



Notice to Industry

26/2005-06

AQIS cargo screening activities - reducing delays in processing of goods reported on Self Assessed Clearance (SAC) declarations

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry of strategies that can be adopted to minimise potential delays in the screening of cargo entering Australia (particularly air cargo).

Since the cutover to the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) on 12 October 2005, AQIS has experienced periodic delays in its screening activities for goods reported on Self Assessed Clearance (SAC) declarations. These delays relate primarily to the significant increase in the number of low-value goods subject to AQIS screening as a result of the change to the import declaration threshold from \$250 to \$1000. Previously, goods valued between \$250 and \$1000 were processed via COMPILE (thereby providing for fully automated risk evaluations of codified data).

Activities undertaken by AQIS to date

AQIS has taken a number of steps to minimise delays to the movement of goods accompanied by SACs. These include:

- Increasing existing resources devoted to screening activities in the ICS;
- Recruitment and training of additional staff to assist with the larger volume of screening activity; and
- Working co-operatively with Customs to implement changes to the ICS that would make it more efficient to match quarantine and imported food profiles for SACs.

Assistance from Industry

To further minimise the potential for delayed cargo clearances, particularly during the peak importation period leading up to Christmas, SAC reporters are encouraged to:

- Report to the ICS as early as possible. This will maximise the timeframes for AQIS screening prior to the arrival of goods;
- Lodge Import Declaration style (Long Form) SACs for goods that are known to be subject to quarantine and are perishable, or other time-critical consignments. Providing this additional data allows for fully automated AQIS risk assessments;
- Avoid using the SAC indicator on cargo reports for goods transshipping through Australia to overseas destinations;
- Avoid lodging multiple SACs for a single consignment (such as in instances when delayed cargo status messaging is experienced); and
- Ensure the goods are described accurately in all SAC declarations.

Further advice

Queries regarding the matters above can be directed to Mr Greg Hankins, Manager of the AQIS Air Cargo Unit, on (02) 8334 7569.