



Notice to Industry

7/2008-09

Changes to permit application processing for used machinery

This notice is to inform industry that AQIS has reassessed the quarantine risk associated with “used machinery” listed on the Import Conditions database (ICON). It has been determined that the continued use of the ePermit facility for these commodities is inappropriate. Consequently, all applications to import used machinery requiring a permit will now be required to be lodged electronically through the eLodgement facility or manually through the Machinery and Military National Coordination Centre (M&M NCC) at aqis.machinery@aqis.gov.au.

The current permit conditions and applications to import used machinery are available on ICON at www.aqis.gov.au/icon32/asp/ex_querycontent.asp.

The new lodgement requirements will enable AQIS to better risk assess applications and to seek, if required, additional information before determining final import conditions.

Background

The ePermit facility was designed to facilitate the issuing of permits only for commodities where standard import conditions would reduce any quarantine risk to an acceptably low level.

Used machinery is only permitted entry to Australia on the condition that the machine has been cleaned, prior to arrival, to a ‘clean as new’ level acceptable to AQIS.

AQIS has been concerned for some time over:

- the number of machinery imports that have been used in high risk areas that require extensive cleaning to remove Quarantine Risk Material (soil, plant material, animal contamination) on arrival in default of their import conditions;
- the number of used machinery imports requiring re-export due to the level and/or nature of accompanying contamination; and
- the difficulties of effectively cleaning some used machinery to mitigate quarantine risk in cases where normal AQIS cleaning requirements cannot be undertaken due to the nature or complexity of the machine or its components.

With new information emerging on plant and animal diseases that could enter Australia on this pathway, AQIS has determined that the use of the ePermit facility for these commodities is no longer appropriate. In future all applications to import used agricultural and horticultural machinery that requires a permit will need to be submitted to the M&M NCC for assessment.

Further Information

Should you require more information about this notice or wish to check whether the used machine that you wish to import requires a permit, please contact the M&M NCC at aqis.machinery@aqis.gov.au or by phone on (07) 3246 8706.