



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
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URGENT INDUSTRY NOTICE

AQIS Packing Requirements for Australian Industry dealing with Imported LCL Sea-freight Cargo

Further to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) notice on this issue in July 2002, this is to confirm that packing declarations, similar to those currently mandatory for FCL containers, will become **mandatory** for all LCL consignments as of 1 November 2002 (see attached packing declaration).

Packing declarations must be sourced from the supplier or packer of the goods.

It should be noted that in line with current FCL requirements, a packing declaration may be provided as a separate document, or the information may appear on packing lists, bills of lading, commercial invoices or preferential tariff certificates only. When packing declarations are presented on these documents they **must** still adhere to all packing declaration requirements.

Annual packing declarations will also be acceptable for LCL consignments. These annual packing declarations must meet the same requirements as FCL annual packing declarations, other than the cleanliness declaration component, which is not required for an LCL annual packing declaration.

Treatment requirements for wooden packaging in LCL cargo

In April 2001, it became an AQIS requirement that all LCL wooden packing be treated by an AQIS approved method. This is **not** a new requirement and wooden packing utilised in LCL consignments must be treated using any of the options available for wooden packing in FCL consignments.

The most up to date information on acceptable treatments for wooden packing can be found in the AQIS publication "Cargo Containers - Quarantine aspects and procedures". Information on both permanent (such as CCA) and non-permanent treatments (such as fumigation) is included in Appendix I and II of the publication. Please refer to

<http://www.affa.gov.au/content/output.cfm?ObjectID=D2C48F86-BA1A-11A1-A2200060A1B01777>

LCL packing scheme requirements

In order for a business to be eligible for the LCL Packing Scheme, they must first be a signatory to both the Containerised Cargo Clearance for FCL/X Scheme, and the Automatic Entry Processing for FCL Scheme.

If you are unsure whether your business is a signatory to either of these prerequisite schemes, please contact the National Officer in the Co-regulatory Systems Unit on 02 6272 4893.

Timelines

To ensure that LCL cargo destined for Australia meets the **mandatory** packing declaration requirements that come into force from 1 November, brokers must ensure that their suppliers and packers are aware of this requirement **well in advance of this date**. For example, it is estimated that overseas suppliers will need to provide appropriately completed packing declarations for LCL shipments leaving Europe from September 2002.

It is essential that you inform overseas suppliers of these requirements immediately so that they can meet the proposed 1 November start date.

Industry accreditation training is currently being finalised and will commence from September 2002. More details of this training will be circulated in the near future.

In discussions with the AQIS Industry Cargo Consultative Committee, it has been agreed that the LCL scheme will be implemented in stages commencing from 1 November 2002 in Qld, WA, SA, NT, ACT & Tasmania, followed by Victoria and NSW in early 2003. This will provide opportunities to test the scheme under operating conditions so that changes can be made (if required) before full national implementation.

Summary

The requirement for LCL timber packing material to be treated by a method accepted by AQIS prior to entry into Australia has not changed since April 2001. As a consequence, AQIS would encourage you to contact your overseas suppliers to ensure that they comply with this requirement (through the provision of a valid treatment certificate) and future requirements such as the provision of mandatory packing declarations for each LCL consignment.

Attached are some frequently asked questions and answers that may assist you, as well as an example packing declaration indicating the mandatory fields to be completed. Any other comments or questions regarding the contents of this document should be directed to:

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Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if a business doesn't want to become a signatory to the LCL Packing Scheme?

If a business chooses not to become a signatory to the LCL Packing Scheme, brokers will be required to answer 'Yes' to the first LCL non-commodity declaration question in COMPILE.

What happens if a business does not want to use the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) facility for LCL cargo?

An integral component of the LCL Packing Scheme is the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) facility. A business is **not** able to operate under the LCL Packing Scheme unless it is a signatory to and using the Automatic Entry Processing (AEP) facility.

What happens if a business does not have a packing declaration for an LCL consignment?

If a valid packing declaration does not accompany an LCL consignment, the consignment must be directed to AQIS for an inspection to verify whether or not wooden packing, bark or straw are present.

What if my overseas suppliers do not provide the correct documentation for their LCL consignments?

In the case where correct documents are not presented for an LCL consignment, an Accredited Person will be required to answer 'Yes' to the second LCL non-commodity declaration question and use Automatic Entry Processing to lodge the entry.

Where will I be able to direct my LCL consignment?

LCL consignments requiring further action can only be directed to Quarantine Approved Premises that operate under a current Compliance Agreement. The list of these premises is available at

<http://www.affa.gov.au/content/publications.cfm?ObjectID=1EFED9FA-85FB-44F6-AEE71BA903D31691>

Which treatment options are available for LCL consignments?

All treatment options approved for packing in FCL containers are available for LCL packing. The most up to date information on acceptable treatments can be found in the AQIS publication "Cargo Containers - Quarantine aspects and procedures". Information on both permanent and non-permanent treatments is included in Appendix I and II of the publication. Please refer to

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Supplier Letterhead

FCL/LCL PACKING DECLARATION

[Boxes to be marked with an X in the appropriate place.]

Container Number or Numerical Link (Shipping Marks/Invoice Number/Bill Number):

STRAW PACKING

(Straw packing includes straw, cereal, rice hulls, and other unprocessed plant materials.)

Q. Has **Straw Packing** been used in the consignment listed above?

A. YES NO

TIMBER PACKING

(Timber packing includes: Crates, Cases, Dunnage, Pallets, Skids, and any other timber used as a shipping aid.)

Q. Has **Timber Packing** been used in the consignment listed above?

A. YES NO

BARK

(Bark is the external natural layer covering trees and branches. This material is distinct and separable from processed timber.)

Q. If **Timber Packing** is used, is it free of **BARK**?

A. YES NO

CLEANLINESS DECLARATION FOR FCL'S ONLY

I also declare that the above container(s) (FCL/X only) has/have been cleaned and is/are free from material of animal and/or plant origin and soil.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Supplier Representative