Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

A **A**QIS
I **I**ndustry
C **C**argo
C **C**onsultative
C **C**ommittee

Cargo Management eBulletin
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Providing information to the Cargo and Shipping industries on the latest AQIS developments

Entry Management National Co-ordination Centre (EMNCC)
Post Implementation Review (PIR) (EMNCC PIR)

In August 2007 the EMNCC was established in the Adelaide AQIS office. AQIS has previously established a number of National Co-ordination centres for a wider variety of commodity activities such as Machinery (Brisbane) timber (Melbourne) bulk cargo (Newcastle).

In line with the NCC concept, the main purpose of the EMNCC is to centralise various entry management functions previously carried out by each region to achieve more effective, efficient and consistent national operations. The first functions transferred from the regions to the newly established NCC were the finalisation of quarantine treatments, re-export and destruction directions. Following initial trials in August/September 2007 full implementation was achieved in November 2007. Initial assessment of processing times achieved by the centralisation indicated that there had been some substantial reductions between assignment of a direction, its subsequent finalisation in AIMS, and the "advice of release" information to industry.

The feasibility of processing imported pig meat entries in one location nationally was then assessed and trialled for transfer to the EMNCC. The trial of this activity proved very successful and full national processing was implemented in Adelaide in July 2008 with industry being fully supportive.

These initiatives have provided benefits to AQIS and industry and further transfer of functions currently performed in each region to the EMNCC in Adelaide can now be considered.

Prior to proceeding with expansion into other activity areas a formal and detailed PIR needs to be performed to examine how well or otherwise the project has performed to date. The PIR will examine achievements, downsides, possible improvements of the EMNCC operations and it may also identify opportunities for improved planning in future initiatives and projects.

Information will be collected from various AQIS officers involved in establishing and operating the EMNCC and from some of the industry participants involved in trialling or participating in these transferred operations. Information gathered will be both quantitative and qualitative and include system data reports, observation, interviews and questionnaires.

A short list of questions will shortly be provided to a number of industry participants inviting them to provide answers as well any additional comments or suggestions that may be considered relevant.

National Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) Piloting of Reformed Data Collection Process

As previously advised, the ICE Reform Pilot commenced on 1 July 2008.The Process Improvement Unit is currently consolidating data and finalising implementation of the reform. Both current and redesigned processes are running in parallel to enable comparative reporting and validate data collected from the redesigned process.

AQIS continues to work closely with the Australian Customs Service with ICE officers present at all Customs Examination Facility (CEF) nationally. ICE operations within the CEF enable AQIS officers to inspect cargo that would not otherwise been physically examined. This process assists in validating and improving AQIS's risk intervention.

Some of the issues detected at the CEF involve mis-reported or unreported cargo present in consignments. A recent ICE inspection of a consignment declared as 'choline chloride' discovered markings on the package declaring 60% corn cob (Feed Grade); the consignment was destined for use as stockfeed. The ICE officer referred the consignment to AQIS and the client directed to apply for an Import Permit.

AQIS looks forward to continuing working with industry to improve this important activity and further improving the integrity of our Quarantine processes.

Recent Detections

AQIS inspectors have been kept busy lately with a number of interesting detections. These have included coffee berry borer, Indian meal moth and hairy powder post beetles.

The coffee berry borer (*Hypothenemus hampei*) was discovered in a container load of green coffee beans. This borer is exotic to Australia and is considered a major pest in over 54 countries. It causes coffee crop losses of close to $500 million dollars annually.

A shipment of rice was the subject of a 'post quarantine detection', when it appeared to be contaminated with Indian meal moth. While testing of the available specimens proved to be inconclusive the rice was subsequently destroyed.

Another 'post quarantine detection' involved a teak bedside table which was found to contain hairy powder post beetles. While these beetles are already established in much of eastern Australia, further spread was minimised when the table was treated to remove the infestation.

Thanks to the good work of the general public and AQIS inspectors, the threat posed by these pests was minimised.

Seed Contamination on Imported New Cars—AQIS/Industry visit to Thailand

As reported in the February edition of the Cargo Management eBulletin, since October 2007, AQIS surveillance inspections have detected a rise in the number of new vehicles imported into Australia from Asia that have been found to be contaminated with plant seed. Identification of these seeds has included species that pose a serious quarantine threat to Australia.

Subsequent increased surveillance activities by AQIS, has resulted in some delays in quarantine clearance and congestion in some ports. Following consultation with the relevant Industry bodies and the AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC), AQIS issued Notice to Industry 20/2008

'Contamination on imported new vehicles'. This notice outlined measures on how to best prepare vehicles to be free of quarantine risk material (QRM) prior to export to Australia.

In early August AQIS representatives and Australian vehicle importer representatives travelled to Thailand to meet with the Thai Automotive Industry Association, the Thai Department of Export Promotion and the Port Authority in Bangkok. The visit also included a visit to the port and a manufacturing plant, following which recommendations were made regarding how to reduce vehicle transport and storage contamination through cleaning and pre-shipment inspection. All parties agreed to continue communication on the issues.

To obtain further information regarding contamination issues of new vehicles contact Lindy Cayzer on 02 6272 4938 or email treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au.

AQIS appreciates the continued co-operation of industry with this important activity.

Safety Procedures at External Container Inspection Regime (ECIR) Inspection Points

AQIS and COMCARE have recently conducted an OH&S safety review of the ECIR inspection procedures around Australia following a number of near OH&S misses involving AQIS inspectors. Recommendations to minimise the safety risk to AQIS inspectors, primarily aimed at preventing trucks moving whilst inspections are in progress, have been issued and in some locations may result in changes to traffic management procedures for ECIR inspections.

These recommendations are the result of a recent COMCARE investigation and are aimed at minimising the risk of AQIS officers placing themselves in an unsafe situation as trucks exit the ECIR inspection area. AQIS has also held discussions with a number of container terminals and stevedores regarding OH&S issues.

There are three primary measures aimed at preventing trucks moving while AQIS inspectors carry out ECIR tasks, or are still in the inspection bay:

1. Drivers are to hand over their delivery order documentation such as gate passes, Equipment Inter change Receipt etc. to the ECIR inspector, who will return it at the completion of the inspection. Drivers are advised that they cannot move until delivery documentation is handed back to them; or
2. AQIS controlled boom gates or similar devices are installed at the exit point of the ECIR inspection area which effectively prevent trucks from moving; or
3. Drivers are to engage the truck brakes and turn off the engine during ECIR inspection.

These primary measures were recommended as part of the AQIS/COMCARE review and AQIS will ensure that at least one of these measures is in place at all ECIR points.

AQIS appreciates that physical and operational arrangements vary between companies and locations and will consider any other OH&S measures provided they result in trucks not moving whilst ECIR inspections are in process or inspectors are within the parameters of the inspection bays. Any other suggested methods should be discussed with the ECIR supervisor in the relevant region prior to program approval.

AQIS requests industry assistance by increasing the awareness of truck drivers on OH&S requirements by providing them with relevant information on ECIR procedures. For information regarding the implementation of one of these options please contact the ECIR supervisor in your region.

Implementation of new AQIS Import Clearance Fees

As reported in the May edition of the cargo management eBulletin and in Notice to Industry 3/2008-09 'Commencement of Revised Import Clearance Quarantine Services Fees', AQIS has recently implemented amendments to a broad set of Import Clearance fees. After some delays, these changes commenced on 12 August 2008 and are likely to apply for the current financial year only.

The new schedule of fees can be found on the AQIS website at
www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/fees-charges/import-clearance.

The Import Clearance Program, in consultation with the AICCC, will now undertake an in-depth examination of all issues that effect cost recovery. Once this has been completed a new set of fees will be introduced.

This review will also cover the current revenue arrangements such as the requirements for pre-payments.

50th AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC) Meeting

The 50th meeting of the AICCC, the consultative group that brings together AQIS and the importing and logistics industries, was held on 21 August 2008 in Sydney, at the AQIS NSW Regional Office.

Discussions topics included:

- The recent AQIS restructure
- Quarantine Systems Division Project Reports, including the Import Conditions Database (ICON) Redevelopment, National Appointment System (NAS), Enhanced Trade Solutions 2015, the Quarantine Operational Framework (QOF), and the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) testing
- Quarantine Operations Division Project Reports, including the current Documentation Email Trial, the Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the Entry Management National Coordination Centre (EM NCC), the Mobile-On-the Job-Office (MOJO) rollout and the Account Client Trial.
- Imported Food Program Status Report
- Seaports Program Status Report.

Industry reports were also given on the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review the AICCC/IWGQ website re-development as well as a presentation by the Quarantine and Export Advisory Council (QEAC).

The next meeting will be held on 16 December 2008.

Topics Covered in Recent eBulletins

Recent Cargo Management eBulletins have included the following topics; AQIS Fee Review, Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) results, the Transfer of Imported (Uncooked) Pig Meat Activities to the Entry Management National Coordination Centre (EM NCC), Recent AQIS Detections and Contaminated Machinery Imports, the National Appointment System (NAS) and Delays in Biological Product Permit Issuing.

Questions, comments and suggestions

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the Cargo Management eBulletin please done hesitate to contact us at cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au.

Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in August 2008

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	**Notice to Industry 3/2008-09**	Commencement of Revised Import Clearance Quarantine Services Fees
2	**Notice to Industry 4/2008-09**	Update on the Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) in Papua New Guinea (PNG)
3	**Notice to Industry 5/2008-09**	AQIS Requirements for the Importation of Unit Load Devices (ULD's) such as Aircraft Pallets and Stalls which have been previously used for the transportation of Horses
4	**Notice to Industry 6/2008-09**	Containerisation following treatment option to be reviewed
5	**Notice to Industry 7/2008-09**	Changes to permit application processing for used machinery
6	**Notice to Industry 8/2008-09**	Delays in AQIS Import Permit Issuing
7	**Notice to Industry 9/2008-09**	Container Fees in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS)
8	**Notice to Industry 10/2008-09**	Safety Procedures at ECIR Inspection Points
9	**Notice to Industry 11/2008-09**	Transhipment of Ship Stores Containing Food That Would Not Normally be Permitted into Australia
10	**Public Quarantine Alert 0576**	Methyl bromide fumigation – ambient temperature compensation
11	**Public Quarantine Alert 0577**	Delays in AQIS Import Permit Issuing
12	**Public Quarantine Alert 0575**	Changes to Import Permit application processing for Used Machinery
13	**Public Quarantine Alert 0573**	Update to AQIS import conditions for tomato seed