



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service**

**Notice to Industry**

**34/2008**

## **Quarantine Risk Material contamination on imported new vehicles**

### **AQIS cleaning requirements**

This notice provides updated information to car manufacturers on the procedures to follow to ensure that new vehicles are not contaminated with Quarantine Risk Material (QRM) on arrival in Australia.

#### **What is the issue?**

New vehicles continue to arrive in Australia from Asia and Europe contaminated with Quarantine Risk Material (QRM), which may include live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal faeces, animal material, and plant material such as straw, twigs, leaves, roots, bark, food refuse and other debris. In particular AQIS has noted that new vehicles have become contaminated with airborne seed either during testing, transport or storage, and leaves that may have accumulated in vehicles left open on the wharf before export.

AQIS inspects new vehicles for cleanliness on arrival in Australia within the wharf precinct. If the vehicle is found to be contaminated AQIS will direct it for cleaning, or other appropriate treatment at the importer's expense. This has and is causing lengthy delays and congestion at the discharge wharves in Australia, at considerable expense to importers.

#### **What can Industry do?**

The most likely point of contamination for new vehicles is during transport and storage prior to export. Car exporters should inspect and remove any contamination immediately prior to loading. In particular, all protective coatings should be checked for airborne seeds which may be stuck to the corners where the sheets have not adhered to the paintwork, or where the sheets have come away from the paintwork.

Sticky protective coverings for wheels are a major source of seed contamination being found in new cars on arrival in Australia. Consider using alternative non-sticky coverings (such as recycled cardboard) or ensure that these potentially contaminated wheel coverings are replaced or removed before discharge in Australia.

Other contamination points that should be routinely checked on new vehicles for export to Australia include the radiator, grill and engine bay, wheels and wheel arches, undersurfaces, door seals and locks, and the interior for residual soil and plant debris.

#### **Further advice**

AQIS appreciates the co-operation of industry in this important activity. To obtain further information on contamination issues of new vehicles, please call Lindy Cayzer on (02) 6272 4938 or email: [treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au](mailto:treat.inspect@aqis.gov.au).