



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry
16 December 2010

69/2010

Change to AQIS policy on the import of used aquaculture equipment

This notice is to advise industry of changes to the AQIS policy on conditions for imports of used aquaculture equipment.

What are the issues?

Importation of used aquaculture equipment represents a high risk exposure pathway for diseases of quarantine concern in oysters, particularly for pathogens such as herpes viruses (OsHV-1 and OsHV-1 μ var).

Oyster herpesvirus, is an emerging disease problem of significance that has been reported in parts of Europe and New Zealand. While this disease can be deadly to Pacific oysters and can result in heavy commercial losses, there is no human health or food safety risks linked to the virus.

Unrestricted movement of used aquaculture equipment between growing regions has been identified as a high risk pathway for this disease to spread and is considered to be one potential pathway by which the oyster herpes virus has spread overseas.

What has changed?

As from 16 December 2010, all imported used aquaculture equipment that has been in contact with water or aquatic animals, must arrive into Australia clean regardless of point of origin.

Upon arrival into Australia, the used aquaculture equipment will then be directed to an AQIS quarantine approved premises (QAP) where it will be decontaminated using 'Virkon Aquatic' disinfectant prior to its release from quarantine.

Further Information

For further information on contamination issues with used aquaculture equipment inspections, please contact the Sea Cargo Program by telephone on 02 6272 3596 or by email:

sea.cargo@aqis.gov.au