



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



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

In April 2001, AQIS published a notice entitled 'Information for Australian Brokerages/Importers dealing with imported LCL Cargo'. The notice advised all businesses about the proposed requirements to address the risk of packaging associated with LCL cargo.

As you may be aware, AQIS ran a trial of the proposed LCL Packing Scheme for imported LCL consignments between May and June 2001. The trial ran with selected Customs Brokers and Quarantine Approved Premises in Western Australia and Queensland.

TRIAL EVALUATION - UPDATE

AQIS, in consultation with industry, have finalised the evaluation of the outcomes of the trial for the LCL Packing Scheme. The trial has been used to determine changes that were required to the original scheme.

PACKING DECLARATIONS

One of the main outcomes of the LCL Packing Scheme trial was that packing declarations should be used for LCL consignments. Packing declarations, similar to those currently mandatory for FCL containers, will become a **mandatory** requirement 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.

LCL PACKING SCHEME PREREQUISITES

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

The scheme is due to be implemented in stages from 1 November 2002. Industry accreditation training will commence from September 2002 and more details of this training will be circulated in the near future.

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

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 its introduction in April 2001. We would appreciate you continuing to encourage your overseas suppliers to 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.

Any comments or questions regarding the contents of this document should be directed to Rossana Simoncini, Co-regulatory Systems Unit, AQIS.

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Attachment 1

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