



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Notice to Industry

15/2004-05

Plastic Wrapping Perforation Standard for use in Fumigation

AQIS is currently considering adopting a standard in relation to perforation of plastic wrapping used around commodities. Perforations permit the penetration of methyl bromide gas making the fumigation effective without the need to remove or slash the plastic wrapping.

Plastic wrappings such as cellophane, films, shrink wrap, and papers that are waxed, laminated, or waterproofed are not readily permeable by methyl bromide gas and must be perforated, removed, or opened before fumigation. AQIS has initiated a process to introduce a standard relating to perforations for plastic wrapping. AQIS is proposing to adopt the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standard for perforations of plastic wrapping. This standard outlines a set number of perforations per set area such as nine perforations of 0.6 cm diameter/100 sq cm or 20 perforations of 0.4 cm diameter/100 sq cm area on the plastic wrap.

The source information on which this notice is based can be found under the following link:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/manuals/pdf_files/Treatment%20Chapters/02-03-ChemFumMethyl%20Bromide.pdf

If AQIS adopts this standard, goods that are not wrapped with perforated plastic will require the plastic to be slashed before fumigation. That is, both methods will be acceptable.

As part of this process, AQIS is seeking industry feedback on this proposal and advice regarding the use of the existing USDA perforated standard. AQIS would also welcome suggestions/advice on any other standards for perforation that are in use by industry.

Time frame

Subject to industry agreement:

- AQIS wishes to implement this standard by December 2005
- Comment on this proposal is required by 31 July 2005, addressed to Appaji Srungaram either by [email](#) or to postal address:
Operational Policy Unit
AQIS Cargo Management Group
C3 L1W1
Edmund Barton Building
GPO Box 858 ACT 2601

Further information

For further information on this matter, please contact Appaji Srungaram, Operational Policy Unit, Cargo Management Group on (02) 6272 4903.