

MEMBER ALERT

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QUARANTINE ENFORCEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

It has been reported that a zero tolerance policy has recently been implemented by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) with regard to cargoes discharged at Australian ports which are found to be contaminated. Cargoes found to contain even the slightest trace of soil or grain will be condemned by AQIS inspectors. In recent months these have included fertilizers, plywood, timber and other raw materials, as well as steel products, used machinery, motor vehicles and containerized goods.

Australia has for many years imposed tight controls on imported goods to protect its indigenous fauna and flora from alien pests and diseases. These measures represent an even stricter enforcement of that policy.

Members are therefore advised to ensure that bulk carriers lifting cargoes bound for Australian ports are cleaned thoroughly prior to loading, so that holds are entirely free of soil or grain, and that any contaminated cargo is rejected. Charterers' responsibility for any additional hold cleaning costs thus incurred should be set out clearly in the charter party.

For further information, please contact the Managers.....

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