

AQIS requirements for vessels

AQIS fact sheet

THE THREAT

Vessels entering Australia can carry unwanted pests and diseases that can threaten our unique flora and fauna, our agricultural and aquaculture industries as well as human health. To help prevent the spread of pests and diseases, Australia's quarantine laws are among the strictest in the world.

The major threats from vessels entering Australia are:

- disease carrying rodents and vectors such as mosquitos;
- animals (pets) and plants on board;
- ballast water contamination;
- handling of vessel's garbage;
- insect infestations (eg. khapra beetle, Asian gypsy moth);
- passengers, possible Quarantinable diseases (eg. Yellow fever); and
- landing of personal effects from crew and passengers.

WHAT IS THE RISK?

The risk is that a plant, animal or human disease, can be transmitted from an insect or rodent that is carried on a vessel or that an unwanted pest escapes from the vessel while it is in port. The subsequent spread and damage can be devastating to both our rural industries and to human health.

AQIS REQUIREMENTS – WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Compliance with Australia's quarantine laws and correctly completing declarations, in full, can reduce the time required for inspections. Fees and charges will apply to all inspections. Charges are largely determined by the amount of time involved to complete the inspection.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE QUARANTINE INSPECTIONS?

There are several steps vessel Masters can take to assist in the process:

- enter a Proclaimed First Port of Entry;
- apply for Quarantine clearance 12 – 48 hours before entering Australian waters using the Quarantine Pre-Arrival Report for Vessels (pratique) form and meet all ballast water reporting requirements;
- declare all deaths and illnesses on board your vessel;
- declare all animals on board and follow the directions of the quarantine officer;
- keep your vessel free of rodent and insect infestation;
- keep all waste properly secured in designated bins;
- don't throw any foodstuffs or garbage overboard whilst in Australian waters;
- don't trade foodstuffs with overseas vessels; and
- on arrival in Australia, don't allow any crew or passengers to leave or any person board until given such instructions by a quarantine officer.