



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



Cargo Management eBulletin

No: 08-2007 (September)

To print eBulletin or to view online, [click here](#)

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

✦ Launch of ePermits

AQIS launched the ePermits system late last month, which should make it faster and more convenient for AQIS clients to manage their import permit requirements. ePermits is similar to the existing eLodgement facility, in that clients can lodge Import Permit applications online. However, ePermits is also able to issue electronic Import Permits (for eligible Import Permit applications). ePermits is available from the AQIS website at the following address: <https://www.aqis.gov.au/epermits>.

The aim of ePermits is to streamline the administrative functions associated with the Import Permit application process. Some of the advantages of the ePermits system over the conventional paper-based system include:

- Receipt of approved Import Permits via email;
- Payment for applications are made in real time;
- Automatic notification prior to expiration of Import Permits; and
- Registered clients can check the status of Import Permit applications.

In addition, fees for electronic lodgement of import permit applications are lower than for conventional applications, though clients should note that fees are subject to change as part of regular AQIS charging reviews. AQIS would like to thank all industry representatives who participated in the testing of the ePermits system.

Electronic Import Permits are available through ePermits for the large majority of plant-based products. Import Permits for biological materials, live animals and reproductive materials are not eligible for electronic lodgement using ePermits at present. Applications for these commodities can only be made via eLodgement or manual submission. [Click here for further information](#).

✦ Increased Risks associated with Asian Gypsy Moth

AQIS is asking for assistance from industry in keeping Australia free from Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM), following reports of increased numbers of the insect this year in the forests surrounding Russian Far East Ports. The numbers of AGM detected on vessels since 1 July 2007 have been higher than those seen in previous years, and as such there is a greater risk of AGM being introduced into Australia.

AGM is an exotic pest to Australia which, if became established, could devastate forests causing major environmental and economic damage. The most likely mode of introduction of AGM into Australia is from egg masses that have been deposited on vessels, on their cargo and containers and the hatching larvae travelling to shore by 'ballooning' or being blown by winds to shore.

AQIS is taking additional inspection precautions for "high risk" vessels, which are those that:

- have visited a Russian Far East Port between 40°N and 60°N and east of 147°E during any period between 1 July and 30 September in the past two years, and
- do not have a Certificate of Freedom from Gypsy Moth.

High risk vessels are not granted quarantine clearance until the vessel has been inspected and cleared of AGM, if applicable. In addition, AQIS will also perform random inspections of vessels with a Certificate of Freedom from Gypsy Moth, to verify the accuracy of the certification. AQIS officers are also undertaking more detailed pratique inspections for vessels arriving at Australian ports South of the Tropic of Capricorn, as these are considered to be at greater risk of infestation. If AGM egg masses are found on board, AQIS will undertake a full AGM inspection of the vessel. [Click here for further information and pictures of AGM.](#)

✦ New Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (QPAR) for Vessels Arriving in Australian Waters

AQIS introduced a new version of the Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (QPAR) on **12 September 2007**. The AQIS Seaports Program has recently completed a review of all the questions asked on the current QPAR. The purpose of the review was to find out how appropriate the questions were, and to consider changes where appropriate. Based on extensive consultation with AQIS regional offices and the shipping industry, the revised QPAR has been significantly simplified and aligns more closely with current operational policy.

The key amendments to the QPAR are in the following areas:

- A change in the reporting timeframe to 96 to 12 hours prior to arrival. This is an extension on the previous 48 to 12 hours timeframe, and better aligns with the reporting requirements of other Australian Government agencies;
- The addition of a question on vessel length;
- The addition of a question on waste;
- Broadening the requirement to report sightings of any insects, not just bees; and
- Considerably simplifying ballast water questions.

AQIS must be notified immediately if the status of the vessel, after the submission of the QPAR, changes at any time. Effective and efficient utilisation of AQIS resources requires reliable vessel arrival and departure information. AQIS appreciates the cooperation of shipping agents regarding the timely notification of changes to information supplied with the QPAR, with particular attention to amended berthing and /or departure times.

AQIS appreciates any feedback from industry in order to make it easier to fill out the QPAR. [Click here to access copies of the revised QPAR](#), as well as further information on completing AQIS documentation. The revised QPAR and associated documents will also be on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/shipping from 12 September 2007.

Australian Government
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Quarantine Pre-arrival Report for Vessels (Pratique)
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
QUARANTINE ACT 2008 (Section 173)
Quarantine Regulation 2008 (Subpart 160)

The form must be provided to AQIS no more than 96 hours and no less than 12 hours prior to the vessel's arrival at the First Port of Call. AQIS must be notified immediately if the reported status of the vessel (relating to questions on this form) changes at any time. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.

Vessel's Particulars for First Port of Call

1. Vessel Name	11. List of Australian Ports of Call, if known
2. Voyage Number	
3. IMO/USC Number	12. Number of Cargo Hold/Tank/Deck
4. Radio Call Sign	13. Vessel Type Vessel Length (m)
5. Last Port of Call	14. Country and Port of Registry
6. ETA Anchorage First Port of Call	15. Deselecting Certificate or Deselecting Exemption Certificate
7. ETA Berth First Port of Call	Issued on DATE at PORT
8. First Port of Call	16. Ship Sanitation Control Certificate or Ship Sanitation Control
9. Berth	Exemption Certificate Issued on DATE at PORT
10. ETD First Port of Call	DATE at PORT

Quarantine Pre-Arrival Information (in the spaces provided below answer ALL the following questions and)

17. Have there been any deaths amongst persons on board the vessel during the current voyage? YES NO
If YES, please state number of deaths () and cause, or suspected cause

18. Has any person on board the vessel during the voyage been found to be suffering from an illness or symptoms of an illness? YES NO
If YES, please state the number of people who suffer from the symptoms/s or illness, the cause or suspected cause and any treatment that the person has had

19. Are there any animals (including birds and/or fish) on board the vessel? YES NO
If YES, state how many, and give a description of the type of animal/s and their health and condition

Did any animals die during this voyage? YES NO
If YES, how many animals died (). How were the dead animals disposed of?

20. Have any insects, including bees, been discovered on board during this voyage? YES NO
If YES, please give a description and the location of the insect/s

✦ Import Clearance Effectiveness Program Indicates Issues with Documentation

Results from the AQIS Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) program over the last two years show that there is a need to ensure overseas suppliers are more aware of Australian quarantine requirements. AQIS is encouraging importers and brokers to assist in this, as the identification of quarantine risks has a direct impact on Australian importers and brokers.

Since the introduction of ICE two years ago, AQIS inspectors have examined over 13,000 containers and almost 23,000 commodities to verify whether they complied with packaging, container cleanliness and treatment declarations made in accompanying paperwork. ICE inspections are performed on a random selection basis and are in addition to the regular system of surveillance inspections.

Results indicate that about 8.3% of all containers inspected under the ICE program had some type of internal packaging or contamination concern which should have been referred to AQIS. This indicates that the documentation provided to AQIS in these instances, was inaccurate. The most common problems related to bark contamination on wood packaging, which accounted for over 40% of all cases. Adherence to AQIS commodity requirements was much better, with only 1.2% of all commodities inspected having some form of quarantine concern which had not been referred to AQIS.

When non-conformities are detected by AQIS, an electronic profile may be created for the overseas supplier of the non-compliant consignment, which automatically targets the next five consignments for AQIS inspection. All relevant parties, including the broker and importer, are advised of exactly what the problem with a consignment was, so that they are able to help their suppliers take remedial action. Once a targeted supplier achieves five clear consignments in a row the profile is removed, but they will continue to be subject to the system of random inspections AQIS applies to all importers.

Targeted inspections attract additional AQIS fees and introduce extra delays in the system. AQIS therefore encourages brokers and importers to provide any assistance they can to their overseas suppliers to minimise these additional time and financial costs. Overseas suppliers should make sure their consignments meet the AQIS import requirements described in ICON, and that all documentation supplied is accurate. Accurate documentation is vital to the cargo clearance process and to the 'shared responsibility' approach which AQIS promotes.

AQIS will continue to liaise with industry to promote ICE results, with a view to improving overseas supplier compliance with AQIS import conditions and minimising potential negative impacts on Australian brokers and importers who are relying on the documentation provided by their suppliers.

✦ Upcoming Changes to AQIS Kiln Drying Requirements for Timber Treatment

AQIS has made some changes to certification requirements for timber which is treated by kiln drying. The changes, which come into effect on **15 October 2007**, should simplify processes for importers involved in this sector of the market.

The new kiln drying certification requirements remove the existing requirements for treatment duration, timber thickness and wet bulb depression temperature allowance. Instead, kiln drying treatments must satisfy just three key requirements:

- a core temperature of at least 74°C was reached before commencing treatment,
- a minimum of 60 minutes treatment time after core temperature reached, and
- a final average timber moisture content of 12% or less is achieved.

All kiln drying treatment certificates and related Phytosanitary certificates will need to include references to these three requirements.

Up until 15 October 2007 changeover date, AQIS will accept either kiln drying treatment certificates that meet current certification requirements of the existing kiln drying treatment, or certificates that comply with the new requirements. But after 15 October 2007, AQIS will only accept the new kiln drying treatment certificate.

For further information on the changes to kiln drying treatment, contact the Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre in the AQIS Victorian Regional Office on timber.imports@aqis.gov.au.

✦ AICCC Meeting

The latest meeting of the AICCC was held in Canberra on **29 August 2007**, involving key representatives from a range of peak industry bodies and senior management of AQIS Cargo Management and Shipping.

The major issue covered was the detailed consideration of progress on all major projects currently underway by the Import Clearance and Seaports programmes. Details of the 2007-08 business plans for both programmes were also considered, as well as their interaction with other stakeholder programmes such as Imported Food and Biologicals. In addition, reports on the performance of the Increased Quarantine Intervention (IQI) initiative, the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) program and reaccreditation of Quarantine Approved Premises (QAPs) were presented. Another major discussion involved budgets for the programmes and how the costs of providing different AQIS services were

recovered from the users of those services. Finally reports from other consultative committees such as the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council (QEAC) were presented.

✦ Class One QAP Re-accreditation Closing Shortly

AQIS is reminding industry that re-accreditation training for accredited persons operating under the Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Compliance Agreement Scheme will close shortly.

This training must be completed by all accredited persons who gained accreditation before 1 January 2007. If this does not occur, then accreditation will be suspended and the person will no longer be able to undertake activities under this Scheme. Persons who gained accreditation after 1 January 2007 will not be required to complete the re-accreditation training and AQIS has sent exemption letters to those persons in this category.

The re-accreditation training package is available through the Guardian system at www.iwgq.com. Please note that this training should not be confused with Quarantine Approved Premises for Accredited Persons training (Classes 2 to 9) which is also delivered via the Guardian system. If you have any further questions about the training, please contact AQIS via email at ic.ca@aqis.gov.au or by telephone (02) 6272 4172 or (02) 6272 3670.

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

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (PQA) 0520	Notice to AQIS staff and Seed Importers: Importation of seeds
2	PQA 0523	Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the United Kingdom
3	PQA 0525	Introduction of ePermits system to apply for Import Permits
4	Seaports Notice 03/07	New Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (QPAR)
5	Seaports Notice 04/07	Asian Gypsy Moth
6	Notice to Industry 2, 2007-08	Entry Management National Co-ordination Centre in South Australia
7	Notice to Industry 3, 2007-08	Re-accreditation Training and Renewal of Compliance Agreements - Quarantine Approved Premises Class One Sea and Air Freight Depots Scheme
8	Notice to Industry 4, 2007-08	Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak in the United Kingdom
9	Notice to Industry 5, 2007-08	Implementation of ePermits Facility for Industry
10	Imported Food Notice 05/07	Tests applied to risk category foods
11	Imported Food Notice 06/07	Notification of changes to the tests applied to imported seafood
12	Imported Food Notice 07/07	Test applied to random surveillance category foods

✦ Contact cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry seeks to publish its work to the highest professional standards. The Commonwealth does not warrant the accuracy or currency of the information which comes from third parties. Readers should rely on their own skill and judgement in applying any information to particular issues or circumstances. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Commonwealth disclaims all liability for any loss, damage, expenses and costs incurred by any person arising out of using or relying on any part of the information provided in this eBulletin.