Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

16 November 2010   63/2010

The Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service
S-Cargo electronic holds project update

Who is affected by this notice?

This notice is to advise industry of impending changes to the way AQIS manages hold and releases for Sea Cargo from countries on the AQIS Country Action List (CAL) sea cargo (previously known as the GAS list – (Giant African Snail). This notice will be of particular interest to shipping companies, stevedores, brokers, freight forwarders and all involved in the supply chain logistics for sea cargo.

What's happening with the AQIS Country Action List?

AQIS has moved to new risk-based inspection of sea containers rather than inspecting cargo which is of negligible risk. As mentioned in an earlier Notice to Industry 53-2010 the previous GAS project has now ceased and the GAS country action lists have been expanded to the AQIS CAL to target all high risk contamination on the sea cargo pathways, not just GAS.

What is happening with S-Cargo?

The Integrated Cargo System (ICS) holds project, and the development of a new application to interface with the ICS will enable AQIS to electronically profile and place automatic, electronic holds on high risk containers from AQIS Country Action List countries in the ICS. This will provide considerable cost savings for both AQIS and industry and enhance throughput and clearance times for containers on the wharf.

This notice is to advise industry that following a series of trials with S-Cargo in a number of Eastern Australian ports, the implementation of S-Cargo is on schedule for national roll out region by region, from early next year. The final production version of S-Cargo is currently undergoing user acceptance testing and this will be followed by a single port trial in Brisbane from mid February 2011 for four weeks. If this trial of the production version is successful, S-Cargo will then be rolled out nationally. At this stage AQIS intends to have S-Cargo implemented nationally around April

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2011. AQIS will be continually providing updates on the progress of this project over the coming few months.

How will this affect you?

For most, and particularly for those who comply with AQIS and ICS reporting requirements, it should result in less AQIS intervention and more efficient passage through the cargo logistics chain.

Industry is reminded now of the need to report cargo accurately to the ICS. Cargo not reported correctly is held on wharf, without AQIS inspection, until the reporting problems are resolved.

How can I have my say?

More detailed consultation with clients and industry stakeholders will take place as S-Cargo is implemented. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Sea Cargo Program at *sea.cargo@aqis.gov.au.*

Protecting Australia's biosecurity is in everyone's interest and the high level of container cleanliness to date is an excellent example of shared responsibility. AQIS thanks you for your ongoing commitment and cooperation.