



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
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Australian Quarantine and
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Cargo Management eBulletin

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

AQIS wins prestigious US environmental award

The Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS), which is an AQIS led initiative, recently won a prestigious award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its efforts in reducing the use of methyl bromide through effective fumigation practices.

The EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Awards, which were founded in 1990, recognise exceptional leadership, dedication and technical achievements in protecting the Earth's ozone layer. The award is particularly prestigious because nominees compete globally against the notable accomplishments of many other nominees, with the winners selected by previous winners.

According to the EPA's website www.epa.gov/ozone/awards, 'Winners of the Stratospheric Ozone Protection Awards are leading by example. Their demonstrated commitment and extraordinary contributions inspire other individuals and organizations to make a difference in protecting the environment.'

AFAS has been implemented in Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and Thailand and is in the final stages of implementation in Papua New Guinea, China and the Philippines. Since 2004, AFAS has halved the number of imported containers from Indonesia and Malaysia requiring re-fumigation on arrival in Australia resulting in an approximate 95 tonne reduction in the amount of methyl bromide used for quarantine treatments over that period.

AFAS has been endorsed by the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum and is expanding to include more countries with interest from New Zealand, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Peru, Chile and Russia.

More information on AFAS can be found on the AQIS website at www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/pre-border/afas

AQIS import clearance fee review

In July 2005 the broad schedule of fees for import clearance activities, established in the Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005, was put in place. In November 2005, following the adjustments in the 'entry threshold' from \$250 to \$1000, the Full Import Declaration (FID) fee for air cargo was increased to cover the additional cost attributable to Self Assessed Clearance (SAC) profiling and

associated activities as well as the loss of revenue resulting from the decrease in air cargo entries. The import clearance quarantine service fees have remained unchanged since.

While there has been an increase in international trade which has increased the revenue collected, there has also been an increase in service delivery costs. A review of fees commenced in early 2007 and in December 2007 the AQIS/Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC) agreed that a range of fees be amended in early 2008 to ensure continued cost recovery of the Import Clearance Program and to address some cross subsidisation issues (refer Cargo Management eBulletin 1-2008).

AQIS did not proceed with the fee amendments in early 2008, preferring to review the expenditure and revenue situation towards the end of the 2007/08 financial year. Following recent consultation with the AICCC's Working Group on Revenue Collection and Cost Recovery, AQIS intends to amend a broad set of import clearance fees from 1 July 2008. These fees are likely to apply for a one year period only. The Working Group has requested that the Program undertake an in-depth examination of all issues that effect cost recovery in early 2008/09. Once this has been completed, a fee review will be proposed for 2009/10 with the resulting fee schedule remaining in place for a three year period.

Further information about fee changes will be made available in the Import Clearance Notices to Industry 07-08.

Continuing improvement in Import Clearance Effectiveness results

As industry is aware from past Cargo Management e-bulletins, the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) activities are integral to AQIS's management of its effectiveness. The data collected from these inspections is used to verify the effectiveness of Import Clearance risk profiling mechanisms and documentary assessment procedures.

The latest ICE reports from April 2008 indicate that 7.7 per cent of non-commodity items (eg. packaging and dunnage) and 1.1 per cent of commodities contain quarantine risk material that is either not declared or not detected through current profiling mechanisms. This is commonly referred to as leakage. Since January 2008, the non-commodity leakage figure has continued to reduce gradually from 8 per cent to 7.7 per cent, while the commodity leakage figure has remained steady.

The data continues to clearly indicate greater problems with the non-commodity aspects of containerised cargo than with the cargo itself and ongoing concerns with the accuracy of documentation provided by overseas suppliers. Non-conformities in documentation are dealt with by applying profiles against suppliers who provide non-compliant documentation to target future shipments. This approach appears to be influencing supplier behaviour and gradually reducing the non-commodity leakage rate.

AQIS will continue to work with industry on this important activity to further improve the integrity of our quarantine processes. If you would like to provide feedback or obtain information on Import Clearance Effectiveness activities, please contact Margaret Ward from AQIS Central Office by e-mail: piumailbox@aqis.gov.au or by phone on 02 6272 5113. To obtain further information on how this initiative will affect your operations, please contact the relevant ICE section within your local AQIS Regional Office on the following phone numbers:

NSW 02 8334 7663	WA 08 9334 1502	TAS 03 6233 8229	NT 02 8920 7044
SA 08 8201 6027	VIC 03 8387 0103	QLD 07 3246 8620	FNQ 07 4789 7888

Transfer of co-ordination activities for imported (uncooked) pig meat to the Entry Management National Co-ordination Centre (EM NCC)

The Import Clearance Program has recently begun the transfer of the coordination activities for imported (uncooked) pig meat shipments to the EM NCC. These coordination activities include the clearance and movement of consignments to Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) and subsequent movements to approved processing facilities.

The EM NCC has been established in Adelaide and is progressively assuming responsibility for a range of entry management activities currently undertaken in AQIS regional offices. To date, this has included the finalisation of unsupervised quarantine treatments and management of outstanding AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) entries. The next activity trialled and transferred to the EM NCC was the coordination of all activities relating to imported (uncooked) pig meat shipments from NSW. Due to the success of the trial, the EM NCC will now undertake the coordination of all regional entry management activities of imported (uncooked) pig meat.

AQIS has decided to move the remaining regional entry processing of pig meat to the EM NCC progressively as per the following dates:

WA - Monday 26 May 2008

SE QLD - Monday 2 June 2008

VIC - Tuesday 10 June 2008

The EM NCC will perform the following functions:

- All initial entry processing for imported (uncooked) pig meat shipments
- Processing of all movement requests for consignments of imported (uncooked) pig meat on AIMS entries
- Central contact point for reporting of non-conformities in relation to consignments of imported (uncooked) pig meat.

The EM NCC will not be responsible for issuing import permits and will not undertake auditing of QAPs or pig meat processors operating under compliance agreements. These activities will remain as they are.

Should you have any enquiries regarding the transfer of activities to the EM NCC or how these changes may affect your business, please do not hesitate to contact the Entry Management Projects Team by e-mail at EMprojects@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on 02 6272 4728.

Burnt Pine Longicorn (BPL) season in New Zealand closed

AAs outlined in Notice to Industry 30 2007/08 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Biosecurity New Zealand has advised the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) that the 2007—2008 BPL (also known as *Arhopalus tristis* or *Arhopalus fesus*) flight season has closed.

The current import conditions for timber and timber mouldings can be found on the AQIS website on the Import Conditions (ICON) Database at www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp by searching 'Timber and Timber Mouldings'.

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand continued trapping until late May 2008 to ensure that any late flights were detected. A Notice to Industry will be released notifying importers if the season re-commences.

If you require any further clarification of import requirements please contact the Timber and Timber Products National Coordination Centre at timber.imports@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on 03 8318 6929.

Clarification of exported timber products from Australia being re-imported into Australia after processing

The Import Clearance Program would like to ensure industry is aware of AQIS's on-going policy that all Timber and Timber Related products that have been exported from Australia and are then being re-imported into Australia after processing are classed as foreign and will be required to meet the import conditions of that commodity.

Note: This does not include Australian goods that have been returned, having been rejected by the importing country.

For further information on Timber and Timber Related Products ICON cases please contact the Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre at timber.imports@aqis.gov.au or by phone on 03 8318 6929.

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

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Notice to Industry 29	Importation of all bivalve molluscs (e.g. clams, mussels, pipis and cockles) intended for use as animal food (including aquatic bait) require an Import Permit.
2	Notice to Industry 30	Burnt Pine Longicorn (BPL) season in New Zealand closed.
3	Notice to Industry 31	Integrated Cargo System (ICS) outage 17-18 May 2008.
4	Notice to Industry 32	Clarification of exported timber products from Australia being re-imported into Australia after processing.
5	Notice to Industry 33	Imported (uncooked) Pig Meat Transfer of Co-ordination of Activities to the EM NCC.
6	Notice to Industry 34	Quarantine Risk Material (QRM) Contamination on Imported New Cars.
7	Public Quarantine Alert 0533	Burnt Pine Longicorn (BPL) season 2007/08 closure.
8	Public Quarantine Alert 0555	Reminder to Importers of Dietary Supplements and Alternative Medicines.
9	Public Quarantine Alert 0554	Clarification Regarding Uncooked, Highly Processed Prawns and Prawn Products.

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

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