



Notice to Industry

4/2004-05

Increased monitoring of consignments resulting from incorrect packing declarations.

The purpose of this notice is to provide clarification about AQIS's existing practice of monitoring suppliers found to be in breach of AQIS requirements in relation to bark, timber and straw packing declarations.

When an incident is detected, it is recorded and all future consignments from the same supplier are subject to inspection at a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) on arrival in Australia. The heightened rate of inspection will continue until AQIS is satisfied that imported consignments consistently meet Australian requirements.

Please note that non-compliant packing is attributed to the supplier and as such targeting will not be restricted to a single broker or importer. Inspections may require partial or full unpacking of containers and are fully cost recovered in line with AQIS fees and charging guidelines.

Changes

The following AQIS import clearance procedures apply to consignments from suppliers subject to increased monitoring:

- AQIS will inspect no less than 5 consecutive consignments from the identified supplier to ensure that undeclared or incorrectly declared bark, timber or straw is not present.
- If no further non-compliant packing is found, increased monitoring will cease and revert to random surveillance for a period of 12 months.

Background

Packing Declarations are an essential tool for managing quarantine risk in relation to imported containerised cargo. The importer/importer's representative must ensure that correct and concise packing information is provided to AQIS for all containerised cargo.

Bark, straw and timber packing are considered to be high-risk pathways for the introduction of pests and diseases. Each packing declaration must contain a statement about the use of straw packing and timber. If timber packing has been declared, the packing declaration must indicate whether bark is present on the timber packing.

Further advice:

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the profiles administrator on (02) 6272 5190, fax (02) 6272 5888 or email Profiles@aqis.gov.au.