



Notice to Industry

26/2008-09

Associating tariff lines with containers for FCL/X Sea Cargo

The purpose of this notice is to advise industry of the requirement to associate tariff lines with containers to facilitate container mode processing of Full Import Declarations (FIDs) and Full Declaration Format SACs (FDF SACs) for FCL/X Sea Cargo.

What is the current process for dealing with entries lodged in Line v Container mode?

A consignment may consist of a single tariff line (or type of goods) that has been packed in a number of FCL/X containers, e.g. a large consignment of bagged fertiliser. In contrast, a single shipping container may contain any number of tariff lines. To facilitate earlier release of parts of complex consignments, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is able to process entries in line mode or in container mode, but ONLY if the broker has associated each active line with at least one container; and all containers with at least one line.

When is it advantageous to have an entry processed in Container Mode?

1. When there are multiple containers and very few lines, e.g. bulk fertiliser in 50 containers. This allows AQIS to inspect the containers individually and keep track of which containers have been inspected and released. This information is also accurately displayed in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS).
2. When you expect to have a quarantine direction such as a rural tailgate inspection applied to a whole container. For example containers A and B are destined for a rural unpack destination, while containers C and D are being unpacked in a metropolitan area. Processing in container mode would allow AQIS to apply a rural tailgate inspection direction to containers A and B while releasing containers C and D. Again, this information would be accurately displayed in the ICS.

When is it advantageous to have an entry processed in Line Mode?

Where there are multiple lines in 1 container, this allows goods to be treated separately for quarantine purposes, rather than holding the whole container. Where lines can be released but the entry is in container mode, AQIS can not release these lines until the container has been released.

What happens if I don't associate lines and containers?

Where the broker chooses not to associate lines with containers, AQIS may request you to amend the FID/FDF SAC so that all tariff lines and containers are accurately associated. Alternatively, lines/containers that are pending release may cause the entire consignment to be held.

Note: AQIS officers are not permitted to associate lines with containers. It is the broker's responsibility to ensure the declarations are accurately lodged for entry processing. Entries can not be amended to alternative modes once AQIS has applied a direction to the entry.

Further advice?

If you are not sure how to associate lines with containers as mentioned above using your current software, contact your 3rd party software provider.

Additionally, page 13 of the [Automatic Entry Processing \(AEP\) for Commodities Process and Outcomes Document](#) provides brokers with a brief summary of the location where brokers can associate lines and containers in the ICS.

Should you have any further enquiries, you may contact the Entry Management Team by email at entrymanagement@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on 02 6272 3390.