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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

✦ Industry Invited to Attend AQIS Cargo Industry Forum July/August 2007

AQIS and the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ) will be holding a series of seminars to keep the importing, logistics and barrier clearance industries up to date with the latest developments in AQIS related issues. The seminar series will be held in most capital cities and a number of larger regional centres from late July to early August 2007.

Some of the key areas that will be covered as part of the roadshow include:

- Planned improvements to entry management procedures,
- Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities,
- Cargo Surveillance and Process Improvement Initiatives,
- Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) and External Container Examination (ECIR), and
- Regional and Industry Specific Issues.

Invitations to attend the seminars have been arranged through the various peak industry bodies, as well as through each of the AQIS regional offices. The schedule is as follows:

Date	Location
26 July	Brisbane Sydney
27 July	Melbourne Adelaide
30 July	Darwin
31 July	Fremantle
1 August	Townsville Cairns

✦ New Conditions Introduced to Prevent the Spread of "Rock Snot" Algae

AQIS has introduced a number of additional quarantine measures for goods and equipment that are likely to have come into contact with fresh water in an effort to protect Australian waterways from the algal pest *Didymosphenia geminata*, more commonly known as Didymo or "rock snot". The changes have been introduced following a risk assessment conducted by Biosecurity Australia.

The countries covered by the new conditions include New Zealand, the US and the UK. However, AQIS is encouraging all importers of these types of goods to check the full country list under the "Fresh Water Articles and Equipment" case on the AQIS Import Conditions Database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au/icon.

The conditions applied will depend on the porosity of the goods, or how easily they may trap and hold water. Items such as cloth fishing bags and gear, neoprene socks, kayaks and paddles are all affected by the changed conditions. A range of treatment options are available for each category of goods, including gamma irradiation, immersion in hot water or freezing. Further advice on the import conditions applied to these types of goods is available from the AQIS Entry Management and Permits Unit on (02) 6272 3390.

✦ Improvements to the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities System

AQIS is continuing to add new features and functions to its Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities system. AEP allows AQIS clients to process documentation relating to a range of different commodities, such as new tyres, manufactured wooden articles, used cars, and plywood and veneer products.

AEP for Commodities systems allow clients to assess documentation, report quarantine concerns and direct those consignments for quarantine action. The principal benefit to industry is that this can be performed without the need to attend an AQIS office or submit documents electronically. Clients also benefit from lower entry processing costs and the ability to complete entries outside normal business hours. The system also benefits AQIS by freeing up resources which can be redirected to areas of higher quarantine risk.

One of the most recent upgrades allows AQIS to send email notifications to clients if an AEP entry is unsuccessful. In these cases, the email will also explain the cause of the failure, and outline which modifications are required before the entry can be accepted.

AQIS is also reminding clients that the fields for "AQIS Processing Type" and "Premises ID" must only be used by clients that are accredited for AEP schemes. Clients who do not intend to have their entry processed via AEP should not enter information in these fields, as this may delay clearance of the consignment.

Further information on lodging AEP entries is available from the AIMS Administrator - [Click here for contact details](#). Documentation relating to the AEP for Commodities system is also available from the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/icomplianceagreements.

✦ Renewal of QAP Class One Sea and Air Freight Depot Scheme

Persons accredited under the QAP Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme will shortly need to renew their accreditation. AQIS is in the process of finalising arrangements for the delivery of re-accreditation training. Once finalised, the re-accreditation training will be made available through the Guardian on-line learning system. AQIS expects the training to become available in **July 2007** and as soon as the training package is on line an industry notice will be issued.

This training only applies to accredited persons working at sea and air freight depots that operate under an AQIS compliance agreement for QAP Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots. This training is not for accredited persons working at other classes of QAP.

Persons accredited under this scheme will have eight weeks to complete the re-accreditation training from the time it becomes available on-line. If accredited persons fail to complete the training during this eight week period, they will lose their accreditation. If an accredited person is unable to complete the training within the eight week period, they can apply to defer the training via email at ic.ca@aqis.gov.au. All persons who gained accreditation under the Scheme before **1 January 2007** will need to complete the re-accreditation training in order to remain accredited. Persons who became accredited after this date will not have to complete the re-accreditation training - AQIS has already sent exemption letters to these persons.

Businesses operating under the Scheme will also need to renew their Compliance Agreement and the associated Schedule. AQIS has extended the Compliance Agreement Schedule review date from

30 June 2007 to 30 November 2007. All other parties that are signatories to this scheme have been notified of the extension to the review date to 30 November 2007.

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✦ **Electronic Permit Applications Outnumber Paper Applications by Two to One**

AQIS's electronic Import Permit application system continues to grow in popularity, with electronic applications now outnumbering traditional paper-based applications by two to one. AQIS introduced the eLodge system in August 2006 to allow importers to submit Import Permit applications electronically. The system was introduced as part of a package of improvements which aimed to simplify the Import Permit application and assessment process for clients and AQIS.

Soon after the introduction of the eLodge facility in August 2006, industry used it to lodge about 22% of all Import Permit applications (excluding those for live animals, which cannot be done electronically). Since that time, there has been a steady increase in the number of applications being submitted electronically, demonstrating the acceptance of the benefits provided by this functionality. In the week ending 14 June 2007, 67% of Import Permit applications were submitted via eLodge. A number of improvements and added functions to the system are also being developed, such as an automatic notification service to alert clients prior to Import Permits expiring, as well as the ability for clients to receive certain Import Permits electronically.

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

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0517	New Search Functionality In ICON Query
2	PQA 0484	Changes to import conditions for used fresh water articles and equipment
3	Notice to Industry 30, 2006-07	Amendment to the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities Scheme and information to assist clients to successfully use the system
4	Notice to Industry 31, 2006-07	Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme - Notification regarding Pending Re-Accreditation Training and Renewal of Compliance Agreements
5	Notice to Industry 32, 2006-07	Trial of electronic giant African snail (GAS) holds for Sydney

✦ **Contact cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information**

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