



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



Cargo Management eBulletin

No: 04-2006 (May)

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

✦ Phase-in of AFAS for India Extended Until 30 June 2006

AQIS has extended the phase-in period for the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) for India. As a result of a request from the Indian Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DoAC), the AFAS India phase-in period will now end on **30 June 2006**. AQIS had previously advised that the phase-in period for AFAS India would end on **30 April 2006**.

During the extended phase-in period, AQIS will continue to accept documentation from all Indian methyl bromide treatment providers, providing the company was not listed on AQIS's Offshore Treatment Providers List as 'Under Investigation', 'Unacceptable' or 'Suspended'.

Certificates from Indian treatment facilities with a fumigation date of 1 July 2006 or later will only be accepted if they are valid, and:

- are from facilities on the list of Acceptable Indian Treatment Providers including the DoAC), OR
- have been endorsed by a DoAC quarantine officer. Details of the DoAC endorsement will be circulated prior to the end of the phase-in period.

This list of Acceptable Indian Treatment Providers has been developed by the DoAC following a long period of capacity building and training, and in consultation with AQIS and is available on the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/afastp.

Industry should note that the current version of the List is not exhaustive, and it is expected that additions will be made. Industry should consult this list on a regular basis to remain up to date with any additions to or deletions from the list. Indian treatment providers wishing to apply for inclusion on the DoAC's Register should contact the DoAC directly.

✦ Changes to timber import conditions from New Zealand

AQIS has made a number of changes to the importation of timber from New Zealand, following advice from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand (MAF) that the exotic plant pathogen *Phytophthora kernoviae* has been detected in that country.

Phytophthora kernoviae is an invasive plant pathogen similar in nature to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (*Phytophthora ramorum*) and has the potential to cause significant damage to Australia's forest industries and environment. Airborne phytophthora species (including *Phytophthora kernoviae* and *Phytophthora ramorum*) are also known to be present in the United Kingdom, Europe and United States of America.

The discovery has resulted in amended import conditions for a range of products from New Zealand, including nursery stock, tissue cultures and green sawn timber. For example, import conditions for timber and timber products of host genera imported from New Zealand will be aligned with those for similar products from the UK, Europe and the USA.

The host list for airborne Phytophthora species has also been extended and will be applied to import conditions for the UK, Europe and the USA. This will mean additional timber species will require phytosanitary certification stating mandatory heat treatment or area freedom. Further details about the changes are available from the following sources:

- the AQIS Import Conditions Database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au/icon,
- AQIS Notice to Industry 43, 2005-06 ([click here](#)), or
- the Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre, (telephone (03) 8318 6929 or fax (03) 8318 6777).

Over the next couple of months, you will notice changes to the ICON cases for timber and timber products. These changes will ensure that all import conditions are clear and concise and adequately manage the quarantine risks associated with imported timber. AQIS will ensure that industry are adequately advised of any changes to import conditions prior to implementation.

✦ Timber packaging changes – ISPM 15

AQIS has now implemented mandatory treatment requirements for all solid wood packaging and dunnage, including material associated with air cargo and break bulk consignments. The changes came into effect on **1 May 2006**.

The FCL/FCX and LCL Broker Accreditation Schemes will continue as normal for containerised cargo, however there is no longer an option to inspect untreated packaging as an alternative to treatment. All untreated timber must be treated, re-exported or destroyed.

For airfreight and break bulk consignments, AQIS will ensure compliance with the requirements via surveillance. If quarantine risks such as insect infestation or bark are identified during routine surveillance, the consignment will be held while the packaging is treated to address the risk. Alternatively, the packaging can be removed from the consignment, re-exported or destroyed. All treatments will be conducted at the importer's expense. AQIS is also investigating longer term options for managing the quarantine risks associated with timber packaging.

Further information can be accessed from the following sources:

- the ISPM 15 Frequently Asked Questions page of the AQIS website ([click here](#)),
- AQIS Notice to Industry 45, 2005-06, ([click here](#)), or
- the Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre (telephone (03) 8318 6929 or fax (03) 8318 6777).

✦ Summary of first AICCC Meeting for 2006

The first AICCC meeting for 2006 was held on 27 April 2006 in Canberra, with the Import Clearance Program's Cargo Risk Management framework being the major topic of discussion. Recent reviews, and recommendations from Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) Report No 47 led to the implementation of the Import Clearance Effectiveness (ICE) project, which substantially upgraded surveillance inspections at Customs Container Examination Facilities (CEFs) and at importers' premises.

The results of these inspections will assist AQIS in measuring the effectiveness of current profiling and monitoring systems with changes to risk assessments of import pathways being made. Where non compliant cargoes / containers are intercepted, subsequent shipments for the same importer may be unpacked at Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) for verification.

Other significant issues included:

- **Business Planning and Budgets for 2006/7:** The meeting discussed the business plans and budget for the following year. Priorities and outcomes for a number of activity areas were established.
- **ICS Implementation:** Reports were received on outstanding ICS issues. These are being addressed, to a degree, by the Industry Action Group, which has AQIS and the AICCC secretariat as

members. Longer term strategic issues will be addressed by a higher level AQIS / industry group as part of looking at the re-development of the current information systems post CMR.

- **Timber issues:** Work continues on a number of timber issues, with the implementation of ISPM 15 being a major priority. Verification inspections on bulk timber from Canada have commenced in Port Kembla, and the development of a low risk standard for manufactured wooden articles has commenced with the formation of an industry group.
- **Regulation review:** AQIS has completed work on a regulatory toolkit to help improve consistency. Current and future co-regulation schemes will be assessed and measured against these new standards.
- **Quarantine Approved Premises:** A major accreditation training initiative is underway, which will see in excess of 3000 persons being accredited through an e-learning facility.
- **Other Issues:** A range of other matters were reported and discussed, such as increasing the number of ECIR containers being cleaned on site rather than being sent to depots for cleaning, development of electronic permit application, a new direction for the "Quarantine Matters" campaign.

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✦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in April 2006**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	<u>Notice to Industry 42, 2005-06</u>	Import Clearance National Inspection Booking Process
2	<u>Notice to Industry 43, 2005-06</u>	Airborne <i>Phytophthora kernoviae</i> reported in New Zealand & Revised host list for airborne Phytophthora species in the UK, Europe and USA
3	<u>Notice to Industry 44, 2005-06</u>	Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) in India - Reminder
4	<u>Notice to Industry 45, 2005-06</u>	Introduction of mandatory treatment requirements for all solid wood packaging and dunnage
5	<u>Notice to Industry 46, 2005-06</u>	Extension of Phase-in Period - Implementation of the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) in India
6	<u>Public Quarantine Alert (POA) 0473</u>	Airborne Phytophthora reported in New Zealand & Revised host list for USA and Europe
7	<u>POA 0474</u>	Update to POA 0473 Phytophthora reported in New Zealand
8	<u>POA 0476</u>	Notice to AQIS staff and Nursery Stock Industry: Revised Phytophthora host list.
9	<u>POA 0475</u>	Burnt Pine Longicorn 05/06 season closure
10	<u>POA 0472</u>	What is timber packing and dunnage?

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✦ **Contact cargobulletin@aqis.gov.au if you have any queries, suggestions or requests for further information**

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