



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

SHIPS' CREWS' MAIL

ADVICE TO AGENTS – SEAPORTS 09/04

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) screens all mail entering Australia from overseas at the border.

It has been recognised that correspondence generated by ships' crews has been able to enter Australia without screening until now. This has represented a quarantine risk.

Only correspondence that is either:

- Addressed to a destination within Australia's borders or;
- Bearing a return address within Australia's borders

is of concern to AQIS.

To address this risk in future, AQIS - in co-operation with The Australian Customs Service (Customs) – will inspect items of crew correspondence falling into these categories prior to giving permission for such items to enter the Australian postal system.

Customs has specific definitions for what is considered to be 'mail'. The type of correspondence referred to in this advice is considered to be "accompanied personal effects" by Customs.

Procedures for ships' masters and crews regarding correspondence are highlighted in the AQIS document 'Quarantine information for ship's Master and crew' (copy attached) that is handed to the master of every international vessel arriving in Australia by AQIS's boarding officer.

Agents' cooperation is requested in identifying items of crew correspondence that fall into either of these categories and arranging for AQIS or Customs to inspect them before placing them into the Australian mail system.

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Seaports

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