



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

21/2008-09

AQIS Requirements for Tailgate Inspections on a Designated Platform, Dock, or Stand

Background

AQIS has recently conducted a review into tailgate activities and produced a series of recommendations regarding the effectiveness of tailgate activities to be implemented in the future. The review also generated Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) recommendations regarding tailgate inspections to be implemented immediately.

What is being implemented immediately?

AQIS officers will perform tailgates on a designated tailgate platform, loading dock, or mobile inspection stand only where the container or trailer can be lined up and secured flush with the platform, dock, or stand.

If the container or trailer cannot be lined up and secured flush with the platform, dock, or stand (e.g. prime mover blocking access), then the container is required to be tailgated on the ground. AQIS officers are not authorised to climb onto trucks or trailers.

These procedures are already enforced in some regions however they will now become mandatory nationally, effective immediately.

Why have the changes been made?

These requirements prevent AQIS officers from placing themselves in an unsafe situation of climbing onto trailers to undertake the tailgate inspection. It also allows AQIS officers to stand back the required two (2) metre distance for two (2) minutes from opened containers to eliminate exposure to residual fumigants and hazardous gases.

AQIS will consult with industry on the other recommendations from the tailgate review in the near future.

Further information

For further information regarding on-ground tailgates, please contact staff in the Sea Cargo Unit in the Canberra Office at trat.inspect@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on 02 6272 4938.