



## **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak in the Republic of Cyprus**

### **ADVICE TO AGENTS – SEAPORTS – AtA - 08/07**

Shipping Agents / Operators

The purpose of this advice is to notify Shipping Agents of the Seaports Program's response to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) in the Republic of Cyprus.

As you may be aware, an outbreak of FMD has recently occurred in the Republic of Cyprus.

As a result of an FMD outbreak in the UK in 2000/2001, the Seaports Program significantly increased its quarantine intervention and implemented a range of strict measures to strengthen controls at Australian ports. These measures are now a routine part of the pratique inspection and subsequent intervention of passengers, crew and luggage.

These measures include:

- 100% intervention of vessels and disembarking passengers including inspection and treatment of goods that may contain soil, such as shoes, sports gear and other;
- Surveillance of wharf environments and vessels;
- Bonding of stores, including FMD risk stores, on board vessels;
- Sealing of galley grinders and swing bins while vessels are in Australian waters;
- Quarantine inspection; and
- Strict management of waste from vessels.

The Seaports Program will continue to implement these measures, paying particular attention to vessels and passengers (and their luggage) from the Republic of Cyprus.

Australia has successfully kept FMD out of the country for more than 130 years and works stringently to maintain Australia's FMD free status.

Further information regarding AQIS's response to FMD can be found at [www.affa.gov.au/docs/animalplanthealth/fmd/index.htm](http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/animalplanthealth/fmd/index.htm).

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