

Waste

AQIS fact sheet

Australia is relatively free from many of the serious pests and diseases that are present in overseas countries.

Ship's waste may contain dry stores, cooked and uncooked meat and vegetables scraps, which potentially contain exotic pests and diseases such as foot and mouth disease, Newcastle Disease, Fruit Fly and Khapra Beetle.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

Waste stowed incorrectly on deck areas of vessels has the potential to become food for native animals and a breeding ground for exotic insect pests and diseases.

An outbreak of an exotic disease in native wildlife would be extremely difficult to contain or eradicate.

The transmission of diseases such as foot and mouth disease and Newcastle Disease by native wildlife to domesticated stock, has the potential to devastate Australia's valuable domestic and export agricultural industries.

By providing breeding places for exotic insect pests, ship's waste jeopardises Australia's fruit and vegetable production industries.

Ensure all waste is stored in sound animal and leak proof facilities and is presented for collection at Australian ports.

AQIS REQUIREMENTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- ensure waste held on vessels and wharves cannot be accessed by birds, rodents, insects or other animals;
- all deck areas must be free from waste including egg, meat, fruit and vegetable cartons;
- do not empty holding tanks or use refuse grinders or garbage shutes while in Australian ports or waters;
- ensure ship's crew do not use food scraps or meat as bait while fishing in Australian ports or waters;
- at regular intervals, present all quarantine waste to collectors authorised by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS); and
- contact AQIS on **1800 020 504** immediately if quarantine waste is stored incorrectly or found to be infested with any type of insect, pest or disease.