



Notice to Industry

29/2005-06

Cargo Management Re-engineering (CMR) Information – Imported Food Status in the ICS

Introduction/Background

AQIS border clearance requirements for imported food have not changed as a result of the implementation of the Customs Integrated Cargo System (ICS). However AQIS is aware that the visibility of AQIS status/cargo messaging information within the ICS and industry third party systems is altered from that presented within the Customs legacy systems.

Therefore, the following information is provided to address a number of industry queries pertaining to ICS status information for imported food consignments of AQIS concern.

Frequently Asked Questions

Has the way AQIS processes Imported Food entries changed?

AQIS has not changed the way imported food entries are processed. As per arrangements in place prior to the cutover to ICS reporting, imported foods of AQIS concern are permitted to move to an Importer's Premises on arrival in Australia. The ICS now assigns a CONDCLEAR status to facilitate this movement.

What does CONDCLEAR status mean?

The receipt of a CONDCLEAR status against a consignment indicates that the consignment can be released from Customs control subject to certain specified conditions (ie the consignment is clear, but with conditions). The specified conditions of CONDCLEAR typically relate to AQIS issues, most commonly involving directions to move the consignment to a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) and/or Importer's Premises for treatment or inspection.

Why do I not receive a cargo status (CARST) message at the time I lodge my declaration?

A CARST (cargo status) message, which contains the status information, along with any impediment details, is triggered by the lodgement of a cargo report (as opposed to the declaration). The first CARST message is sent at the end of the screening period once the cargo report has been lodged. This brings about a timing issue, particularly for imported food goods of AQIS concern, which may have already been lodged and auto-processed in AQIS systems, with a resultant status of CONDCLEAR. Brokers lodging declarations will not receive information about this status, and any associated impediment details, until the cargo report has been lodged and the subsequent CARST message is sent to the broker.

How do I determine if my cargo is/is not subject to an Imported Food inspection if I have not yet received the CARST message?

The broker must check the consolidated status and the accompanying supplementary information in the ICS to determine what action (if any) is required by AQIS. These specific details can be found and viewed only on the **Import Document Status Summary screen** within the ICS. This screen contains the same information that is sent out to the broker in the CARST message after the cargo report has been lodged.

Are there other screens in the ICS that will give me this information?

No. There are many other status values available on ICS screens that are not Consolidated Status. For example, Declaration Status and Transport Line Status. Only the **Import Document Status Summary screen** provides the required consolidated status and supplementary information which outline AQIS impediment details.

In COMPILE, I used to look at the screen containing the YYNN status. Can I still use this screen in the ICS to obtain consolidated status?

No. This screen in the ICS is called the Transport Line screen. It merely indicates if the declaration and the cargo report have/have not been evaluated for Customs and AQIS purposes. It does not provide the client with the consolidated status nor the details of AQIS impediments that are currently active.

What should the broker do to determine the status of their consignment?

If the broker has not received the CARST message due to the timing of the cargo report lodgement, they must check the consolidated status and the supplementary information contained on the **Import Document Status Summary screen** in the ICS, and comply accordingly. The supplementary information associated with the consolidated status will give a summary of the AQIS direction (if any) to be followed. Note this action should be taken regardless of the status information indicated on other ICS screens (ie. even if \$YYY is visible in the Transport Line screen).

Further details regarding the matters outlined in this notice can be obtained by contacting Lee Cale, AQIS at lee.cale@aqis.gov.au.