



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

CABOTAGE ADVICE TO SHIPPING INDUSTRY– SEAPORTS 03/03

Agents are advised that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) requires information in relation to cabotage issues where foreign registered vessels have a single or continuing voyage permit and/or licence to move domestic cargo between Australian ports. All cargo moved within Australia under these arrangements is subject to Quarantine in accordance with Section 74D of the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

During the quarantine first port ship inspection the vessel's master will be asked to declare if the vessel has a single or continuing voyage permit and/or licence to carry domestic cargo.

There will be no change to AQIS' current operational procedures (external containers inspection and surveillance arrangements) for internationally trading vessels carrying domestic containers and/or break bulk cargo around the Australian coast.

For international vessels intending to carry bulk cargoes such as fertiliser or grain, cargo holds designated for the carriage of domestic cargo will require an empty hold inspection by an authorised quarantine officer prior to loading. This inspection will reduce the risk of cross-contamination from vessel to cargo. The hold inspection will eliminate the need to inspect the domestic product at the discharge port.

All inspections will be charged at a fee for service rate. It is advised that agents notify their local AQIS office prior to the vessel's arrival of the intention to load bulk domestic cargo so arrangements can be made for AQIS to attend the vessel and conduct hold inspections.

If a hold inspection is not conducted prior to vessel loading bulk domestic commodities, it will result in the cargo undergoing a full inspection prior to discharge, at the appropriate fee for service.

Should you have further queries, please contact the local AQIS Seaports office in your state.

Robert Langlands
National Program Manager
Seaports

6 August 2003