



AQIS NOTICE

Issue Confidentiality requirements.		
AQIS Notice Number: 2004/11		AQIS File Number: AFFA01/7727
Date of Effect: Immediate	Date of Expiry: Until further notice	AQIS contact details: ☎ 02 6271 6638 ✉ organic@aqis.gov.au
Distribution Category		Last Notice in the category
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved Certifying Organisations cc <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Horticultural Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Grain Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Meat Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Dairy Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Export Fish Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager Export Facilitation Program		
Instruction issued under:		

PURPOSE

- ▶ To advise of the confidentiality requirements under the AQIS Administrative Arrangements.

BACKGROUND

- ▶ AQIS has received a number of telephone calls seeking advice in relation to the release of specific information.
- ▶ Under the AQIS Administrative Arrangements:
 - information obtained during the course of an organic inspection remains confidential (refer to Section 9.11) however written consent from a certified operator can be given to the approved certifying organisation to release inspection/certification information to an external party (refer to Section 9.12).

- certified operators are entitled to request a copy of their inspection report (refer to Section 14.3.3).
- ▶ Both ISO 65 and EN 45011 require that information obtained during the course of an inspection and/or certification review activity remains confidential.

CONSIDERATION

- ▶ Certified operators (buyers) are entitled to request information from certified operators (sellers) in order to satisfy business needs.
- ▶ Under a foreign accreditation government agencies have commented that an approved certifying organisation, which has attained formal recognition, will recognise certified operators of other approved certifying organisations that also has the same status.
- ▶ Where conformity assessment arrangements exist (e.g. USDA National Organic Program) information and systems of an approved certifying organisation who is not accredited for that market will be verified by the approved certifying organisation who is.

INSTRUCTION

AQIS approved certifying organisations to ensure via documented policies and practices that:

- ▶ all information obtained during inspections or certification review activities remains 'in confidence'; or prior to any public release, that written consent has been obtained from the (appropriate) certified operator.
- ▶ inspection and/or certification information is available to their certified operators upon request.