



Notice to Industry

17/2004-05

AQIS Import Clearance and Seaports Fees – Fee Amendments and Fee Restructure - Effective from 1 July 2005

The purpose of this Notice to Industry is to advise industry of revised fee rates and structural enhancements made to Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) fees administered by the Import Clearance Program, effective as at 1 July 2005. Some of the fees referred to in this document are jointly administered by the Seaports Program. Information on changes affecting the Seaports Program are detailed in a separate Notice to Industry, a copy of which can be found on page 7 of this notice.

Background

The Import Clearance Program published information in [Notice to Industry 7/2004-05](#), advising industry that an economics company (Access Economics) had been engaged to assist in the refinement of the program's cost-recovery model. The notice also advised that a revised fee package could be introduced in the latter half of the 2004-05 financial year.

Revised arrangements

The revised fee package has now been prepared, in close consultation with the AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC), and is based on the forecast of continuing growth in imports for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 financial years, as indicated by the cost-recovery model. The increase in volumes of imports will allow AQIS to perform some services more economically and the Import Clearance Program is passing these savings on to industry by amending a range of fees and charges.

However, should growth levels differ to those assumed in the fee package or other circumstances change, further adjustments to fee rates may be required at a later date. Any required changes will be made in consultation with industry and with continued expert economic and financial advice where appropriate.

Amended fee rates

Overall, the revised fees will result in industry savings of approximately 3%, with some fees for import clearance services being revised down by as much as 50%. A summary of the new fee rates is provided in **Attachment 1**.

The following structural changes will take effect on 1 July 2005:

Permits fees

Permits fees have been restructured and grouped into a five-tiered structure, and will be charged on an individual assessable item basis, regardless of the commodity. The new structure will better support future electronic permit lodgement initiatives likely to be introduced within the next two years. The new permit fees include the introduction of an electronic permit lodgement fee of \$16, being 84% less than the equivalent manual lodgement fee. To address current under-recoveries in this activity area the manual lodgement fee has increased by 20% to \$100. A complete list of permits fees can be found in **Attachment 2**.

Overtime fees

A major benefit of the fee amendments is the simplification of overtime fees. The new overtime fee structure has reduced from 22 fees to 6 fees. As of 1 July 2005 industry will not be subject to overtime fees between the hours of 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. Overtime fees will continue to be applied outside of these hours, on weekends, and Public Holidays. The current arrangements of providing AQIS with a minimum of 3 days notice for the supply of overtime services has not changed. A complete list of overtime fees can be found in **Attachment 3**.

Quarantine Approved Premises half-yearly registration fee

The Import Clearance Program has introduced a six-month Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) registration fee of \$400. The registration cycle for QAPs is from the first day in July to the last day in June of any given year. The fee will benefit those AQIS clients registering a new QAP on a date that falls between the 1st January and 30th June of any given year, who are currently charged an annual registration fee.

Quarantine entry processing fee

The entry processing fee has changed from a time-based fee to a unit-based fee. The fee is now \$27, which is 24% less than the current fee. The fee will apply per entry; however an additional \$27 will apply if an entry is incomplete or requires additional information to complete the processing of the entry.

Fumigation fees

Fees relating to fumigation services have been changed from unit-based fees to time-based fees. The rate is based on the standard import clearance fee-for-service rates of \$35.50 per 15 minutes or part thereof (for services performed in-office or out-of-office where quarantine services are permanently available), or \$80 for the first 30 minutes or part thereof and \$40 for any subsequent 15 minute services (performed at an out-of-office location where there are no quarantine officers permanently available).

Fee for service where AQIS services are permanently available

The minimum fee for service where AQIS services are permanently available has reduced from \$71 for the first 30 minutes or part thereof, to \$35.50 for the first 15 minutes or part thereof.

Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) Project

The Import Clearance Program has introduced new fees in readiness for the implementation of the Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS). As per current arrangements, fees applicable to entries, High Volume Low Value (HVLV) cargo and House Airway Bills (HAWB) will continue to be calculated based on the entries and HAWBs reported to the Customs legacy systems. For entries lodged on the ICS relating to air cargo, the existing COMPILE entry fee, HVLV and HAWB fees will be amalgamated into an import declaration fee of \$6.50. For entries lodged on the ICS relating to sea cargo, the existing COMPILE entry fee will be replaced by a new import declaration fee of \$6.50. Similarly the AQIS fee applicable for a Request for Cargo Release lodged on the ICS will be \$6.50.

The AQIS fee applicable to FCX containers reported to the ICS will be amended from \$3.75 to \$15.00. Total AQIS container charges applicable to FCX consignments will be offset by a reduction in the number of FCX type entries required to be lodged for multiple supplier consignments to the ICS.

Further advice

A new version of the AQIS Fees and Charging Guidelines for Import Clearance and Seaports Program will be made available on the AQIS Internet Website www.aqis.gov.au/charging within 24 hours of the distribution of this notice and will incorporate these fee changes.

For further assistance in relation to the new fees, please contact your local AQIS regional office listed below, or the Secretariat of the AICCC, Mr Hart Krtschil, on telephone (02) 9700 7522, or email hart.krtschil@aiccc.com:

Name	Phone Number	Email Address
Robyn Fraser (ACT)	(02) 6271 6392	robyn.fraser@aqis.gov.au
Steve Tonkin (NSW)	(02) 8334 7658	steve.tonkin@aqis.gov.au
Chris Miller (VIC)	(03) 8318 6775	chris.miller@aqis.gov.au
Greg Johnston (SQLD)	(07) 3246 8601	greg.johnston@aqis.gov.au
Wayne Cross (WA)	(08) 9334 1520	wayne.cross@aqis.gov.au
Michael Tanti (SA)	(08) 8305 9795	michael.tanti@aqis.gov.au
Ross Furphy (Far Nth QLD)	(07) 4789 7913	ross.furphy@aqis.gov.au
Garry Tucker (NT)	(08) 8999 2295	garry.tucker@aqis.gov.au
Peter Johnson (TAS)	(03) 6421 7613	peter.johnson@aqis.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Hendrik Immonen
A/g National Program Manager
Import Clearance Program
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Attachment 1: Import Clearance fee changes (effective 1 July 2005 inclusive)

Rate Changes

Activity Stream	Fee Description	Current Fee	New Fee	% Change
Amended Fees				
Entry Management	Entry processing fee	\$35.50	\$27	(24%) decrease
	Electronic quarantine entry lodgement	\$8	\$6	(25%) decrease
	Automatic Entry Processing (AEP)	\$10	\$5	(50%) decrease
	Manual quarantine entry lodgement	\$14	\$10	(29%) decrease
Treatments & Inspections	Minimum out-of-office rate where AQIS services are permanently available	\$71 for first half hour then \$35.50 per quarter hour thereafter	\$35.50 per quarter hour	
New Fees				
Entry Management (air)/Cargo Risk Management Air	Amalgamates the COMPILE entry fee (for air), High Volume Low Value (HVLV) and House Air Waybill (HAWB) into a Import Declaration fee (for air) or a Request for Cargo Release (for air)		\$6.50	
Entry Management (sea)/Cargo Risk Management (sea)	Replaces the COMPILE entry fee (sea) with a Import Declaration fee (for sea) or a Request for Cargo Release (for sea)		\$6.50	
Entry Management	New fee for half-yearly Quarantine Approved Premises registering between 1 January and 30 June.		\$400	

Attachment 2: Permits – Structural Amendments and Fee Rate Changes (effective 1 July 2005)

<p>Electronic Lodgement and assessment of a permit application relating to standard goods</p> <p>(Standard Goods means goods (other than live animals and animal reproductive material) of a class that may be imported by a person only if the person has a permit granted under section 13 of the Act that allows the goods to be imported subject to compliance with conditions specified in the permit)</p>	\$16.00 for each application
<p>Electronic lodgment of a permit application relating to Non-standard goods</p> <p>(Non-standard goods means:</p> <p>(a) live animals and animal reproductive material that are subject to import permit conditions, and</p> <p>(b) any goods that are not subject to import permit conditions)</p>	\$16.00 in addition to applicable assessment fees
<p>Manual lodgment or amendment of a permit application</p>	\$100.00 in addition to applicable assessment costs
<p>Category 1- <u>(Standard) Goods</u>:</p> <p>Assessment for a permit application for Standard Goods (as defined above)</p>	1 Assessable Item = \$17.00
<p>Category 2- <u>(Non-Standard) Goods</u>:</p> <p>A Single Product (Covered by a compliance agreement), Canned Pet Food, Hides and Skins, Cell Lines (Laboratory Animals), Cosmetics, Cut Flowers, Dried Herbs & Spices, Fruit, Seeds/Grains (for processing and/or human consumption), Human Therapeutic Use (Private & Commercial), Human Vaccines, Laboratory Material (Proteins, DNA, Catalogues, Animal Sera), Cat / Dog – each animal in excess of one per consignment, Microbes, Natural Fibres & Fibre Products, Single Cell Line (Non-Laboratory Animal), Single Fermented Product (Not being a veterinary therapeutic product or stock food product), Single Parasite, Plant Material and seeds/grains for in-vitro use, Soil Samples, Vegetables, Water, Plant based stockfeed samples for in-vitro use, herbarium specimens not infected or infested</p>	1 Assessable Item = \$60.00 (Maximum time taken is 1 hour), and for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 1-hour period - \$15.00
<p>Category 3- <u>(Non-Standard) Goods</u>:</p> <p>Wood chips/charcoal for cooking or smoking food, Herbal Teas, Prohibited Cut Flowers, Prohibited Fruit, Prohibited Vegetables, Single Aquaculture Feed, Single Micro-organism (possible pathogen), Plant Material and seeds/grains for in-vitro use – infected or infested, Oversized Timber not for milling, herbarium specimens infected and infested, plant pollen for in-vivo use</p>	1 Assessable Item = \$120.00 (Maximum time taken is 2 hours), and for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 2-hour period - \$15.00
<p>Category 4- <u>(Non-Standard) Goods</u>:</p> <p>Bird Seed, Single Bulk Culture Medium, Single Dried Pet Food, Single Organic Fertiliser, Live Animals (excluding Cats / Dogs) and animal reproductive material, First Cat / Dog in consignment, Plant Based Stock Feed, Biological control agents, Seed or plant material for processing into pet food, plant pathogens for in-vivo or in-vitro use</p>	1 Assessable Item = \$180.00 (Maximum time taken is 3 hours), and for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 3-hour period - \$15.00
<p>Category 5- <u>(Non-Standard) Goods</u>:</p> <p>Additional Master Seed (as part of live/inactivated vaccine), Single Live Vaccine (in respect of one master seed), Single New Master Seed (or inactivated vaccine with one seed), Single Veterinary Vaccine Renewal</p>	1 Assessable Item = \$240.00 (Maximum time taken is 4 hours), and for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 4-hour period - \$15.00

Attachment 3: Overtime Fees – Structural Amendments and Fee Rate Changes (effective 1 July 2005)

Overtime	
When services are performed outside the AQIS span of hours of 6.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday, an additional fee will be charged calculated at the following rates:	
(a) Monday - Friday	For each Officer performing the service (a) if services are performed immediately before or immediately after the services performed by the Officer during ordinary hours of duty - \$10.00 for each quarter hour or part of a quarter hour; or (b) in any other case: (i) for any period up to 3 hours - \$120.00; and (ii) for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the end of the 3 hour period - \$10.00
(b) Saturday	For each officer performing the service: (a) for any period up to 3 hours - \$120.00; and (b) for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 3 hour period -\$10.00
(c) Sunday	For each officer performing the service: (a) for any period up to 3 hours - \$156; and (b) for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 3 hour period -\$13
(d) an AQIS holiday	For each officer performing the service: (a) for any period up to 3 hours - \$192; and (b) for each quarter hour, or part of a quarter hour, after the 3 hour period -\$16
Overnight costs when an officer is required to stay overnight and away from home in order to perform the service	\$150.00 per night

SEAPORT PROGRAM – AMENDMENTS TO FEES AND CHARGES

ADVICE TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY– SEAPORTS - 02 / 05

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service's (AQIS's) fees and charges have been amended and take effect on 1 July 2005. Section 86E of the *Quarantine Act 1908* provides that the Minister may determine fees in respect of specified services provided under the Act. From Friday 1 July 2005, the revised *Quarantine Service Fees Determinations 2005* will be available on the AQIS internet at www.aqis.gov.au/fees. The Seaport Program Fee and Charging Guidelines can also be found at www.aqis.gov.au/charging. For your information, the Seaport Program Fee and Charging Guidelines are attached for your information. These Guidelines clearly specify what the fees and charges are and how they are applied.

The Seaports Program has realigned fees more closely to the actual cost of providing quarantine services. The revised Determinations provide a sound, clear legislative basis for all fees and charges currently imposed by the Program.

Significant cost modelling analysis has been undertaken by the Program in cooperation with the AQIS Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC) and AQIS Finance to calculate the precise costs of providing these services to you. AQIS has consulted extensively with the AICCC in reviewing charging arrangements and the proposed fees.

There have been some increases in the fee for service charges including pratique charges. The increases are due primarily to increases in costs relating to:

- normal CPI increases;
- additional and ongoing Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) costs including:
- costs associated with increased wharf surveillance and vessel waste management;
- the additional cost of performing 2nd port inspections; and
- operational field resources that are required to enhance the management of quarantine risks.

A significant benefit of the amended fees and charging structure is the simplification of overtime charges. Overtime charges are time based fees that are charged in addition to fee for service charges for the provision of AQIS services provided outside ordinary hours of duty (0630 to 1830).

The Program's fees and charges have not changed since 2001. The new fees and charges are expected to remain the same for the next 3 years. Constant monitoring and annual reviews of fees and charges will continue to occur as part our normal processes.

Should you have further queries, please contact the local AQIS Seaports office in your state, as detailed on the last page of the attached guidelines.

Robert Langlands
National Program Manager
Seaports

27 June 2005