



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

12/2008-09

Adjustment to Notice to Industry 5/2008-09

Please note the changed conditions from notice to Industry 5/2008-09.

AQIS Requirements for the Importation of Unit Load Devices (ULD's) such as Aircraft Pallets and Stalls which have been previously used for the transportation of Horses

This notice is to confirm and clarify to airlines the mandatory AQIS requirements for inspection on arrival of all imported ULDs (aircraft pallets and stalls), which have been previously used to transport horses.

What is the issue?

ULD's previously used to transport horses pose a significant quarantine risk as they can be contaminated with horse matter such as hair, blood and mucous which provides a breeding ground for exotic viruses and bacteria. In addition, other contaminants such as plant and soil materials and insects can also present a high quarantine risk.

What can Industry do?

The current summary of Import Requirements for this equipment is subject to the following conditions:

- It must be clean in all respects on arrival in Australia.
- On arrival in Australia, the equipment is subject to inspection by AQIS.
- If cleaned and disinfected offshore a treatment certificate must be supplied on arrival.
 - If clean:
 - a quarantine order will be issued for disinfection
 - an AQIS officer will supervise the disinfection
 - release, if disinfection treatment certificate complies with ICON case – 'Cages, crates and stalls'. Please see the following link for more information www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp
 - If contaminated:
 - a quarantine order will be issued for the cleaning and disinfection of the equipment at the arrival airport or at a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP). Where cleaning and disinfection at QAP (under Quarantine Supervision) is required, all equipment is shrink wrapped from the bottom to the top to enclose all risk material and loaded onto an enclosed truck for transport
 - AQIS officer inspects the equipment after cleaning and will supervise the application of Virkon at a rate of 1:100.

Where this equipment is used to carry cargo, the cargo must be deconsolidated at the Cargo Terminal Operators (CTO) prior to the equipment being subject to the summary of import requirements in this industry notice.

The packaging of the cargo must also be inspected by AQIS at the CTO to ensure freedom from contamination. If contamination is detected it will be subjected to either the summary of import requirements (above), removed and destroyed in a quarantine approved method or re-exported.

Reporting of equipment to AQIS

There have been recent incidents where consignments of this equipment were not presented for inspection by AQIS. These consignments have subsequently been found to be contaminated when identified by AQIS surveillance.

For this reason, AQIS requires all airlines to immediately implement a reporting arrangement which ensures all equipment be identified by AQIS and allows inspection to be organised at a practical time after arrival.

Inspections of equipment will take place in a quarantine designated area, coordinated by airlines and AQIS in the relevant region.

Further Information

Further information regarding the import requirements for consignments of this equipment can be accessed by emailing icon@aqis.gov.au or from AQIS's Air Cargo Unit in Sydney on 02 8334 7570.