



Notice to Industry

52/2009

Giant African Snail (GAS) policy - Container & breakbulk inspections

Who is affected by this notice?

As part of the ongoing review of GAS risk management strategies, and following extensive consultation with industry and country stakeholders, this notice is to advise industry, particularly shipping companies and freight forwarders of impending changes in AQIS requirements for sea containers and breakbulk imported from countries on the AQIS trial country action list attached.

What are the issues?

- The WTO comment period for the proposed trial of the single, GAS Country Action List ended in July 2009 (see Notice to Industry 24/2009 of 15 May 2009). Please refer to our web site for the background of this trial at www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/cargo/pests/gas
- The single GAS Country Action List (CAL) will be trialed nationally commencing 1 September 2009 to identify containers and breakbulk cargo requiring external GAS inspections on arrival.
- Current import conditions (C8899) require that the Principal Agent for the vessel carrying containers/cargo from GAS countries need to ensure that AQIS receives a vessel bay plan (EDI file) and/or cargo lists at least 24 hours prior to vessel arrival. This requirement will be extended to containers/cargo from countries on the trial GAS Country Action List. The Principal Agent of the vessel will incur all AQIS charges associated with the external GAS inspection process.
- Note that the trial only applies to the *external* examination of GAS containers and breakbulk cargo and the *internal* examination of empty GAS containers. For information on changes to requirements for commodities from targeted GAS countries (C8900) please see Notice to Industry 53/2009 Giant African Snail (GAS) policy – Commodity Inspection Requirements.

Further information

For further information on these issues please contact Lindy Cayzer by email at treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au or phone 02 6272 4938 or the AQIS Container National Coordination Centre by email gas.screener@aqis.gov.au or phone 07 3637 7730.

AQIS GAS Country Action List

All containers and breakbulk from the following countries will require GAS inspection of external surfaces and the internal surfaces of empty containers, when discharged at Australian ports, commencing 1 September 2009

American Samoa	Mauritius
Benin	Federated States of Micronesia
Brunei Darussalam	Morocco
Burkina Faso	Mozambique
Cambodia	New Caledonia
Cameroon	Niger
Central African Rep.	Nigeria
Chad	Northern Mariana Islands
Christmas Is	Palau
Congo (Democratic republic)	Papua New Guinea
Cote D'Ivoire	Samoa
Equatorial Guinea	Seychelles
Fiji	Solomon Islands
French Polynesia	Tanzania
Gabon	Timor-Leste
Ghana	Togo
Guadeloupe	Uganda
Guam	Vanuatu
Hawaii	Wallis & Futuna
Madagascar	West Papua
Maldives	Zambia
Martinique	Zimbabwe