



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

9/2008-09

Difficulties with Container Fees in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS)

What is the issue?

A range of import clearance related fees were amended on 12 August 2008. When the Australian Customs Service (Customs) implemented the relevant changes in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) some difficulty was experienced with the application of the fees for containers.

We understand the ICS was applying the new AQIS container fee to amended declarations. As a result, a number of posts/refunds lodged in the ICS on 12, 13 and 14 August 2008 were calculated with the adjusted amounts, i.e. if someone amended a declaration with one FCL when applying for a refund of \$100 the ICS would apply the difference in the container fee (\$15 to \$16) and hence only calculate a refund of \$99.

What is being done to correct this issue?

AQIS and Customs agreed to reverse the changes made in the ICS for the AQIS container fee increase (FCL, LCL and FCX) effective from Friday 15 August 2008.

The container fees will remain at the current (old) rates until a solution has been implemented in the ICS to address the issue with applying the increase on post-delivery amended import declarations.

Customs placed an ICS alert on their webpage to advise of the problem. This alert can be found at: <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=5725>. The alert contains the following information:

On 12 August 2008 AQIS increased the fees relating to the clearance of FCL, FCX (\$15 to \$16) and LCL (\$3.75 to \$4) containers on ICS import declarations. Due to an issue with the ICS applying the increase on post-delivery amended declarations the increase in the fees has been reverted effective from today (15 August 2008). Container fees will remain at the current rates until a solution has been implemented in the ICS.

It is only the container fees that have reverted to the old rate for the time being. Unfortunately, we are unable to when Customs will rectify the issue in the ICS. We expect that at least 2 weeks notice will be given before the system is updated to accept the new container fees.

We also intend to place an updated version of the AQIS Import Clearance Charging Guidelines on the AQIS webpage in due course.