



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service**

Notice to Industry

31/2009

## **Revised AQIS Inspection Arrangements for Air Cargo**

In response to the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001, AQIS implemented a policy of physically inspecting all High Volume Low Value (HVLV) reportable documents and the external surfaces of Unit Load Devices (ULD) air cargo containers. Inspection results for ULDs and HVLV since 2001 have helped isolate a very small proportion with biosecurity concerns.

AQIS is adopting new inspection procedures to detect biosecurity risks in air cargo, HVLV and ULDs. This is more consistent with the recommendations of the 2008 Quarantine and Biosecurity Review, to apply “risk return” principles to AQIS inspection efforts.

AQIS is working closely with Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA) in making decisions about the allocation of effort and resources to better target areas of biosecurity risk, including proposed sampling verification arrangements.

### **What next?**

AQIS is now moving to adopt a two phase approach for implementing a new surveillance framework.

The proposed new surveillance phases are as follows:

Phase 1 - HVLV/ULDs inspections reduce to 50-60% from **1 August 2009**.

Phase 2 - HVLV/ULDs inspections reduce to 10-20% from **1 November 2009**.

AQIS will continue to collect surveillance data on HVLV & ULDs to:

- identify high-risk pathways
- identify emerging risks.

As part of the new risk return process, AQIS will also be increasing its random and targeted surveillance programs on other air cargo pathways, including timber packaging and general air cargo.

### **Further Information**

If you require further information, please contact Mr Rama Karri on 02 6272 5737 or email [rama.karri@aqis.gov.au](mailto:rama.karri@aqis.gov.au).