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Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



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

✦ New Look for AQIS Website

AQIS has updated the appearance of its website, with the new format being released on 23 April 2007. The redesign is part of a wider redevelopment of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) website.

The focus of the redesign has been changing the format in which information is displayed. The actual information content of pages within the website has remained virtually unchanged.

Nevertheless, as the AQIS website is quite complex and contains a very large number of pages, some of the links within individual pages may be inoperative, or may redirect the user to a wrong page. AQIS is aware of a number of faulty links and is currently working to rectify these errors.



AQIS is encouraging all users of the new website to contact AQIS at the following email addresses if faulty links are detected so that corrective action can be taken :

For Seaport-related pages: seaports@aqis.gov.au

For Import-related pages: import.clearance@aqis.gov.au

✦ Broker Re-accreditation Ends on 31 May 2007

Brokers are reminded that re-accreditation training for the Containerised Cargo Clearance (CCC) for FCL/X, Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) for FCL and LCL Packing Schemes ends on **31 May 2007**. If brokers are unable to complete the training before 31 May 2007, they can apply to defer the completion via email to brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au. Each application will be considered by AQIS on a case-by-case basis, and valid reasons such as illness or leave must be supplied as to why the training cannot be undertaken.

Those persons who do not complete the re-accreditation training without exemptions will have their accreditation suspended on 1 June 2007 and from that date onwards will no longer be able to undertake

Compliance Agreement tasks under these Schemes. Where an accreditation is suspended, it will only be re-activated after completion of a full two day face-to-face accreditation course.

Re-accreditation training packages are provided on-line through the CBFC website at <http://www.cbfc.com.au>. To complete re-accreditation, brokers must use their AQIS-issued accreditation number, which is provided on their Scheme certificates. Persons wishing to confirm their number may contact AQIS at brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6272 4893 during business hours.

✦ QAP Renewals for 2007-08

The annual Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) approval renewal process is currently underway for all 2300 QAPs across the country. As QAP approvals are valid for a period of 12 months only, operators who wish to retain their approval in 2007-08 will need to renew their QAP approval.

All QAPs should by now have received their 2007-08 renewal packages, which contains the renewal application form, an invoice for payment, instructions for completing the renewal process, and answers to the most commonly asked questions about the process.

QAP operators must return the QAP Approval Renewal Application form and pay the QAP fee no later than **15 June 2007** to remain registered / approved. If QAP operators do not renew their approval by this date, then their QAP accreditation status will expire on 1 July 2007. After the expiry of QAP approval, operators will no longer be permitted to handle quarantine material. This may result in the removal of goods subject to quarantine from affected premises.

Further information on the QAP registration renewal process is available from the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/qap2007.

✦ AQIS Account Client Trial for AIMS

In close consultation with industry, AQIS has commenced a staged trial with a small number of brokers situated in Sydney to test a system that removes the need for up front payment obligations for AQIS services. To date, the trial has proven very successful from both an AQIS and industry point of view. Some extensions of current arrangements are expected to occur by mid May, with the final trial stage involving a further selective group of around 10 brokers covering all regions.

The trial involves setting up regular, financially reliable users of AQIS services as "account clients" in the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) to remove the requirement of up front payment for AQIS services. Instead, they are invoiced on a regular basis. The trial has the potential to facilitate the introduction of a system that significantly reduces the burden on industry in relation to the timing of payments as well as the amount of time and expense AQIS expends on revenue activities. The result should be an improved, mutually beneficial payment system for services carried out via AIMS. Industry will be kept advised of the progress of this significant project.

✦ AICCC Meeting, April 2007

The most recent meeting of the AICCC was held in Sydney on 18 April 2007. This was the first meeting attended by Mr Tim Chapman as the National Manager, Cargo Management and Shipping. Mr Stephen Morris, the Executive Director of the CBFC and a member of the AICCC since 1995, attended the meeting as an observer of the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council (QEAC) following his appointment to the Council in April 2007. Mr Hart Krtschil's membership of QEAC ceased in February 2007 upon completion of four successive terms covering the period 1997 to 2007.

The **AQIS Entry Management Plan (EMP)** and the establishment of an AQIS/Industry Entry Management Focus Group was the main topic of discussion. The EMP seeks to improve AQIS entry

management processes and includes a number of initiatives that have been on the agenda for some time, such as:

- Clearly determining compliance and documentation requirements,
- AEP Commodity participation,
- Optional Port Lodgement, and consideration of a centralised processing location, and
- The re-development of the ICON database to improve functionality and accuracy of information.

The meeting agreed to work closely with AQIS on these ongoing initiatives through current arrangements and for the AQIS/Industry Entry Management focus Group to closely monitor and actively contribute to progress on this important project.

Some of the other significant issues covered included:

- **Cargo Risk Management:** Consideration of the current coverage of the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) program, as well as documentary assessment conducted in conjunction with the Broker Accreditation Scheme (BAS).
- **Fees:** Both the AQIS Import Clearance and Seaports programmes were currently ahead of budget estimates, with any surpluses to be transferred over to income equalisation funds to cover for potential deficits in the future. A review of full import declaration and self assessed clearance fees was also discussed.
- **Broker accreditation:** Reaccreditation of brokers under the BAS was discussed as an example of a cooperative regulatory approach of AQIS and industry. Expansion of the BAS to cover break bulk and air cargo was also discussed as a method to provide a more cost effective and efficient process for AQIS and industry.

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✦ Extension of Giant African Snail Survey

In order to ensure that AQIS has adopted appropriate risk management strategies for Giant African Snails (GAS), AQIS has been conducting additional inspections on containers from a number of countries identified as posing a potential GAS risk. By collecting data on a statistically valid number of containers from each of the target countries, AQIS will be able to update existing quarantine risk information about this damaging quarantine pest.

The survey was initially scheduled to finish in March 2007. Sufficient sample inspections for several countries have now been completed and the relevant countries, such as Indonesia, will no longer participate in the survey. However, as very few containers are imported into Australia from some of the countries covered by the survey, an extension of the survey for these countries as listed below is still required:

Benin	Gabon	Nigeria
Brunei	Guadeloupe	Seychelles
Burkina Faso	Madagascar	Tanzania
Cameroon	Maldives	Togo
Central African Republic	Martinique	Uganda
Chad	Morocco	Zaire
Congo	Mozambique	Zambia
Equatorial Guinea	Niger	Zimbabwe

The GAS National Coordination Centre (GAS NCC) located in Brisbane will continue to refer containers from the above countries for targeted GAS inspections, until sufficient sample sizes have been reached. Whenever a container is selected for a targeted GAS inspection, the GAS NCC provides this information to regional AQIS contacts, industry, vessel agents and stevedores. In addition, inspection charges will not be applied for containers inspected during the survey. **Click here for further information.**

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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in April 2007**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0515	Revision of Karnal Bunt countries areas in ICON
2	PQA 0447	Burnt Pine Longicorn season 06/07 commencement
3	Notice to industry 22, 2006-07	Extension of Giant African Snail (GAS) Targeted Inspections
4	Notice to Industry 23, 2006-07	Re-accreditation Training and Renewal of Compliance Agreements - Containerised Cargo Clearance for FCL/X, Automatic Entry Processing for FCL & LCL Packing Schemes
5	Notice to Industry 24, 2006-07	Low Risk Wooden Article scheme extended to include highly processed bamboo articles
6	Imported Food Notice 01/07	Tests applied to random foods
7	Imported Food Notice 02/07	Tests applied to risk foods
8	Imported Food Notice 03/07	Tests applied to active foods

✦ **Contact 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** ✦