemented on **1 July 2006**.

Currently there are two GAS country lists in operation. The AQIS GAS Country Action List applies to all Australian states and territories, while the second list of additional countries applies to containers destined for the Northern Territory (NT) only. The current lists will remain effective until 1 July 2006.

AQIS has developed a single GAS Country Action List to harmonise requirements nationally and respond to changing status of countries that pose a GAS risk. Formal notification of the single list of countries / locations (**Attachment 1**) was made in June 2005, in accordance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) protocol.

Implementation

From 1 July 2006, all containers / cargoes originating from, or loaded in countries listed on the GAS Country Action List will be inspected by AQIS for the presence of live GAS unless:

- Valid fumigation certificates (fumigation must be at the rate of 128g/m³ for 24 hours) are provided to the GAS National Coordination Centre (GAS NCC) 24 hours prior to the arrival at the first port; or
- The consignment is accompanied by a valid phytosanitary certificate from an authorised government agency (NPPO) stating "The container(s) are free of Giant African Snail"; or
- The consignment is directed for methyl bromide fumigation (128g/m³ for 24 hours) on arrival.

The only exception to this change is for containers / cargoes that were already "on the water" as of 1 July 2006. In these cases, the current two GAS lists will be applied to screen containers and cargoes until 1 August 2006.

Information Required for Screening

To assist in the screening process for GAS risks, shipping companies carrying containers / cargoes from countries on the revised GAS Country Action List are required to register their details (e.g. Vessel Name; Lloyds; GAS ports of call; Aust ports of call; Line operators; Contact for supply of Bay plans) with the GAS NCC via email to gas.screener@aqis.gov.au.

The GAS NCC must obtain a bay plan for vessels carrying containers from any of the countries listed on the GAS Country Action List. A bay plan identifies the load and discharge ports of the vessels cargo and its stowage. It is the responsibility of the Principal Agent to supply this bay plan.

The GAS NCC will screen the vessel bay plan and identify all containers on board the vessel from GAS ports. Containers due for discharge in Australia will be directed for GAS inspection if they are:

- a) from GAS ports; or
- b) are stowed “in contact” with containers / cargo from GAS ports.

The Principal Agent for the vessel carrying GAS cargo will incur all AQIS charges associated with the GAS inspection of cargo.

NOTE: Vessels that have been assessed by the GAS NCC may be subject to reduced levels of GAS inspection where vessel stowage distances between containers can be validated, refer to [“Screening Vessels for GAS Cargo”](#).

Further information

For further information regarding the changes to the GAS Country Action List, please contact the GAS NCC via email to gas.screener@aqis.gov.au or telephone 07 3637 7730.

Attachment 1

Revised AQIS GAS Country Action List
Barbados
Benin
Bhutan
Brunei
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Christmas Island
Congo
East Timor
Equatorial Guinea
Federated States of Micronesia
French Polynesia
Gabon
Ghana
Guadeloupe
Indonesia
Ivory Coast
Laos
Madagascar
Maldives
Mariana Islands
Marshall Islands
Martinique
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar (Burma)
Nauru
Nepal
New Caledonia
Niger
Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Palau
Reunion Island
Seychelles
Solomon Islands
Tanzania
Togo
Tonga
Tuvalu

Uganda except for the Port of Bell Jinja Pler
USA Pacific Islands (American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Island)
Vanuatu
Wallis and Futuna Islands
Western Samoa
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe