



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES and
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



The Export Process

Getting your product
into overseas markets.

AQIS

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY - AUSTRALIA

About this Brochure

This brochure is designed to help potential exporters of agricultural and fisheries products, whether 'prescribed' or 'non prescribed' goods. Examples of prescribed goods are:

- **meat and meat products**
- **dairy produce**
- **fish**
- **eggs**
- **poultry, game and rabbit meat**
- **plants and plant products**
- **fresh fruit and vegetables (including dried fruit)**
- **grain**
- **animal food (frozen)**
- **live animals**
- **biological (including pharmaceuticals)**
- **organic produce**

Export registration of premises

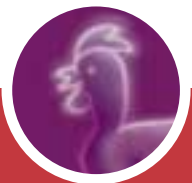
AQIS registers premises for export operations. Establishments must comply with a number of requirements before export registration can be achieved.

These requirements are specified in the various Orders, instructions and guidelines which cover the construction and operational requirements for export establishments. These vary according to the commodity.

To obtain registration of premises, intending exporters should contact the nearest AQIS office (refer back of this brochure) to discuss the company's proposed registration. The intending exporter will be required to submit information as well as an application form; an application fee is also payable. AQIS will examine the application and inspect the premises.

Export operations cannot begin until the exporter receives notification of approval by AQIS and the overseas country government authorities (where required). The occupier is provided with a registration certificate and number. The certificate must be displayed at the establishment.

A registration review occurs annually.



Our mission

The Export Facilitation Program in partnership with industry and other service providers will facilitate trade in agricultural and fisheries commodities in accordance with Australian and importing country requirements through technically sound advice and raising community awareness of the importance of, and effective participation in, export certification and quarantine requirements.

Fees

The Government requires AQIS to fully cost recover its inspection and certification services. There are various types of fees, all of which are an essential consideration for exporters; for example:

- **annual establishment registration charge**
- **fee charges for service**
- **quantity charge**
- **documentation charge**

Inspection of Prescribed Goods

Most prescribed goods cannot be exported without some form of inspection being carried out by AQIS. AQIS offers exporters inspection programs to satisfy different marketing and export requirements. The purpose of the inspection service is to ensure export foods are safe, wholesome and accurately described thereby protecting Australia's trading reputation. Inspection also ensures that overseas market requirements and international obligations, treaties and conditions are met.

AQIS has in some instances, moved away from only doing final product inspection and now uses Quality Assurance (QA) based systems. This means exporters have to be more responsible for product safety, quality and complying with overseas government requirements.

To establish an inspection system the exporter must initially contact the nearest AQIS office. The exporter will be required to submit a written application for an inspection system.



Alternative inspection arrangements that are available:

- **Food Processing Accreditation**
- **Certification Assurance**
- **Approved Quality Assurance**
- **Meat Safety Quality Assurance**

Export Documentation Requirements

Before prescribed goods can be exported, the exporter must prepare certain export documentation to enable the product to be cleared through Australian Customs Service.

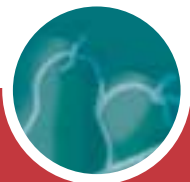
For those establishments not operating on a QA system, or an alternate documentation system, permit documentation must be completed for each consignment and be presented to an AQIS authorised officer for signing and stamping prior to shipment.

For meat, meat products, poultry, game and rabbit meat certification procedures have changed from manual documentation to electronic submission under a program known as EXDOC. Exporters are required to register with the EXDOC program before any export documentation can be issued.

EXDOC is being introduced for other prescribed goods.

Most importing country authorities insist on government –to–government certification before goods are permitted entry. AQIS can provide the necessary certificates to satisfy importing country authority requirements.

EXDOC covers both meat and non–meat products.



Overseas Posts

AQIS has veterinary counsellors stationed in Seoul, Washington and Brussels to act on the organisation's behalf in negotiations with national and international trade, quarantine and animal health bodies.

As part of the Prime Minister's Supermarket to Asia strategy, AQIS has stationed a veterinary counsellor in Seoul and an agricultural counsellor in Tokyo. Both are responsible for promoting exports of Australian food products into North Asian markets and for negotiating the best possible entry conditions.

Facilitators

The Export Facilitation Program, in partnership with industry and other service providers, will facilitate trade in agricultural and fishery commodities in accordance with Australian and importing country requirements.

Facilitators provide information on the following topics:

- **other countries import conditions**
- **Australian legislative requirements for export**
- **AQIS quality assurance arrangements**
- **premises registration requirements**
- **inspection procedures**
- **AQIS fees and charges**
- **documentation including export permits, health, phytosanitary and other certificates.**

Legislation

Export Control Act 1982

Prescribed Goods General Orders

Export Meat Orders

Game, Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders

Export Control Processed Foods Orders

Export Control (Fresh Fruits and Vegetables) Orders

Export Control (Animals) Orders

Export Control (Organic Produce Certification) Orders

Export Control (Grains, Plants and Plant Products) Orders

All the above legislation is available on AQIS's Webpage:

www.aqis.gov.au



FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information contact your nearest AQIS Facilitator:

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AQIS is an operating group of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia