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**Biosecurity Import Clearance Reforms**

**July 2024**

Slide 2

**STEPS – Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System**

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**STEPS – Simplified Targeting & Enhanced Processing System**

**STEPS PROGRAM ON A PAGE**

Outdated DAFF Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems and inefficient process negatively impact staff and industry. Urgent modernisation is needed to keep up with the Whole of Government (WoG) agenda, improve staff and industry user experience and promote Australia’s effective biosecurity.

STEPS is an investment in the department’s ICT systems to enhance Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, more integrated cargo clearance system.

STEPS is a $145 million government initiative from 2023 to 2026 (Tranche 1), envisioned as an overall 9-year program of work pending the iterative success from Tranche 1.

The STEPS team will work with DAFF staff and industry over the coming months and years to co-design simplified and modern systems

**5 STEPS Program goals:**

* Faster and Easier Assessments
* Streamlined Inspection and Management Activities
* Improved Industry Arrangements & Support
* Modernised data capture, use and visibility
* Contemporary digital products and services

Each overseen by a dedicated delivery stream, supported by **Enabling services**

**We expect tangible benefits:**

* Reduced cost of regulation
* Reduced cost of running import business
* Reduced holding cost
* Improved user experience
* Trade facilitation
* DAFF workforces shift to high value biosecurity activities
* Reduced biosecurity incursion risk

STEPS scope is cargo valued at *over $1000* requiring a full import declaration (FID) to the Australian Government.

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**What’s coming out of STEPS now?**

**eCert**

* **For release by end of June –** a first step in self-service access to digital certificates
* Allows accredited brokers to view a secure eCert (phytosanitary certificate) to assess commodities under an approved arrangement
* Paves the way to receive digital certificates from countries as they come online

**Approved Arrangement Management Product (AAMP)**

* **Available online by end of June** for all Biosecurity Industry Participants (BIPs) to update their AA details
* Limited production for 8 users since October 2023 but will expand to all BIPs for 85 AA classes
* BIP AAMP AA Record includes:
  + AA Details (Entity Details)
  + Contact Details
  + Classes
  + Notices
  + Arrangement Documents

**Biosecurity Cargo Tracker**

* **Available by the end of June** toaccredited customs brokers and department staff for up-to-date visibility of cargo being managed by DAFF
* **Brokers** will have access to views of:
  + their importer client’s consignment
  + what their brokerage has with DAFF
  + tools that help answer an importer’s enquiries
  + reports that help prioritise activity
  + data to improve their brokerage’s business

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**STEPS – Simplified Targeting and Enhanced Processing System**

**STEPS:** enhancing Australia's biosecurity risk management by creating a faster, simpler, integrated cargo clearance system.

For more information or enquiries about STEPS email: STEPS[@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au)

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**Biosecurity Update**

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**Hitchhiker Awareness Campaign**

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**Overview**

**Campaign aim**

To increase awareness of:

* Hitchhiker pests amongst industry members involved with imported shipping containers and goods
* How to report suspected detections to the See. Secure. Report Hotline.

**Activities**

* Social media and webpage advertisements
* Distribution of hitchhiker branded products, including caps, pens, coffee cups, posters and air-fresheners
* Sponsorship of Ports Australia Conference
* Free webinars, digi-kits and news articles.

Hitchhiker pests ‘hitch a ride’ to Australia in or on shipping containers, imported goods & vessels.

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**Social Media − 2 September to 11 October 2024**

**We encourage you to follow & share on:**

**Facebook**

* facebook.com/daffgov/
* facebook.com/australianbiosec/

I**nstagram**

* @daffgov

**Linkedin**

* linkedin.com/company/australian-department-of-agriculture-fisheries-and-forestry/

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**Hitchhiker branded products**

* Banners
* Air fresheners
* Caps
* Cups
* Pens

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**FREE digital toolkits and webinars**

From AUGUST 2024 TOOLKITS available at: agriculture.gov.au/hitchhiker-pests

From SEPTEMBER 2024 WEBINARS available on:

* The risk of hitchhiker pests
* Identifying issues with imported shipping containers and goods
* Reporting suspected detections

FOR WEBINAR INVITATIONS email [plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au)

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**Risk and Compliance-based Recalibration**

The Risk and Compliance-based Recalibration (RCR) uses a system wide approach to identify, plan, execute, monitor and evaluate changes to risk controls and the outcomes achieved by making those changes

**RCR working group**

* Involves representatives from 5 divisions across the Biosecurity & Compliance Group:
  + Biosecurity Strategy and Reform
  + Compliance and Enforcement
  + Biosecurity Animal
  + Biosecurity Plant and Science Services
  + Biosecurity Operations
* Through collaboration, this group identifies ways to improve our risk-based approach to how we regulate imported goods and our biosecurity risk architecture. This allows us to administer effective and efficient biosecurity regulation.

**Identify**

* This is the discovery phase. We analyse commercial cargo data to identify high volume, low pest and disease approach rate and high compliance commodity pathways. We target these pathways for further analysis and assessment by risk owners.

**Evaluate**

* In this phase, we assess our outcomes. We make sure we achieved the intended risk management outcomes. We adjust if risk and compliance are outside of our tolerance levels.

**Plan**

* In this phase, we determine if alternative intervention or recalibration options are suitable. We also consider implementation requirements and test our approach with operational areas and policy owners.

**Execute and monitor**

* This is when we implement our recalibrations. We also perform assurance and monitoring activities. This allows us to gather evidence on the intended and unintended impact on regulatory burden, entity compliance and biosecurity risk.

**How you can help us**

* We highly value your feedback and guidance, and we are here to listen, learn and understand from you.
* We rely on input from SMEs to help us appropriately evaluate the suitability and implementation requirements of potential recalibration candidates.
* You can help us by being engaged and open on the risk management approaches used in your business unit.
* This includes the potential intended and unintended impacts of proposed intervention changes.

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**CBIS – Compliance Based Intervention Scheme**

**For many pathways, CBIS has improved the biosecurity clearance process at the border**

**Continued compliance**

* demonstrated history of compliance with Australia’s import conditions and policies

**Risk-based intervention (not 100%)**

* Inspections
* Testing

**Time and cost savings**

* Reduced inspection/ storage fees
* Reallocate resources
* Maintain quality of products
* Improve access time to market.

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**CBIS – Compliance Based Intervention Scheme**

**CBIS improving biosecurity clearance process at the border**

CBIS applies on:

* 72 plant pathways for 69 tariffs
* 11 animal product pathways for 27 tariffs

A list of CBIS eligible products can be found at:  
[www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/plant-products)

**For CBIS enquiries email:** [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) ‘Tier 2 – CBIS’ or [cbis@aff.gov.au](mailto:cbis@aff.gov.au)

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**Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection**

**What is it?**

* Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection (RTG) authorises an approved Biosecurity Industry Participant (BIP) operating a Class 1.1 or Class 1.3 (with approved Class 4.3 wash bay facilities) to perform certain rural tailgate inspections

**Expanded scope and eligibility**

* Class 14.4 now covers up to 90 % of all RTG directions issued
* Out of scope - consignments requiring a physical inspection

**Benefits for the department**

* provides confidence that biosecurity risks to rural areas are appropriately managed
* Increases workforce capacity by redirecting frontline officers away from low-risk inspections
* reduces manual intervention for assessment staff

**Benefits for Industry**

* provides greater flexibility in how sites operate their business
* reduces administrative interactions with the department and associated fees and charges
* reduces clearance times resulting in lower storage and associated costs

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**Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspection**

**How it works**

* 85% of non-commodity related document assessments are undertaken by accredited persons under AEPNCCC
* Brokers enter one of the appropriate concern types developed in ICS for accredited persons to apply under AEPNCCC

**1. RUAA - AEP Rural Tailgate Inspection** – Approved Arrangement

**2. REAA - AEP Rural Tailgate External only Inspection** – Approved Arrangement

* When applied together, AEPNCCC and Class 14.4 enables effective, end to end industry managed clearance of eligible containers
* Industry inspect, and if applicable, manage low level external contamination
* Where a container is determined to be free of biosecurity risk material, the BIP releases the container from biosecurity control

**No departmental release of documents under Class 14.4**

* The BIPs record of release replaces the traditional department clearance and release documents

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**Approved arrangement Class 14.4 Rural Tailgate Inspections**

**More information**

* **Class 14.4 Approved arrangement - conditions:**

[agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival/arrangements/requirements)

* **General information on RTG inspections:**

[agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival)

* **Awareness video:**

[Awareness video - Class 14.4: Rural Tailgate Inspection](https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/arrival)

* **Email enquiries:**

[seacargopolicy@aff.gov.au](mailto:seacargopolicy@aff.gov.au)

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**TIPS for:**

* Accessing the Biosecurity Portal (Portal) via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality
* Selecting ‘Next Available’ as the 'Preferred Inspection Period'
* Selecting the correct 'Inspection Type'
* Imported foods (IFIP) 'Inspection Duration'
* IFIP & CCV 'Inspection Location'
* Utilising the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ field
* 'Multi-day Booking’ and utilising the multi-day 'Additional Information’ field

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**Accessing the portal via your myGovID (Digital Identity) for improved functionality**

* Request, modify and cancel an import inspection
* View and print AIMS Directions.

For help signing up or using the biosecurity portal, please contact: [biosecurityportal@aff.gov.au](mailto:biosecurityportal@aff.gov.au)

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**Select the correct inspection type**

* Automation – Relies on accurate inspection types being selected
* An 'Inspection Type' guide can be found on our website at: [www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/QID108444\_IR%20How%20do%20I%20select%20the%20correct%20Inspection%20type%20for%20my%20inspection%20V1.0\_0.pdf](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/QID108444_IR%20How%20do%20I%20select%20the%20correct%20Inspection%20type%20for%20my%20inspection%20V1.0_0.pdf)
* We are improving the useability of the guide.

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**Imported Foods (IFIP) Inspection Duration**

**Issue:** Incorrect ‘inspection duration’ entered when requesting imported foods inspection

* Ensure the inspection duration advised on your Imported Foods directions are adhered to and entered accurately into the 'Estimated inspection duration’
* Ensure the time is entered in minutes
* Under/Over entering the duration can lead to delays.

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**IFIP & CCV Inspection Locations**

* **When requesting an IFIP or CCV inspection, a business name can assist officers**. Delays may occur without this information as officers have difficulty locating the correct inspection location
* **If lodging requests for inspection at non-AAs**, please note the business name in the Inspection Request – additional comments field.

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**Utilise the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ Field**

ANY information relevant to your inspection request can also be noted in the ‘Inspection Request – Additional Information’ field

This can include:

* **Machine ID’s / VINS** – if only certain machines are to be inspected.
* **Location of wharf inspections** – e.g. Specific Berths

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**Biosecurity Portal − Inspection bookings and how to get best results**

**Multi Day Requests**

* + If requesting a 'multi-day booking', please insert any relevant information into the ‘multi-day request – comments box’

**This can include:**

* + Specific dates preferred for inspection
  + Number of containers on each day
  + Hours required on each day

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**Machinery, Equipment and Vehicle Imports**

* Machinery (including machinery parts) and motor vehicles can introduce biosecurity risks into Australia
* Risks include but are not limited to live insects, seeds, soil, mud, clay, animal material and plant material such as twigs, leaves, roots and bark
* On arrival in Australia all machinery and motor vehicles are subject to Biosecurity control and may be inspected by a Biosecurity officer
* New machinery and vehicles imported as break bulk are subject to surveillance on arrival
* Used machinery, equipment and vehicles require mandatory inspection
* Importers are responsible for ensuring that machinery and vehicles are clean and free of biosecurity risks before they arrive in Australia

1. Slide 26

**Machinery**

* All machinery and parts imported into Australia must be free from contamination such as seeds, soil, plant and animal materials
* Australia ’s import requirements for new and used machinery are found on BICON under case:
  + Machinery, equipment and parts
* The importer is responsible for ensuring that machinery and parts are clean and free of biosecurity risk material before they arrive in Australia
* The Department has the power to export contaminated machinery from Australia at the importers or owner's expense

1. Slide 27

**Used Machinery**

* Used machinery includes machinery and parts that have contacted soil, animals, animal or plant materials when trialled, tested or used in environments posing a biosecurity risk
* Used machinery is legislated under the *Biosecurity (Conditionally Non-Prohibited Goods) Determination 2021* – which provides additional details on imports in conjunction with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*
* Section 49(3) of the Determination stipulates the following conditions:
  + (3) Goods included in a class of goods to which this section applies must not be brought or imported into Australian territory unless the goods:
    - (a) were cleaned before export to be clean and free from animal and plant material and soil; and
    - Are accompanied by documentation stating the method of cleaning.
* Machinery not meeting acceptable standards of cleanliness may not be permitted entry to Australia and directed for export

1. Slide 28

**Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Used machinery contaminated with an unacceptable level of biosecurity risk will be assessed and directed for export
* Example images provided showing:
  + Belly plate not removed and no attempt to clean
  + Engine Bay – no attempt at cleaning
  + Underside of machine – no attempt at cleaning
* **Important:** Containerised used machines can still be directed for export. Having goods unpacked in an AA wash bay does not negate the requirement to meet import conditions

1. Slide 29

**Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Example images provided of machines with unacceptable levels of biosecurity risk material directed for export:
  + No removal of drive motor panel or attempt to clean.
  + Beehive in open channel
  + Plant material in open channel

1. Slide 30

**Used Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Example images provided of machines with unacceptable levels of biosecurity risk material directed for export:
  + Excavator turret – no attempt at cleaning
  + Plant material in engine bay – no attempt to remove
  + Painted over soil contamination – no attempt to clean

1. Slide 31

**Used Containerised Machinery – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Example images provided of unacceptable levels of biosecurity risk material (BRM) in containerised used machines directed for export:
  + Excavator drive arm – full of soil & prohibited packing – no attempt at cleaning
  + Removed cabin at rear of container with cabin floor – no attempt to clean

1. Slide 32

**New and used machinery - cleaning guides & checklists**

* In addition to BICON, cleaning guides and checklists are available to assist importers ensure their new and used machinery meets Australia’s import conditions at: [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/vehicles-machinery/regulations/guides-checklists](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/import/goods/vehicles-machinery/regulations/guides-checklists)

1. Slide 33

**Used Equipment – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Example images provided of unacceptable levels of biosecurity risk material in used equipment directed for export:
  + Flour residue and extensive mould on rollers – no cleaning attempted
  + Rodent faeces and flour residue
  + Excessive mould and flour contamination – no cleaning attempted

1. Slide 34

**Used Equipment – Unacceptable biosecurity risk**

* Example images provided of unacceptable levels of biosecurity risk material in used equipment directed for export:
  + Unacceptable plant material, leftover ingredients including seeds/crushed rice, large amounts of mould, various dead insects and rodent droppings
  + Evidence of minimal to no cleaning of the machine before importing into Australia
  + Equipment did not meet import conditions

1. Slide 35

**Machinery, Equipment and Vehicles: BMSB seasonal measures**

**1 September to 30 April:**

* + Machinery, equipment and vehicle imports may be subject to the seasonal measures for BMSB
  + High risk goods manufactured in or shipped from target risk countries require treatment for BMSB from 1 September to 30 April (inclusive)
  + Goods shipped as break bulk, or in an open top or on a flat rack container, require mandatory offshore treatment
  + BMSB seasonal measures for the 2024-25 BMSB season will be published shortly
    1. Enquiries about BMSB seasonal measures can be directed to [spp@aff.gov.au](mailto:spp@aff.gov.au)

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**Approved arrangement Class 19 – Impacts**

**Current impact:**

* internally we have good information
* engaging with industry to better understand industry impact

**Based on consultation**: costs associated with lodging documentation in COLS for assessment can include:

* person hours required to lodge documentation
* additional depot fees when a consignment is held longer than expected
* relocation costs to move goods
* costs associated with delayed return of containers

Costs can often be avoided if using the approved arrangement class 19

1. Slide 37

**Approved arrangement class 19 – opportunities for improvement**

* Usage and uptake of the approved arrangement is increasing
* Commodity groups with low utilisation rates include:
  + highly refined organic chemicals and substances
  + milling products
* When used to its fullest potential, the approved arrangement can provide savings to industry

1. Slide 38

**Approved arrangement class 19 - expansion**

**June 2024 expansion:**

* new and used clothes, bags, rags
* LCL consignments of NZ dairy
* additional tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of wooden products

**November 2023 expansion:**

* beef products from NZ
* LCL tyres
* tariffs associated with goods listed on the BICON table of bamboo and wooden products

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**Other initiatives**

**Highly compliant importer (HCI) scheme:**

* a reduced inspection intervention scheme
* currently includes green coffee beans
* machinery, aircraft and LCL tyres to be added in August 2024

**Minimum documentary and import declaration requirements policy:**

* a review of the policy is currently progressing
* industry focus group sessions have been held
* outcomes of the focus group will include updated tools and resources

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**QUESTIONS**

Questions can be directed to [SeaCargoPolicy@aff.gov.au](mailto:SeaCargoPolicy@aff.gov.au)