



Australian Government

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**

### ✦ New National Manager of AQIS Cargo Management and Shipping

AQIS has welcomed Mr Tim Chapman as its new National Manager, Cargo Management and Shipping. Mr Chapman commenced in the role on 5 February 2007, replacing Mr Bob Murphy who has transferred to the Fisheries and Forestry Division of the Department.

Mr Chapman transferred from the Australian Customs Service, where for 12 months he was National Manager of the Cargo branch. Prior to this, he worked for four years as National Manager of the Passenger branch.

### ✦ Re-accreditation Training Package for Brokers Available Shortly

AQIS-accredited brokers are reminded that they will shortly need to complete a re-accreditation training package in order to stay covered under the Broker Accreditation Scheme (BAS). As accreditation under the Scheme only lasts for a maximum of two years, re-accreditation training must be completed periodically to ensure brokers are aware of the latest quarantine developments.

If a broker gained accreditation after **1 September 2006**, then they will not need to complete the re-accreditation. All brokers that gained accreditation prior to 1 September 2006 will need to complete the re-accreditation training.

**Re-accreditation** training for brokers already covered by the BAS will be available through the CBFCA website in April/May 2007. If a Broker's two year accreditation will lapse before re-accreditation training becomes available, (i.e. if the two year accreditation expires in March 2007) then AQIS will temporarily extend the accreditation until the broker can complete the training. AQIS will provide industry with further information once the re-accreditation package is available. Any further enquiries about re-accreditation or the BAS should be directed to AQIS via email at [brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au](mailto:brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au).

**AQIS Broker Accreditation** training is open to all members of industry who would like to improve their knowledge about quarantine. Additionally, training is a pre-requisite for participation in a number of associated AQIS accreditation schemes, such as:

- Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) for FCL/X Scheme
- Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Full Container Load (FCL) Scheme;
- Less than Container Load (LCL) Packing Scheme; and
- Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities Scheme.

After enrolling in the Accreditation training package through the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) website, participants will need to complete two mandatory online modules via e-learning. Once these two modules have been successfully completed, participants can then enrol for a two-day training session held at their local AQIS regional office.

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### ✦ Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities Update

Brokers can potentially save a significant amount of time and resources in the clearance of imported goods subject to quarantine through the use of the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for Commodities Scheme. This Scheme is the first to allow brokers to assess quarantine concerns associated with the commodity itself – other schemes already in place such as the Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) Scheme focus on non-commodity concerns.

A range of different commodities are covered under the Scheme. The commodities currently are:

- New tyres,
- Fin Fish from New Zealand,
- Dairy Products from New Zealand,
- Manufactured wooden articles,
- New and used machinery and vehicle parts,
- Plywood and veneer products,
- New and used non-passenger vehicles, and
- Used passenger vehicles.

AEP for Commodities lets accredited brokers perform a number of quarantine-related functions, without needing to send documents to AQIS or present documents at an AQIS front counter. The scheme allows brokers to assess non-commodity and commodity documentation, and select the appropriate AQIS processing type, so that the consignment can be directed without direct AQIS involvement.

To use the AEP for Commodities Scheme, several requirements must be met:

- A business must be operating under a compliance agreement that covers all of the other existing BAS accreditation schemes.
- The business must register separately for the AEP for Commodities Scheme – all the necessary forms and information can be found on the AQIS website at [www.aqis.gov.au/iccomplianceagreements](http://www.aqis.gov.au/iccomplianceagreements).
- Brokers processing entries under the AEP for Commodities Scheme are required to successfully complete the AEP for Commodities training package. The training is delivered on-line through the Customs Brokers and Forwarders Council of Australia (CBFCA) website [www.cbfca.com.au](http://www.cbfca.com.au) at a cost of \$88 including GST.

For any further enquiries about registering for the AEP for Commodities Scheme, please contact AQIS at [brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au](mailto:brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au).

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### ✦ eLodge Accounts for Almost 60% of All New Import Permit Applications

The implementation of eLodge continues to be popular with industry, with almost 60% of all AQIS import permit applications now submitted online.

eLodge was implemented on 14 August 2006 and provides industry the ability to lodge their import permit applications electronically. This functionality was developed as a component of the Permit Application Tracking Systems (PATS) project, which aimed to streamline the import permit application and tracking process. This project delivered a number of benefits for industry:

- The ability to submit permit application forms electronically via the AQIS website;
- Automatic email notification to the client containing their unique application reference number upon application submission, and
- Increased efficiency in AQIS's ability to address client enquiries associated with import permit applications, particularly in terms of speed and detail of information that can be provided.

In the week ending 1 February 2006, AQIS received 57% of all import permit applications electronically (excluding live animal permits which are not yet available online). The development of functionality to support the electronic lodgement of live animals permit applications is progressing. The uptake of eLodge

by industry reflects their view that eLodge is “a very good step in the right direction”, and “that the full benefit will be realised when ePermits is online.”

eLodge should be further enhanced once the ePermits system is introduced. ePermits will allow industry to receive their approved permit electronically, and will also provide automatic email notification to clients prior to the expiration of their permits. It will also have the capacity for registered clients to renew permits online, the ability to make real time payments for import permit applications, and a facility to search on the status of permit applications.

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### ✦ Summary of December 2006 AICCC Meeting

The final AICCC meeting for 2006 was held on 6 December, with AQIS IT developments being the major topic of discussion. AQIS is working towards an IT system that is common across all business units and programs. This will mean that a company will be treated as a client of AQIS as a whole, rather than as a client of a particular AQIS program. Other important projects being undertaken by the Import Clearance Program included a National Appointment System, the redevelopment of ICON to improve the structure of the information available, improving entry processing and document assessment, and streamlining revenue systems.

Other significant issues discussed at the meeting included:

- **the AICCC Strategic Plan:** It was agreed that the focus of the AICCC should remain on developing further partnerships between AQIS and Industry, improving communication, and providing input into the management and development of financial and IT resources. It would also retain a role in the evaluation of services delivered by the program in order to help address operational issues.
- **Import Clearance finances:** The Import Clearance Program reported a small surplus for the 2005-06 financial year. As has been the case in previous surplus situations, this surplus has been retained in a special reserve in order to cover unforeseen loss of revenue, or increased costs. When the reserve grows too large, these surplus funds are then returned to industry in the form of reduced fees for AQIS services. As part of its ongoing review process, AQIS will also be examining fees for a number of activities in the first part of 2007 such as Imported Food Entry Processing, Giant African Snail Screening and permit issuing. Any revision of fees would not be implemented before 1 July 2007.
- **Organisational changes:** AQIS Regional Manager positions in South East Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia have been upgraded. Mr Rick Hawe will remain Regional Manager in South East Queensland, while Ms Annette Drury and Mr Peter Cook will fill the roles in Victoria and Western Australia, respectively. Mr Bob Murphy, National Manager, Cargo Management and Shipping, has transferred to the Fisheries and Forestry Division of the Department. Mr Steve Prothero will also return to AQIS and will head a new branch with responsibility for information, legal and operational support.

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### Charging for Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) Inspections

Industry is reminded no charges are applied for ICE surveillance inspections when the consignment examined is free from quarantine concerns. ICE surveillance inspections form part of general cargo risk management activities and the costs are recovered as a component of AQIS sea cargo container fees.

However, if an item of quarantine concern is found during an ICE inspection, it becomes a standard quarantine inspection from that point onwards and will be subject to AQIS fees. For example, if the ICE inspection would normally take 90 minutes, but an item of quarantine concern was found after 30 minutes, then the remaining inspection period (60 minutes) and any subsequent quarantine supervision would be subject to normal AQIS fees.

AQIS appreciates the ongoing cooperation of industry in assisting with the performance of this important quarantine function. Further advice about the ICE program is available from the ICE section within your local AQIS Regional Office. **[Click here for more information on ICE Inspections.](#)**

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✦ Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in December 2006 / January 2007

| Reference Number | Document  | Overview   |
|------------------|---|--|
| 1                | <a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 15, 2006-07</u></a>     | Opening Hours for AQIS Import Clearance Offices in Major Ports and Canberra during the Christmas/New Year period |
| 2                | <a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 16, 2006-07</u></a>     | Opening Hours for AQIS Import Clearance Offices in Major Ports and Canberra during the Christmas/New Year period |
| 3                | <a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 17, 2006-07</u></a>     | Withdrawal of the Electronic Clearance of Imported New Tyres Scheme  |
| 4                | <a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 18, 2006-07</u></a>     | Application of Charges to Import Clearance Effectiveness Inspections   |
| 5                | <a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 19, 2006-07</u></a>     | Low Risk Wooden Article Scheme   |
| 6                | <a href="#"><u>Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0501</u></a> | Changed Import Permit Conditions for Fresh Taro  |
| 7                | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0497</u></a>                           | Notice to AQIS staff and Seed/Plant Importing Industry: Revised hosts of Guava Rust                              |
| 8                | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0502</u></a>                           | Stonefruit is now permitted in to Western Australia from New Zealand   |
| 9                | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0504</u></a>                           | Three-month import permits for prawns  |
| 10               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0503</u></a>                           | Changes to the Quarantine Proclamation 1998 Permitted Seeds List - December 2006                                 |
| 11               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0447</u></a>                           | Burnt Pine Longicorn season 06/07 commencement   |
| 12               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0021</u></a>                           | Manufacturer's declarations - format requirements  |
| 13               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0407</u></a>                           | Red meat quarantine requirements suspended   |
| 14               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0416</u></a>                           | ISPM 15 acronyms used in France and Spain  |
| 15               | <a href="#"><u>PQA 0496</u></a>                           | Notice to importers of whole and split lentils for human consumption   |

✦ Contact [cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au](mailto:cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au) if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information

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✦ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY ✦