



Notice to Industry

22/2008-09

Interim Changes to the AQIS policy on the issuing of used machinery permits.

This notice is to advise industry of interim changes to the AQIS policy on the assessment and issuing of permits for used machinery.

What are the issues?

The *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* (Division 2, Section 33) prohibits the importation of articles, including machinery, likely to introduce a disease or pest unless an Import Permit has been issued to import the article into Australia. The Import Permit sets out the permit conditions to reduce the identified risk to acceptably low levels for Australia. For used machinery permits, AQIS requires that the machinery be cleaned offshore, *before* shipping, to a 'clean as new' standard (i.e. without quarantine risk material including soil, plant and animal material). In view of the escalating noncompliance with this requirement, AQIS has commenced a risk reappraisal of the used machinery pathways.

In the interim, all applications for permits to import used machinery to Australia are now being risk assessed on a case by case basis.

What has changed?

- 1. Apply for a permit before shipping:** Importers and brokers are warned not to ship used machinery to Australia until a valid quarantine Import Permit is held and the importer is sure that the machine has undergone all the necessary cleaning required overseas to meet AQIS import conditions. If prohibited machinery arrives in Australia without an Import Permit and AQIS assesses that the quarantine risk is too great as the machine does not meet the required Import Permit conditions due to unacceptable contamination, the machine will not be allowed to land and will be exported from Australia at the importer's expense.
- 2. Clean your machine(s) offshore:** Importers who import unacceptably contaminated used machinery are in breach of their Import Permit conditions and will have to export these machines from Australia at their expense, as stated in the Import Permit:

... 'consignments that are found to be unacceptably contaminated will not be allowed entry and will be re-exported'.

Additionally, import permits that accompany unacceptably contaminated used machinery will be revoked in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* (Section 13(2C) (b)) which allows for a permit to be revoked where:

... 'the person to whom the permit was granted has breached a condition of the permit'.

3. **Do not assume that a permit will be granted:** Importers of used machinery assessed by AQIS as higher risk (defined here as previously in contact with prohibited soil, plant or animal material) may have to prove to AQIS that effective cleaning (e.g. steam or pressure cleaning, or insect treatment to AQIS requirements) has been undertaken offshore before a permit is issued.

4. **AQIS will only send permits to importers:** In the past, Australian importers of used machinery have been able to have their Import Permits emailed directly to their brokers. AQIS will now be sending permits to the importers, who are the owners of the permits. This is so that importers are aware of the conditions on the Import Permit and can take steps to comply with them. Importers will need to make their own arrangements to supply their brokers with permit copies. If the importer only gives the broker's email address on the application form, if the permit is granted, will be mailed to the applicant at the address stated on the Import Permit.

AQIS will review these interim changes in six months.

Further information

Please see the AQIS web site for more details on importing used machinery at www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/vehicles-machinery/regulations .

Any other enquiries should be directed to the Machinery and Military National Co-ordination Centre via email to aqis.machinery@aqis.gov.au or by telephone on 07 3246 8698.