



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry  
3 March 2011

26/2011

### **Update of AQIS policy on the import of used aquaculture equipment**

This notice is to advise industry of an update to [Notice to Industry 69/2010](#) issued on 16 December 2010. This notice supersedes the previous notice issued and replaces the acceptable disinfectant to 'Virkon S'.

#### **What are the issues?**

Importation of used aquaculture equipment represents a high risk exposure pathway for diseases of quarantine concern in oysters, particularly for pathogens such as herpes viruses (OsHV-1 and OsHV-1 $\mu$ var).

Oyster herpesvirus, is an emerging disease problem of significance that has been reported in parts of Europe and New Zealand. While this disease can be deadly to Pacific oysters and can result in heavy commercial losses, there is no human health or food safety risks linked to the virus.

Unrestricted movement of used aquaculture equipment between growing regions has been identified as a high risk pathway for this disease to spread and is considered to be one potential pathway by which the oyster herpes virus has spread overseas.

#### **What has changed?**

As from 16 December 2010, all imported used aquaculture equipment that has been in contact with water or aquatic animals, must arrive into Australia clean, regardless of point of origin.

Upon arrival into Australia, the used aquaculture equipment will then be directed to an AQIS quarantine approved premises (QAP) where it will be decontaminated using 'Virkon S' disinfectant prior to its release from quarantine.

#### **Further Information**

For further information on contamination issues with used aquaculture equipment inspections, please contact the Sea Cargo Program by telephone on 02 6272 5093 or by email: [sea.cargo@aqis.gov.au](mailto:sea.cargo@aqis.gov.au)