



Australian Government

**Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service**

The Onshore Fumigation Strategy

An introduction to the strategy and what it means

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Background

- AQIS protects local ecologies and industries by utilising methyl bromide fumigation to treat imported and exported goods.
- Methyl Bromide is used on and offshore for quarantine purposes.

Background cont'd...

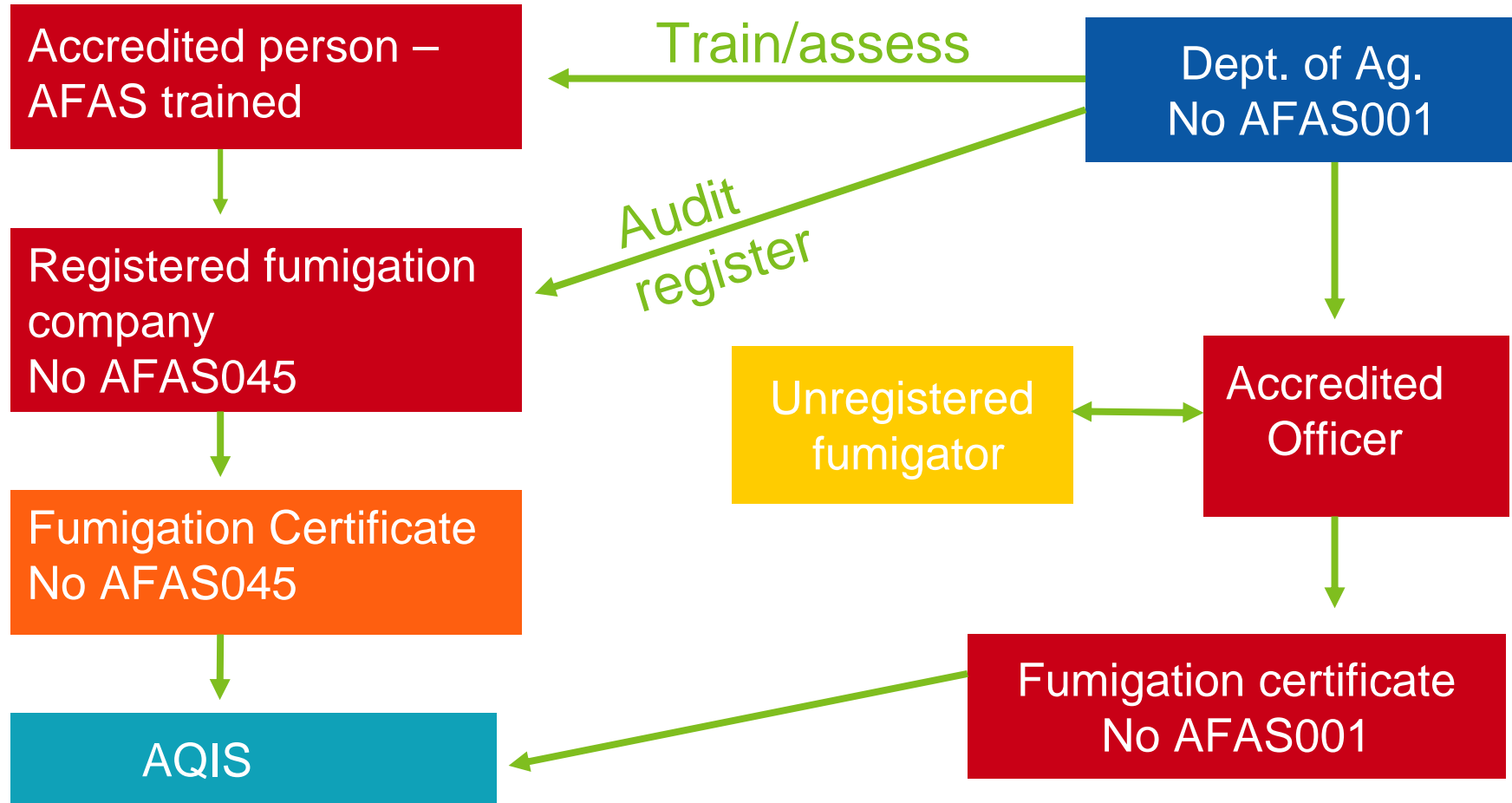
- Failed fumigations represent a quarantine risk.
- In a few instances this has resulted in post quarantine detections of exotic pests originating from imported goods.

Dealing with failed fumigations

OFFSHORE

- AQIS has implemented the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS).
- AQIS works closely with a number of overseas government agencies to establish training and accreditation systems that ensure overseas methyl bromide fumigators are competent to meet the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard.

AFAS – Structure



Dealing with failed fumigations

ONSHORE

- AQIS is adopting AFAS standards to reduce the likelihood of failed onshore fumigations.

Current Onshore Arrangements

- fumigation providers are licensed by State/Territory authorities
- AQIS accepts onshore fumigations:
 - performed by fumigators who have entered into a compliance agreement (CA) with AQIS
 - which are monitored by AQIS because they are performed by a fumigator who is not on a CA.

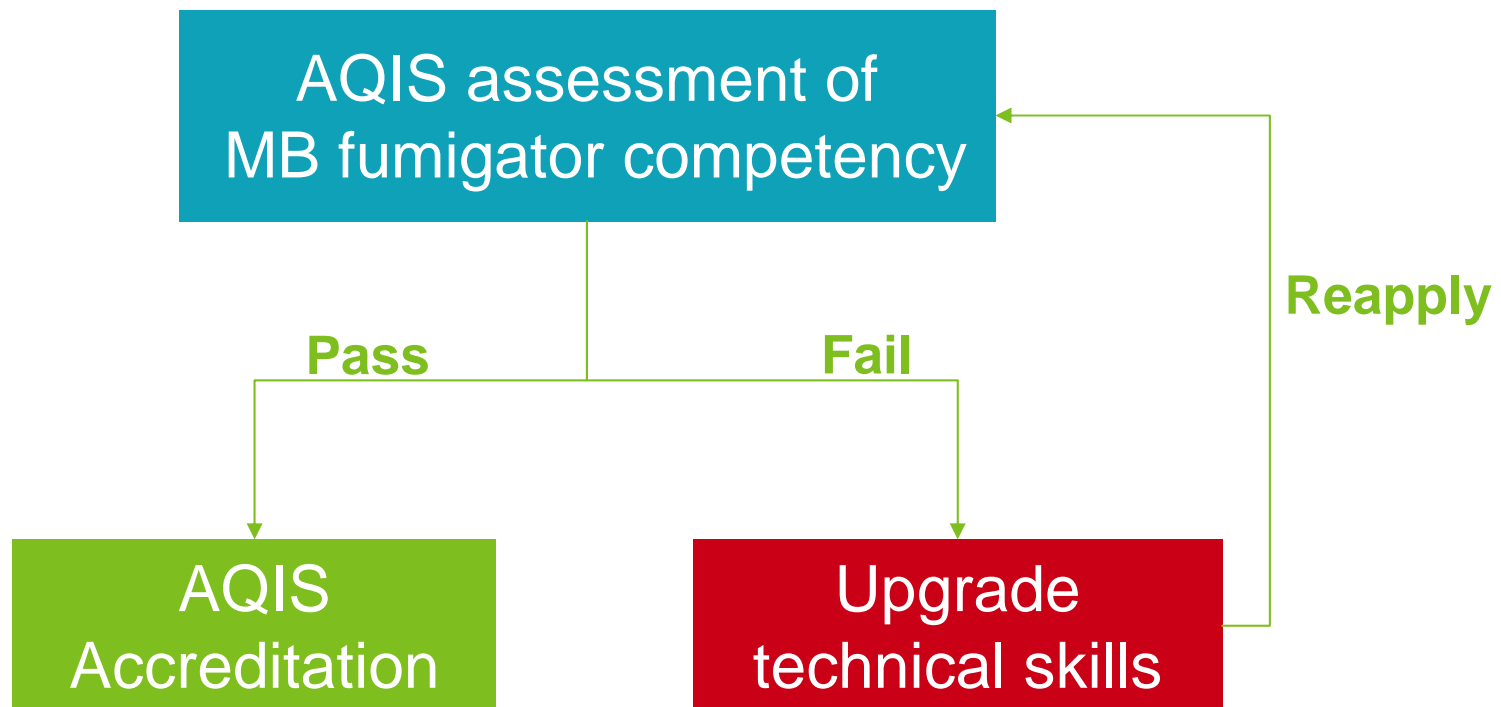
Proposed Onshore Strategy

- competency-based AQIS assessment
- continue with co-regulatory arrangements
- list of approved fumigation companies
- ongoing auditing

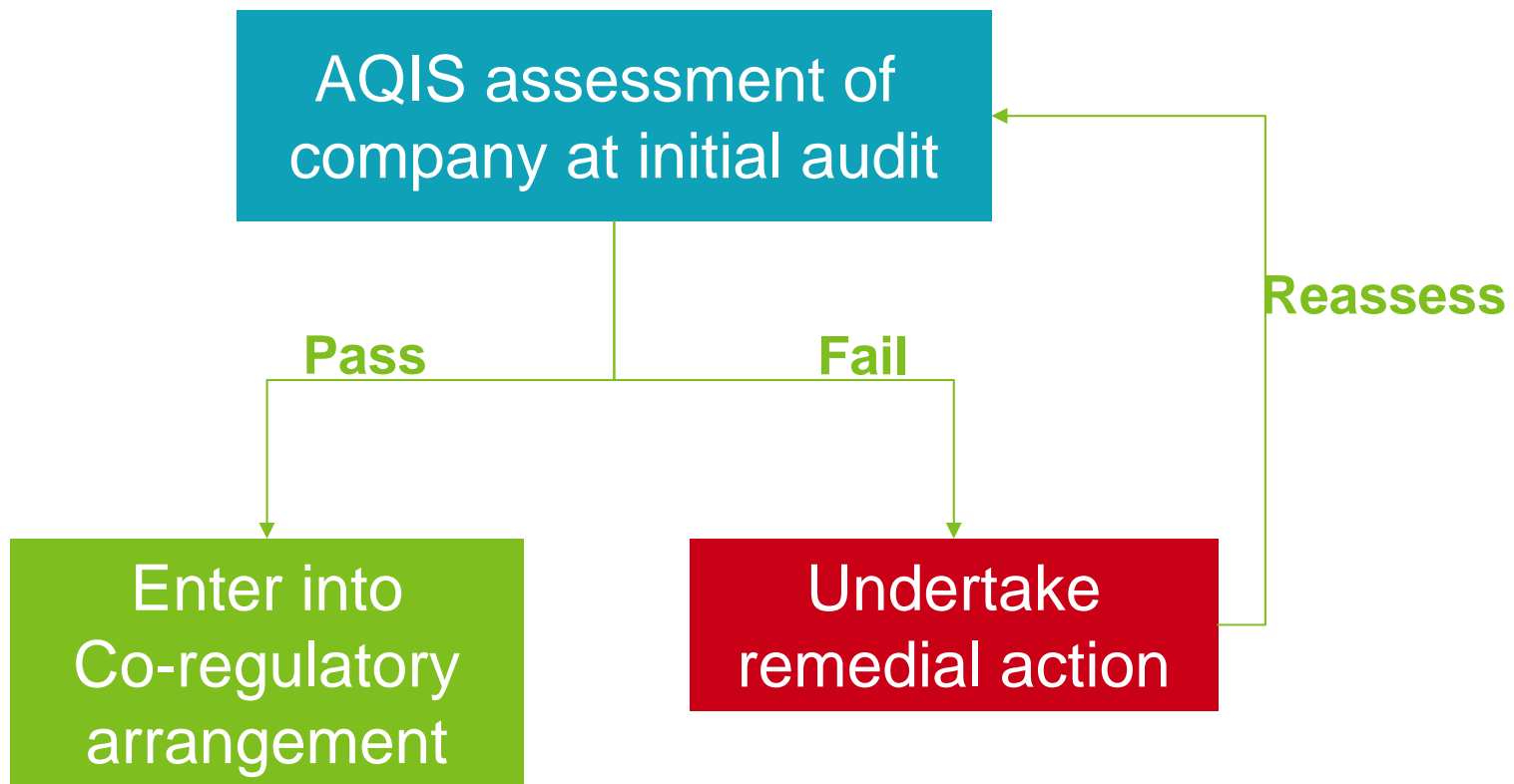
Competency-based assessment

- Fumigators will be accredited once they have undertaken the required training and passed an assessment.
- Fumigation companies will need to demonstrate competency against the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard in an initial audit.
- Fumigation companies employing AQIS-accredited fumigators will be eligible to enter into a co-regulatory arrangement with AQIS.

AQIS competency assessment - fumigators



AQIS competency assessment - companies



Co-regulatory arrangements

- Although AQIS maintains existing agreements with fumigation providers, it aims to strengthen the existing co-regulatory scheme to increase the efficacy of onshore fumigations through compliance with the AQIS Methyl Bromide Fumigation Standard.

Timeline

AQIS aims to implement the revised onshore fumigation arrangements by early 2009.

Contact

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