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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

✦ Closure of CMR Helpdesk

After many months of operation, AQIS has now closed its dedicated CMR Helpdesk service. However, AQIS will continue to assist industry with AQIS-specific CMR queries through its regional offices.

AQIS opened the Helpdesk during the lead-up to the introduction of the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) by the Australian Customs service. The primary aim of the Helpdesk was to assist industry with inquiries about goods that had been referred to AQIS under the new system. Since its introduction, the Helpdesk has handled more than 4000 calls, providing significant support and assistance to industry during the transition period. AQIS would like to thank all industry clients for their patience with AQIS Helpdesk staff, particularly during the peak period of inquiries in mid to late October 2005. AQIS appreciates the positive feedback received in relation to the assistance the Helpdesk was able to provide.

After peaking in the weeks following cutover to the ICS on 12 October 2005, the number of inquiries received by the Helpdesk has steadily declined. This decline is largely due to the identification rectification of issues with the new processing arrangements, and the increasing familiarity of industry and AQIS staff with the new ICS processes and requirements. The number of inquiries has dropped further since the COMPILE decommissioning on 3 February 2006 by Customs. The number of inquiries received is now at a level where responsibility can be returned to AQIS regional offices.

All AQIS specific CMR inquiries should be directed to the following AQIS regional contact points during their normal operating hours:

| Region | Contact Phone Number | Operating Hours (Mon – Fri) |
|--------|---|---|
| NSW | (02) 8334 7400 (Freight Clearance) (A/H - National Air Cargo Unit) (02) 8334 7570 | 7:30am – 4:00pm 24 hours, 7 days |
| NT | (08) 8920 7040 | 8:00am – 4:30pm |
| N. QLD | (07) 4789 7808 | 8:00am – 4:30pm (Townsville and Cairns) |
| SA | (08) 8201 6007 | 7:30am – 5:00pm |
| S. QLD | (07) 3246 8614 | 7:30am – 4:30pm |
| TAS | (03) 6233 3032 | 7:30am – 5:30pm |
| VIC | (03) 8318 6927 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| WA | (08) 9334 1500 | 8:00am – 5:00pm |

✦ Introduction of Mandatory Treatment Requirements for Timber Packaging

Australia is implementing mandatory treatment requirements for all wood packaging materials arriving in association with air, sea or break bulk cargo. These new harmonised requirements are due to come into effect from **1 May 2006**.

To date, AQIS has managed the risks associated with timber packaging in break-bulk and air cargo shipments through surveillance, with only those found to be contaminated or infested requiring treatment. In contrast, the mandatory treatment requirement has already been applied to timber packaging imported in FCL and LCL containers for some considerable time. With the progressive international implementation of ISPM15, it is now timely that imported timber packaging be dealt with consistently, regardless of the mode of transport used.

After 1 May 2006, imported solid timber packaging arriving in Australia by air freight and in break-bulk consignments must be treated in accordance with AQIS requirements (ISPM15 treatment is acceptable). If it is not, the material will be directed at the importer's expense for either:

- Mandatory onshore treatment,
- Re-export, or
- Destruction.

In the interim, stickers are being placed on break bulk and airfreight packaging not bearing ISPM15 stamps to advise importers of the new requirements (see below).

AQIS is currently working with industry to develop processes for identifying appropriately treated timber through documentary processes such those in place for FCL and LCL shipments; with a view to having all timber packaging dealt with as consistently as possible. These measures should not only improve quarantine protection for Australia's timber industries and environment, but should also assist industry by creating a uniform approach to timber quarantine risks for all types of cargo.



✦ ISPM 15 Compliance

AQIS is encouraging importers and exporters to remain up to date with the increasing numbers of countries worldwide that have implemented ISPM15 – the international guideline regulating wood packaging material in international trade.

Information for Australian importers

Australia implemented ISPM 15 for imports into Australia on 1 September 2004. The new ISPM 15 import option is offered in addition to those in place before 1 September 2004. Under the new ISPM 15 import option, AQIS accepts wood packaging material marked with ISPM 15 compliant stamps from all countries. It should be noted that the Australian ISPM 15 conditions also prescribe that all solid timber packaging must be free of bark.

If importers are looking to use ISPM 15 compliant timber packaging rather than timber that meets other existing AQIS import requirements, it is important that they find out about the ISPM 15 status of the exporting country. Importers should be aware that different countries are implementing ISPM 15 systems for export according to their own time schedules. Therefore, importers are advised to contact their suppliers or the relevant overseas government directly to determine whether a country is ISPM 15 export ready.

Information for Australian exporters

On the export side, Australian exporters are reminded that wood packaging accompanying consignments may also need to be ISPM 15 compliant. It is strongly recommended that exporters confirm entry requirements for wooden packaging prior to export. To assist exporters, AQIS maintains a list of countries that have implemented ISPM 15 for imported goods - **click here to access the list of countries that require imports to be ISPM 15 compliant**. AQIS can also provide contact details of treatment providers and wooden packaging manufacturers who are able to supply ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging – **click here to access information on Australian companies certified to produce ISPM 15 compliant wood packaging**.

✦ **New Fee for Clearance of Unaccompanied Personal Effects**

AQIS has commenced charging industry clients for the time taken to process unaccompanied personal effects consignments in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS). The decision to charge for this service was made after AQIS consultation with the AICCC and with companies affected by the change in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The charge is a result of changes to the way that unaccompanied personal effects are cleared. Under the ICS, a hold is automatically placed on goods such as Household and Personal Effects covered by unaccompanied personal effects declarations (B534 declarations). This means AQIS staff have to access the ICS manually to electronically release the hold on a consignment by consignment basis. The new fee relates to the time taken by AQIS to complete the release. **Click here for more information.**

The fee for each release has been calculated at three minutes per declaration. This timeframe is inclusive of receipt of documentation from the client premises to an AQIS regional office. Rather than charging clients for each release, the total number of releases performed for each client premises will be grouped together and charged on a weekly basis. In accordance with AQIS fee determinations, the fees will be rounded up to the nearest ¼ hour and included in the usual invoice for inspection fees undertaken by AQIS officers at client premises.

A new version of the AQIS Fees and Charging Guidelines (Import Clearance Program) incorporating the fee changes will become effective on 13 March 2006. **Click here to access the current version of this document.** This fee will be reviewed within two months of introduction and, if required, an adjustment to the fee will be made. For further information in relation to the application of this fee, please contact your regional office.

✦ **Renewal of QAP Approvals**

AQIS will shortly be sending renewal forms to all Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) across Australia for 2006-07. Renewing approval to operate as a QAP is vital, as failure to complete the process will mean the facility will be unable to handle material of quarantine concern without AQIS being present. QAPs must complete the renewal process by **30 June 2006**.

This year, all QAPs will receive two separate notices from AQIS. The first notice contains a renewal form, which each QAP will have to complete and return to the nominated AQIS office. This form will be pre-printed with the details of each QAP currently held by AQIS.

- **For minor changes to details** (such as postal address and phone numbers), QAPs can make these amendments directly on the form before returning it to AQIS. This ensures that records for each premises remain up to date.
- **For more extensive changes** (such as changes to the position of Nominated Senior Manager or additions to Contact Persons), the QAP will need to complete an "Application for Approval of a Place for Performance of Quarantine form" instead of the attached renewal form. **Click here to access this form.**

The second notice contains an invoice and payment form of \$800 for the renewal of the approval to operate as a QAP. Payment must be made to the AQIS Finance office in Canberra (address details will be provided on the invoice). It is important that QAPs send the re-registration form and the invoice separately to the correct addresses – failure to do so may result in a delay in processing re-registrations. Further advice or assistance can be obtained from an AQIS Approved Premises Officer in your region.

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

| Reference Number | Document | Overview |
|------------------|---|--|
| 1 | <u>Notice to Industry 35, 2005-06</u> | Changes to the acceptance of methyl bromide fumigation treatment certificates from Indian treatment providers |
| 2 | <u>Notice to Industry 36, 2005-06</u> | Closure of the AQIS CMR Helpdesk |
| 3 | <u>Notice to Industry 37, 2005-06</u> | AQIS Import Clearance Fees – Application of an In-Office fee for High Volume Specialist Operator (HVSO) consignments |
| 4 | <u>Notice to Industry 38, 2005-06</u> | Profile changes for Customs Tariff 0306 (Crustaceans) and 0307 (Molluscs) |
| 5 | <u>Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0306</u> | Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) - Indonesia |
| 6 | <u>PQA 0428</u> | Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) |
| 7 | <u>PQA 0461</u> | Profile changes for Customs Tariff 0306 (Crustaceans) and 0307 (molluscs) |
| 8 | <u>PQA 0457</u> | Notice to Nursery Stock Importing Industry - Addressing airfreight and mail shipments |
| 9 | <u>PQA 0460</u> | Timber and timber mouldings - <i>Myrtaceae</i> spp. - guava rust reported countries |
| 10 | <u>PQA 0464</u> | Changes to import conditions for <i>Annona</i> spp. - other than <i>A. senegalensis</i> and <i>A. glabra</i> seeds |
| 11 | <u>PQA 0465</u> | Changes to Schedule 5 of the Quarantine Proclamation February 2006 |
| 12 | <u>PQA 0463</u> | Change to import conditions for plant parts other than seed and fruit- guava rust reported countries |

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

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