Inorganic Fertiliser
Revising the Import Protocols

Leanne Herrick / Presenter
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Overview

• Background to protocols
• Proposed change
• Consultation
Compliance Cargo and Mail

- Sets operational policy for biosecurity clearance of imported air and sea cargo, the containers they arrive in, and international mail
- Responsible for import policy relating to bulk commodities, machinery, vehicles, tyres and other goods that are not of plant or animal origin
- Works with shipping lines, importers, manufacturers, military to keep risk offshore and reduce intervention onshore
- Monitors emerging risks and trends

Bulk Commodities National Coordination Centre

- Manages service delivery issues relating to bulk commodity imports, including inorganic fertiliser
- Manages the assessment of fertiliser supply chains
- Provides technical, operational and administrative support to regional biosecurity staff working with these commodities
- Provides technical and operational support to relevant industry stakeholders
- Assesses import permits submitted in BICON
Bulk fertiliser – inspection protocols

- 2004 - Protocols introduced
- 2010 - Amended to allow vessel to be considered Level 1 if it has not carried actionable cargo since new
- 2013 – Agreement to remove log/timber as previous actionable cargo

- Since 2004, no shipments have required re-export and no Level 1 or 2 consignments have been imported with significant contamination.

Bulk consignments 2012 - 2016

Figures based on calendar year with 2016 showing Jan-Jul data
Containerised fertiliser inspection protocols

- 2007 - Containerised protocols introduced
- 2010 - Amended to allow for biennial third party audits
- 2013 – Revised protocols released to reflect offshore audit requirements to match bulk vessel protocols and recognise bulk vessel assessed supply chain procedures

- Since 2013, nine supply chains have obtained Level 1 status
- Detections of contaminated goods still occur as less control of supply chain than bulk in vessel
- High levels of contamination often result in re-export

Where to from here?

- Bulk protocols have not been updated since 2010
- Containerised protocols have not been updated since 2013
- Changes are required to align with the Biosecurity Act 2015 and reflect new entities
Options

1. Conduct a high level review of each of the protocols to address rebranding and legislative issues

2. Conduct a comprehensive review to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of biosecurity controls and ensure import conditions are commensurate with the risk

3. Conduct reviews for either 1 or 2, then combine both protocols in the one document.

Option 1: Rebranding

- Legislative and organisation updates

- Incorporation of previously agreed changes
  - Vessels undertaking cargo movements between loading and discharge will be subject to further assessment to retain Level 1 status
  - Vessels no longer have to take a direct route to Australia to maintain Level 1 Status
  - Previous carriage of logs/timber and mineralised sand no longer an impediment to Level 1 vessel status
Option 2: Major protocols review

• Issues for consideration
  - Revision of import permit requirements and requirements to establish vessel risk ratings
  - Clarification of Level 1 and 2 bagged in ship’s hold requirements
  - Relaxation of nil contamination tolerance policy in limited circumstances
  - Further recognition of longstanding, exemplary Level 1 supply chains
  - Alternative ways for established supply chains to achieve Level 2 for bulk in vessel for new facilities

• Reform likely to be staged to allow meaningful consultation with affected parties and changes to legislation/systems/processes

Way forward

• Option 1 to be progressed with a view to revised protocols by October 2016

• Option 2 to initially be progressed by working group comprising members of Fertilizer Australia and the department
  - discussion paper to be released to seek broader industry (and community) feedback on reform proposals
  - release of revised protocols by June 2017 and implementation of changes by September 2017

• Consolidation of the protocols into a single document to be considered during this process
How you will be engaged

• Fertilizer Australia and departmental communiques, advice notices and information sessions
  ➢ mechanisms may vary depending on degree of proposed change

• Invitation to provide submissions on release of discussion paper

• Enquiries can be directed to Fertiliser.chemical@agriculture.gov.au or airandseacargo@agriculture.gov.au

Questions?