



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



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

✦ AQIS Requirements for Kiln Dried Timber

Kiln drying is one of several timber treatment options which timber importers can use to reduce the quarantine risk associated with these products. AQIS is in the process of examining its current certification requirements to determine whether changes to requirements such as moisture content can be modified without leading to an increase in quarantine risk.

In Notice to Industry 6/2007-08, AQIS advised that it intended to require certification of the kiln drying requirements as shown in the ICON database, including that the moisture content for treated products of less than 12% based on oven dry weight be certified by treatment providers. However, in response to feedback and suggestions from a number of industry stakeholders, AQIS has now delayed the introduction of this approach (see **Notice to Industry 9/2007-08**), and is seeking further advice from its independent policy advisory authority - Biosecurity Australia. Stakeholders indicated that while moisture content requirements have been in place for some time, they may not be in line with the requirements applied in timber treatments. Additionally, it could affect the end use of the product, and may be unnecessary for the management of quarantine risk.

Until the review is complete, AQIS will continue to accept kiln drying treatment certificates that meet certification requirements of the existing kiln drying treatment, but without needing to meet the 12% moisture content requirement. Importers can also consider treatment options other than kiln drying treatment, such as dry heat treatment, that are available for importation of timber and timber products into Australia. Depending on the outcome of the Biosecurity Australia review the moisture content requirement in the existing kiln drying treatment may be retained, removed or modified. AQIS will keep stakeholders informed of the outcome of the review once completed.

For further information on the changes to kiln drying treatment T9912, contact the Timber and Timber Products National Co-ordination Centre in the AQIS Victorian Regional Office on phone (03) 8318 6929 or email timber.imports@aqis.gov.au.

✦ Ship Sanitation Certificates to replace Deratting Certificates for International Vessels

In line with recommendations made by the World Health Organisation (WHO), AQIS will shortly be replacing Deratting Certificates for international vessels arriving in Australia with Ship Sanitation Certificates. AQIS will commence issuing these Sanitation Certificates from **15 December 2007**.

The WHO recommendations, contained in the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, acknowledge that there are a number of public health risks associated with international trade and the movement of goods. Deratting Certificates have been required since 1969 under the previous version of these Regulations. Under the new recommendations, authorities will be able to monitor a wider variety of

vectors and reservoirs of disease, such as mosquitos. In addition, they also address conditions on board a vessel that could cause the spread of pests and diseases of international concern.

Industry should not notice any significant changes when the changeover is made to Ship Sanitation Certificates. Australia already complies with IHR requirements for sanitation on ships, so the inspection regime will be largely unchanged from the deratting and pratique inspections currently performed by AQIS.

The key changes that will be evident to industry will be the format of the ship sanitation certificate issued by Australia, and the requirement for AQIS officers to confirm that the Certificate of Survey or Safety Construction Certificate is valid.

AQIS will continue issuing Deratting Certificates until 15 December 2007. AQIS will also accept either Deratting Certificates or Ship Sanitation Certificates issued by the relevant overseas government authorities until this date. For further advice on Ship Sanitation Certificates, please contact the Department of Health and Ageing on 0434 609 309 (7.00 am until 7.00 pm, 7 days per week).

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✦ Introduction of the AIMS Account Client Scheme

AQIS will soon make it easier for regular clients to manage their service charges, following the successful trial of an account-based system. Under the AIMS Account Client Scheme, clients will no longer be obliged to pay for services recorded in the AQIS Import Management System (AIMS) at the time of service. Due to the success of the trial, AQIS is proposing to make this service available to most brokerages and importers registered under the Broker Accreditation Scheme (BAS) sometime in the first half of 2008.

Since March 2007, in close consultation with industry, AQIS has been running a staged trial of the scheme with a number of brokerages around the country. To date, the trial has proven to be very successful from both an AQIS and industry point of view. The trial involves setting up regular, financially reliable users of AQIS services as "account clients" in AIMS to remove the requirement for up-front payment for AQIS services. Instead, these clients have the option of either making payment upon completion of each entry on receipt of a "final record of service" or being invoiced on a regular basis. The scheme has the potential to significantly reduce the burden on industry in relation to the timing of payments as well as the amount of time and expense AQIS expends on revenue activities.

Participants in the scheme should no longer pay up front, or during the life of an AIMS entry. Clients will have the choice to let the fees run to invoice or, alternatively, pay the full amount upon finalisation of the AIMS entry. The broker email notification scheme can assist by sending a final record of service on finalisation of the entry.

AQIS, in consultation with industry, is currently in the process of developing a set of guidelines and conditions for participation in the AIMS Account Client Scheme.

If you would like more details on the AIMS Account Client initiative and/or the broker email notification scheme, please contact the AQIS National AIMS Administrator on (02) 6272 3587 or via email on aims.admin@daff.gov.au.

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✦ New Guidelines for Cruise Vessels Released

AQIS has just released its revised 'Guidelines for Cruise Vessel Agents / Operators' for 2007. This document details AQIS's requirements for the clearance of international passenger vessels arriving at Australian ports. These guidelines provide information on:

- pre arrival requirements, including application for non proclaimed port visits,
- a range of procedures, including the "release from quarantine" option which may suit vessels spending an extended period of time in Australian waters,
- clearance of the vessel, passengers and crew, and
- the Seaports Program charging schedule.

The new version of the Cruising through Quarantine Fact Sheet and DVD Kit are now available from the AQIS Public Relations Section. Stakeholders can also order the new DVD Kit which contains a DVD announcement to be played prior to arrival and a vision only DVD loop for the purser's desk or information channel on board. Please contact AQIS Public Relations on pr@aqis.gov.au to obtain free copies of these materials.

AQIS acknowledges the efforts of the cruise vessel industry towards safeguarding Australia's favourable quarantine status. The collaborative approach between AQIS and industry also provides a more efficient and effective quarantine clearance process, with minimal disruption to crew and passengers.

Further information on the Guidelines for Cruise Vessel Agents and Operators is available via the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/shipping.

♦ **Maritime Awareness Information Now on AQIS Website**

AQIS, in consultation with the shipping industry, has taken the decision that it will no longer be producing the AQIS Maritime Awareness Kit CD-ROM. Instead, it will be concentrating on making the same information available through the AQIS website at www.aqis.gov.au/shipping.

The Awareness Kit CD-ROM was originally released in 2004 to assist the shipping industry to meet quarantine clearance requirements. It provided access to relevant shipping forms and information for shipping agents and vessel masters to manage the quarantine risks associated with international vessels, passengers, crew and ballast water prior to their arrival in Australia.

The decision to no longer produce the CD-ROM was made after consultation with key AQIS Industry Cargo Consultative Committee (AICCC) and Shipping Australia Ltd (SAL) representatives. The Internet was deemed to be a more efficient and effective way to distribute current quarantine information to the shipping industry. For further information on accessing shipping information, please contact the AQIS Seaports Program at seaports@aqis.gov.au.

♦ **Summary of documents and alerts released by AQIS Cargo Management in October 2007**

Reference Number	Document	Overview
1	Public Quarantine Alert (POA) 0527	Changes to the Quarantine Proclamation 1998 Permitted Seeds List October 2007
2	POA 0530	Preclearance of US citrus
3	Notice to Industry 9, 2007-08	Further to Industry Notice No.6 - Revised implementation of changes to Kiln drying requirement for timber
4	Notice to Industry 10, 2007-08	AQIS Requirements for Permanent Preservative Treatments for Timber
5	Notice to Industry 11, 2007-08	AQIS Requirements for Permanent Preservative Treatments for Timber
6	Advice to agents 05/07	AQIS requirements for the Clearance of Cruise Vessels and material to assist the Cruise Industry
7	Advice to agents 06/07	Discontinuation of Maritime Awareness Kit (MAK)
8	Advice to agents 07/07	Ship Sanitation Certificates

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

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