



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry
28 January 2011

13/2011

Changes to Certificates issued by the People's Republic of China

Who is affected by this notice?

This notice is for AQIS clients who receive inspection and quarantine certificates issued from China.

What has changed?

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) has advised AQIS that there have been several new security features added to the paper used by AQSIQ for inspection and quarantine certificates destined for foreign countries. The new security features have been added to address counterfeit issues and include the addition of a barcode to enable traceability of the certificate for AQSIQ.

What does this change mean?

From **1 January 2011** the old style of the inspection and quarantine certificates were discontinued by AQSIQ. Clients are urged to speak to their suppliers to ensure that any certificates issued and dated by AQSIQ after 1 January 2011 are compliant. AQIS will continue to ensure that documents are authentic and the information provided on these certificates continues to comply with the Minimum Documents Policy.

AQIS is aware that there may be some challenges during the transition stage for our clients, therefore we are encouraging our clients to seek advice from their Suppliers and AQIS regional front counters if they are concerned about certificates authenticity.

In the interim AQIS is seeking confirmation from AQSIQ that these security enhancements have been fully implemented from 1 January 2011.

Below is a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page prepared by AQIS to provide further assistance and guidance for clients.

Further information?

For further information please contact the Co-Regulation, Administration and Support Program by email at brokeraccred@aqis.gov.au or the Entry Management Program by email at entrymanagement@aqis.gov.au. Alternatively you can contact your regional front counter processing team for assistance; the regional office contact list can be accessed from the [Contact AQIS](#) web page.

Changes to Inspection and Quarantine Certificates issued from the People's Republic of China

Frequently Asked Questions

When did the changes to the Inspection and Quarantine Certificates become effective?

The General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) has advised that their certificate paper has been enhanced with new security features effective **1 January 2011**.

Why have changes been made to these certificates issued by China?

AQSIQ implemented these security enhancements to combat counterfeit issues and to give assurance to foreign import officials of the authenticity of the inspection and quarantine certificates.

I am an accredited broker, how do the changes affect me?

All brokers should be receiving inspection and quarantine certificates issued by AQSIQ post 1 January 2011 in the new security enhanced format. The new format can be identified by the addition of a barcode exclusive to each certificate.

What do I do if I am not certain that my Certificate complies with the new format?

If you are in doubt AQIS urges you to contact your overseas supplier to determine whether the certificate is compliant with the AQSIQ requirements. It may be to your benefit to request your supplier to forward you the original certificate.

I have been presented with certificates in the 'old style' and the date is post 1 January 2011, what should I do?

Again if you are in doubt AQIS urges you to contact your overseas supplier to determine certificate authenticity.

What impact do these changes have on AQIS documentation requirements for the clearance of imported cargo?

As AQIS is acting on advice from AQSIQ there have been no changes to AQIS documentation requirements for the clearance of imported cargo. AQIS and our client's just need to be assured that the certificate is authentic.

Who can I speak to for further assistance?

If there is still uncertainty surrounding the authenticity of an AQSIQ inspection and treatment certificate please contact your regional office or alternatively present your documents to your regional front counter for assessment.