



QUARANTINE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

ADVICE TO AGENTS – SEAPORTS 03/04

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service's (AQIS) Seaports Program is responsible for the quarantine clearance of all vessels that enter Australian ports from overseas. Prior to inspection and quarantine clearance, a risk assessment is performed on every vessel as it arrives in Australia. The risk assessment is performed upon receipt of the *Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report (Pratique) for Vessels (QPAR)* form (*Quarantine Act 1908* – the Act - s27A), which every vessel must submit to AQIS 12 - 48 hours prior to arrival.

After evaluation of the QPAR, AQIS will issue an 'Approval to Berth' specifying quarantine directions and requirements that are the conditions, under which the vessel is granted permission to enter its first Australian port of call. It is essential that the vessel Master receive a copy of the 'Approval to Berth', in a timely manner, to be informed of the specific quarantine directions applicable to the vessel's arrival. Failure to comply with quarantine directions, may lead to serious impositions upon the vessel, such as the non-granting of permission to discharge ballast water. In accordance with Government direction, the 'Approval to Berth' must be retained on board the vessel for 2 years.

Upon completion of the quarantine clearance inspection, the vessel will be issued with a 'Certificate of Pratique' (the Act, s33). Similar to the 'Approval to Berth', the 'Certificate of Pratique' will outline the quarantine conditions applicable to the vessel while in Australian ports and waters. If non-compliance with stated quarantine conditions is detected, the 'Certificate of Pratique' may be revoked, and the vessel required to submit a new QPAR prior to entering its next Australian port of call. In accordance with Government direction, the 'Certificate of Pratique' must be retained on board the vessel for at least 2 years.

For further information about quarantine conditions and AQIS document requirements, please contact your local AQIS office.

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Seaports

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