



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



Cargo Management eBulletin

No: 03-2006 (April)

To print eBulletin or to view online, [click here](#)

Providing information to the Cargo and Shipping industries on the latest AQIS developments

✦ QAP Deadline Closing Fast

To enhance quarantine risk management at Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs), AQIS and the Industry Working Group on Quarantine have developed an on-line quarantine training package for QAP operators. People who complete the on-line training will gain status as QAP Accredited Persons.

From 28 April 2006, only QAP Accredited Persons will be permitted to conduct the handling (or supervise the handling by non-accredited staff) of quarantine items at QAPs. This means QAP operators will need to have sufficient staff trained as QAP Accredited Persons to maintain QAP status.

The training became available on-line in December last year. It takes just a few hours to complete, and the on-line delivery mode allows participants to progress at their own pace and at times that suit them.

QAPs form an important part of Australia's quarantine risk management strategy, with more than 2000 operating around Australia. The training package aims to increase the quarantine knowledge of people working in QAPs who handle quarantine items.

More information on the QAP Accredited Person training and other developments relating to QAPs can be found at www.aqis.gov.au/qapupdate.

✦ Expansion of the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) Project

AQIS is expanding the range of activities it is undertaking as part of the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) Project. Inspections are already taking place in New South Wales, Victoria, South Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia, while random surveillance inspections will soon be expanded to include the Northern Territory, Far North Queensland and Tasmania.

ICE activities are performed by AQIS to verify the effectiveness of Import Clearance systems, profiling mechanisms and documentary assessment procedures. Results from data collected will contribute to more effective profiles and directions, to ensure AQIS continues to target its resources to the areas of greatest quarantine risk.

At this stage there is no charge for ICE inspections, unless items of quarantine concern are identified which require further action. Quarantine concerns detected through surveillance inspections may attract targeted inspections of subsequent shipments. These subsequent shipments may be directed to

Quarantine Approved Premises for unpacking and inspection, and will incur costs on a fee-for-service basis.

AQIS appreciates the co-operation of Industry in this important function. If you require further information on how this initiative will affect your operations in particular, please contact the relevant ICE section within your local AQIS Regional Office:

NSW:	(02) 8334 7663	WA:	(08) 9334 1543
VIC:	(03) 8318 6784	SA:	(08) 8201 6134
S. QLD:	(07) 3246 8759	N. QLD:	(07) 4789 7888
TAS:	(03) 6233 2474	NT:	(02) 8920 7007

✦ Introduction of Standardised National Inspection Bookings Process

AQIS will shortly be implementing a standardised national approach to its Import Clearance inspection bookings processes across the country. The new process, which will come into effect on **1 May 2006**, has already been operating successfully in Victoria for some time. Adopting this as a national approach is the first step towards implementing a future electronic inspection bookings system.

Under the new arrangements, AQIS will no longer automatically allocate specific time slots/appointment times for all inspection bookings. However, AQIS recognises Industry's need for specified appointment times for certain inspection situations/types and will endeavour to accommodate these requests where possible.

The bookings process features several steps, most of which are the same as those currently in place:

- When you contact AQIS to make a booking, AQIS will ask you to provide details about:
 - the inspection type (e.g. "standard", "overtime"), and
 - when the commodity will be ready for inspection.
- The AQIS officer taking the booking will then:
 - confirm inspection details with the client (e.g. AIMS entry number, type of direction applied - inspect/unpack, tailgate etc),
 - ensure that the appropriate fees have been collected,
 - schedule a date for inspection, and
 - allocate an appropriately skilled inspector to perform the inspection.

AQIS will continue to require upfront payment of fees against a quarantine entry before an inspection can be booked. These fees would typically include a lodgement fee, a documentary assessment fee, and the first direction fee for an entry. However, AQIS will be making allowances for Self Assessed Clearances (SACs) and Cargo Report SACs (CRS) until the system upgrade issues affecting upfront collection of fees have been rectified.

[Click here for more information, and for feedback contact numbers.](#)

✦ Upcoming AICCC Meeting – April 2006

The next meeting of the AICCC will be held in Canberra on 27 April 2006. The major issue for consideration will be Cargo Risk Management, along with a number of regular issues. These include:

- Progress reports on:
 - Timber and associated quarantine issues
 - Co-Regulation Projects
 - Imported Food Programme Arrangements, and
 - CMR Imports
- Financial matters
- Issues associated with the National Resource Model
 - External Container Inspection Regime (ECIR)
 - Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI)

- Committee Reports:
 - Quarantine Exports Advisory Council (QEAC)
 - Cargo Management Committee (CMC)
 - Biological Consultative Group
 - Imported Foods Consultative Committee (IFCC)

✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in March 2006**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	<u>Notice to Industry 39, 2005-06</u>	Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) in Thailand
2	<u>Notice to Industry 40, 2005-06</u>	Perforation Standard for Plastic wrapping for use in Fumigation
3	<u>Notice to Industry 41, 2005-06</u>	Random Surveillance/Verification Inspections of Cargo
4	<u>Public Quarantine Alert (POA) 0428</u>	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS)
5	<u>POA 0467</u>	Changes to tissue cultures in tissue culture bags
6	<u>POA 0463</u>	Change to import conditions for plant parts other than seed and fruit- guava rust reported countries
7	<u>POA 0468</u>	Completion of specified finfish review
8	<u>POA 0470</u>	Emergency actions for nursery stock imports from New Zealand
9	<u>POA 0471</u>	Notice to AQIS staff and Nursery Stock Industry: Revised <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> host list.
10	<u>POA 0469</u>	Removal of genera from the list of plant genera known to be hosts of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>
11	<u>Imported Food Notice (IFN) 01/06</u>	Amendment to the BSE Country Categorisation
12	<u>IFN 02/06</u>	Amendment to the list of approved fish processing establishments - Department of Fisheries, Thailand

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

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry seeks to publish its work to the highest professional standards. The Commonwealth does not warrant the accuracy or currency of the information which comes from third parties. Readers should rely on their own skill and judgement in applying any information to particular issues or circumstances. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Commonwealth disclaims all liability for any loss, damage, expenses and costs incurred by any person arising out of using or relying on any part of the information provided in this eBulletin.

✦ **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY** ✦