



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



# Cargo Management eBulletin

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**Providing information to the Cargo and Shipping industries on the latest AQIS developments**

## ✦ Changes to AQIS Import Permit Procedures

AQIS would like to remind industry that a number of changes have been made to the import permit application and assessment process. These changes aim to simplify the process for industry and the public when lodging import permit applications.

The first set of changes were made on 31 July 2006:

- The approval, signing and issuing of all import permits was consolidated to the Canberra office; permits will no longer be issued by the regions.
- Assessment of all import permit applications was also consolidated to the Canberra office. The only exceptions to this are for commodities overseen by the Timber, Machinery and Fertiliser National Coordination Centres (NCCs). The NCCs will still perform the assessment portion of the permit process for these goods, but the Canberra office has assumed responsibility for the approval and issuing of these permits.
- Responsibility for the issuing of permits for agricultural products has been transferred from Entry Management & Permits to AQIS Plant Programs Branch.

Other changes that continued in August 2006 were:

- eLodgement, which will allow Industry to submit permit applications electronically via a link on AQIS's website, was made available for all commodities except live animal permits from 14 August 2006.
- The Permit Application Tracking System (PATS), which will provide AQIS officers with information about the receipt and status of import permit applications, was introduced on 7 August 2006.

Electronic lodgement of live animal permit applications is not yet available, but is expected to be in place by the end of 2006. AQIS is also considering additional upgrades to the system, such as the addition of automatic notification for clients prior to expiration of their permits, as well as the capacity for registered clients to apply for and renew standard and non-standard permits online. In line with the development of a new AQIS revenue system, there may also be scope in the future to link the operation of the permits system with a real time payment facility. AQIS will keep industry advised of further developments. [Click here for further information on the changes.](#)

### ✦ AQIS 'Breaking Bundle' Survey of Green Sawn Timber

AQIS has commenced a 12-month 'breaking bundle' survey to evaluate the quarantine risk of green sawn coniferous timber imported from Canada under the Canadian Accredited Timber Scheme (CATS).

CATS was developed jointly by AQIS and Industry in response to high interception levels of timber pests during the 1990s. In the two years before the introduction of CATS in 1999, AQIS intercepted a large amount of insect pests on imported Canadian timber. CATS aims to reduce the level of quarantine risk associated with green sawn timber by recognising the quality systems of the Canadian timber industry and compliance by timber mills. The Scheme is an interim measure, pending the outcome of the Green Sawn Coniferous Timber Import Risk Analysis being conducted by Biosecurity Australia.

AQIS ran its first breaking bundle survey on imported Canadian green sawn timber in 1999. This earlier survey and the current 2006 survey were also developed to assess the efficacy of AQIS's inspection methods with green sawn timber and to provide information for the development of better risk management strategies to prevent the introduction of exotic pests into Australia, especially fungal pathogens and decay fungi. The surveys have also provided a valuable opportunity to provide training for AQIS officers to improve the consistency of routine timber inspection procedures across regions.

Five samplings for the current breaking bundle survey have already taken place: four at Port Kembla and one at Brisbane. Timber species surveyed so far are Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*). Species imported into Australia are dependent on importers' requirements. As yet, yellow cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*) and western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) have not been surveyed.

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### ✦ AFAS Training Under Way in China

The biggest implementation yet of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) is under way in China, with methyl bromide fumigators and government officials attending the second in a series of four workshops around the country this month.

As China is one of Australia's biggest trading partners, the rollout of AFAS is vital to Australia's quarantine integrity and should lead to a reduction in the number of failed fumigations detected by AQIS.

The first AFAS workshop was held in June/July 2006 in Nanjing, attracting a large number of attendees. The latest workshop in Dailian is the second of four that will be held across the country, before the planned implementation of AFAS China in mid 2007.

Once implemented, AQIS will only accept fumigation certificates from a treatment provider if they are valid and are from a company on the List of Acceptable Treatment Providers for that country. If certification is unsatisfactory, AQIS will direct the container in question for further treatment to mitigate quarantine risks.

Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand are already operating under AFAS systems, while AFAS India is scheduled to be implemented in September 2006. [Click here for further information about AFAS.](#)

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### ✦ Upcoming AICCC Meeting – August 2006

The second meeting of the AICCC for 2006 will be held in Sydney on 16 August 2006. The major issue for consideration will be the AICCC's strategic plan, along with a number of regular issues. These include:

- Progress reports on:
  - Cargo Risk Management
  - Timber quarantine issues
  - Co-Regulation Projects
  - Imported Food Programme service and cost recovery
  - Seaports alternative service delivery and biofouling issues, and
  - Report on the Giant African Snail review
- Financial matters

- IT Issues
    - Development of Import Clearance Common Entry Management guidelines
    - Revenue Re-engineering within the Import Clearance program
  - Committee Reports:
    - Quarantine Exports Advisory Council (QEAC)
    - Cargo Management Committee (CMC)
    - Imported Foods Consultative Committee (IFCC)
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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in July 2006**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	<a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 1, 2006-07</u></a>	Change to AQIS Import Permit Procedures
2	<a href="#"><u>Notice to Industry 2, 2006-07</u></a>	Change to AQIS Import Permit Procedures
3	<a href="#"><u>Public Quarantine Alert (POA) 0485</u></a>	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) - India implementation
4	<a href="#"><u>POA 0428</u></a>	Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS)
5	<a href="#"><u>POA 0486</u></a>	Taro Imports - Amended phytosanitary certification

✦ **Contact [cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au](mailto:cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au) if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information**

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