

CURRENT ISSUES – SEPTEMBER 2010

GOVERNMENT & INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

- **Machinery Consultative Group**

The latest meeting of the Machinery Consultative Group between AQIS, AICCC and industry was held in Brisbane on 8 July. At this meeting AQIS indicated that it would not be proceeding with the proposal put forward previously for the accreditation of 3rd party inspection providers in overseas locations. This was a major disappointment to industry as AQIS had previously indicated “in principle” agreement to the proposal which the Group had been working on for almost 2 years.

It was agreed by industry that we move forward with the project on the basis that industry will provide a system that takes care of the skill development/training/accreditation of industry persons as per the project plan, together with all associated administration functions of the scheme. This will be provided by the Industry Working Group on Quarantine (IWGQ), of which CMEIG is a member. The work will be funded by AICCC which receives funding from the Federal Government.

A new draft proposal has now been developed and discussed with AQIS, They have indicated that they will give the proposal serious consideration and hopefully give us a positive answer by the end of September.

The scheme, as now proposed, will provide industry trained and accredited inspectors in overseas ports/locations who will be responsible for inspecting construction and mining machines prior to them being placed on a vessel for shipment to Australia. If the machine receives certification prior to shipment then it will only require verification by AQIS machinery inspectors at the Australian port of discharge, thereby speeding up the inspection process. The system will also reduce the amount of cleaning necessary at Australian wash facilities if the required cleaning is done to certification level at the overseas port. While there will be an additional charge to machinery shippers for this certification process, the benefits of faster clearance and reduced cleaning costs at the Australian port will far outweigh the additional charges.

This new system will also help to reduce the number of machines which are re-exported on orders from AQIS because the Quarantine Risk Material (QRM) is not able to be contained and contains a high volume of material which AQIS determines to be of high risk.