



AQIS - QUARANTINE INFRINGEMENT NOTICE

ADVICE TO AGENTS – SEAPORTS 04/03

The purpose of this advice is to notify agents of recent amendments that have been made to Part 6 of the Quarantine Regulations 2000 in relation to ‘**Quarantine Infringement Notices - (QINs)**’.

In March 2001 the Australian Government announced that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) would implement a range of new measures to strengthen quarantine controls at Australian borders. One of these new measures was to introduce QINs into the seaports environment, however the infrastructure required for implementing this measure has only now been put in place.

Recent amendments to the Quarantine Regulations allows quarantine officers to serve a QIN on any person who, in the act of leaving an overseas vessel, fails to answer questions about their luggage or makes a false or misleading statement to a quarantine officer. The QIN penalty imposed may be a maximum of up to \$A220. To promote awareness of the introduction of QINs into the seaport environment AQIS will establish a publicity campaign targeted at all passengers, crew, servicemen and women, service providers or groups that interact with overseas vessels. The planned implementation date for the introduction of QINs is the 31 October 2003.

When a QIN is served on a person the quarantine officer in attendance will complete a ‘Seaports Remittance Advice’, this will provide the recipient of the QIN detailed information in relation to the notice. Additionally, the notice will state the prescribed penalty amount and the preferred method of payment.

The preferred option of payment is for the person to supply AQIS with their credit card details by completing the ‘Payment by Credit Card Box’ on the reverse side of the ‘Seaports Remittance Advice’ form. The Australian Customs Service receipts all Quarantine Infringement penalty money on behalf of AQIS and the person served with a QIN will, on clearance of their credit card details, be posted an official Australian Government receipt.

These new amendments apply to all persons disembarking from overseas vessels including, but not limited to, international passengers, crew, visitors to the vessel, service people, and domestic passengers travelling the domestic leg of an international journey.

Should you have further queries, please contact the local AQIS office in your state. Contact details are available from the Seaports internet site at www.aqis.gov.au/shipping.

Robert Langlands
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Seaports

_____ September 2003