

Notice to Industry

Revised AQIS Fees effective 24 October 2002

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry of increases to AQIS fees effective from 24 October 2002.

In June 2001 certain AQIS fees were increased to cover the immediate effects of the increased quarantine intervention (IQI) activities announced by Government. These fee increases covered the costs of employing additional AQIS staff and other resources (ie equipment such as X-ray machines) needed to support the increased border protection measures. However Government noted that this fee increase was not envisaged to cover the full costs of implementation of IQI activities. AQIS is required to increase fees in order to achieve cost recovery as required by Government policy.

For 2002-03 AQIS, in compliance with Government policy, is introducing new initiatives to enhance quarantine integrity at the border. These initiatives include the establishment of co-regulatory arrangements to address the quarantine risk of empty containers and packaging associated with LCL imports.

The range of amendments to AQIS fees and charges are outlined in Attachment 1. Attachment 2 contains amendments to AQIS import permits. Import permits have been restructured so that each permit application will include an application and a separate assessment fee. There are four tiers of assessment fees reflecting the complexity of permit applications.

The overall impact of cost recovery arrangements on industry reflect savings arising from more efficient container collection arrangements and more consistent application of charges through the COMPILE process. In reviewing its charging policies AQIS has identified a number of areas where improvements could be made to achieve consistency in charging. For example, where previously a client may not have been charged for a documentary assessment AQIS will now be applying the charge of \$35.50 in all cases where documents are presented to AQIS for assessment in addition to any other appropriate charge. This will impact on sea cargo and ensure uniformity and consistency with air cargo

The AQIS Industry Cargo Consultative Committee is working with AQIS to pursue further efficiencies in AQIS import operations and resultant cost benefits.

Discussions are currently underway with the Australian Customs Service (ACS) to ensure the revised AQIS fees payable through COMPILE become effective for entries created on or after 24 October 2002.

For further information in relation to cost variations please contact Katherine West on (02) 6272 5539.

Yours sincerely

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Import Clearance
AQIS