



Notice to Industry

38/2007-2008

AQIS Import Clearance Fees – Giant African Snail Screening Activities

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry that from 1 July 2008 AQIS will commence applying fees for services provided in relation to Giant African Snail (GAS) screening activities. The fees are being applied in accordance with the *Quarantine Service Fees Determination 2005*.

From 1 July 2008 the in-office service fee (currently \$35.50 per quarter hour or part thereof) will be applied for services provided by AQIS in relation to:

- GAS screening (initial and re-screening) of vessel bay plans.
- Processing GAS inspection exemption requests for transhipment of GAS cargo.
- Assessment of Marine Surveyor’s reports (where the Principal Shipping Agent has applied for exemption from AQIS inspection on the basis of cargo segregation).

In addition to the in-office fee, overtime fees will be applicable on any of the services listed above which are provided outside AQIS’s ordinary hours of duty.

Detailed information on chargeable activities associated with the above services is provided below.

Further information

For further information on GAS screening activities and associated fees for services please contact the AQIS GAS National Coordination Centre by email at gas.screener@aqis.gov.au or phone 07 3246 8771.

Further information relating to the application of AQIS’s import clearance fees and charges is available at www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/fees-charges/guidelines-import-clearance.

1. GAS screening - (initial and re-screening) of vessel bay plans	
Activity	Chargeable service
<p>The AQIS Giant African Snail National Coordination Centre (GAS NCC) in Brisbane uses vessel bay plans, received from Principal Shipping Agents, to screen international vessels that carry cargo that have originated from countries identified by AQIS as being a risk for the presence of GAS.</p> <p>Using the vessel bay plan the GAS NCC identifies cargo on board the vessel that has originated from a target GAS country and any cargo that has been stowed on the vessel in direct contact with the GAS cargo.</p> <p>If the vessel is calling at more than one Australian port, the vessel’s agent is required to send updated bay plans after each port of discharge. The GAS NCC will then re-screen the bay plan to confirm that there are no changes to the GAS list at subsequent ports. In accordance with the initial procedures, once all cargo is checked and confirmed, the GAS NCC will advise relevant parties if there are changes to the GAS list. If there are changes AQIS staff in regional offices will amend GAS lists and may have to re-issue inspection directions to local agents/terminal operators.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GAS NCC activities associated with screening the vessel’s bay plan for each voyage arriving in Australia – both initial bay plan and re-screening updated bay plans after each port of discharge. <p>The above activity will be charged to the Principal Agent for the vessel carrying the GAS cargo.</p>

2. Processing approvals and exemptions for transhipment of containers	
Activity	Chargeable service
<p>Where GAS cargo has been discharged in Australia but is intended for transhipment to a final destination outside of Australia, the Line Operator for the cargo may request an exemption from AQIS GAS inspection upon discharge.</p> <p>To provide this transhipment service, AQIS staff in the regional office must assess the suitability of the transhipment. If transhipment is approved AQIS must amend the regional GAS list and liaise with terminal operators and the shipping lines to arrange exemption from GAS inspection.</p> <p>If the vessel carrying the transhipped GAS container to its overseas destination is calling other Australian ports, the GAS NCC must screen the carrier vessel's bay plan to ensure the transhipped GAS container is segregated from other cargo on board bound for discharge at subsequent Australian ports.</p> <p>Australian cargo that is stowed in-contact with the transhipped GAS container will be directed for inspection at the Australian port of discharge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional AQIS activities associated with assessing transhipment approvals and organising exemption from GAS inspection. GAS NCC activities associated with screening the carrier vessel's bay plan <p>The above activities will be charged to the Line Operator requesting transhipment. The Line Operator is to provide AQIS with their relevant billing details at the time of making the request.</p>
3. Assessment of Marine Surveyors' Reports	
Activity	Chargeable service
<p>Principal Agents have the option to have their vessels assessed by AQIS for segregation purposes. This process requires agents to submit a "Marine Surveyor's Report" to the GAS NCC for assessment and approval. These reports provide information on the degree of segregation between cargo stowed on board a vessel and allows the GAS NCC to identify separation between cargo in accordance with AQIS segregation requirements. Where segregation requirements have been met, containers considered in-contact with GAS origin cargo may be minimal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GAS NCC activities associated with assessing the Marine Surveyor's Report. <p>The above activity will be charged to the Principal Agent for the vessel.</p>
4. Overtime	
Activity	Chargeable service
<p>For a variety of reasons, such as scheduling, AQIS may be required to perform the above activities outside of AQIS's ordinary hours of duty, to ensure GAS lists are available to relevant parties before the vessel's arrival at the first Australian port.</p>	<p>Any of the above services performed outside of AQIS's ordinary hours of duty.</p>