Review of the Bulk Fertilizer Import Protocol

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History

• 1995 Karnal Bunt detected in the United States.
• Chemical fertilisers recognised as a pathway for the introduction of karnal bunt and other serious quarantine risks.
History

• AQIS commenced inspections of all fertiliser shipments
  – Significant contamination issues detected
  – Re-export or treatment directions issued
  – Difficulties with conducting inspections

In Hold Inspection Preparation
In Hold Inspection

History

- The protocol
  - Maintain quarantine integrity
  - Reduced hold inspections
  - 3-tier system
  - Introduced January 2004
  - Fertilizer National Coordination Centre (NCC)
Level One – Low risk consignment

- All elements of the supply chain have been assessed and certified.
- Desk and onsite audits have been conducted.
- Vessel surveys have been conducted
- Reduced AQIS intervention on arrival.

Level Two – Medium risk consignment

- Some essential assessment elements including offshore manufacture, supply logistics and vessel history are certified
- AQIS audits have been conducted
- Some AQIS intervention – initial hold inspection, in hold cargo inspection of all holds.
Level Three – High risk consignment

- Incomplete or no pathway assessment; or actionable cargo carried in vessel.
- High level of AQIS intervention including in hold inspections and inspection of landed cargo.

Performance of the Bulk Protocol

- 95% of potential imports (by volume) eligible for Level One classification by end of 2004
- Approx 700 fewer in-hold inspections by AQIS annually
Fertiliser shipments by class, 2003-2007

Assessed supply chains – August 2004
Assessed supply chains – by mid 2007

Benefits for AQIS

- Reduction in OH&S risks
- Managing quarantine risks offshore
- National Coordination Centre model
- Awards:
  - 2005 Workplace Safety Award
  - 2005 QEAC Australia Day Award
Benefits for Industry

- Reduced number of in hold inspections
- Better market access for product internationally
- Guaranteed supply chain
- Potential reduction in overhead costs such as insurance

Joint benefits

- Ensuring maintenance of Australia's biosecurity
- Closer working relationship between industry and the regulator – achievement of mutual goals
Challenges

• Travel limitations
  – Alternative solutions
  – Consultation with industry
• Priorities for inspections
  – Import Logistics Committee
• Maintaining integrity on system
  – during times of drought.
  – Annual independent audit process.
• Vessel classification system
• Increasing demand for AQIS auditing skills
• Drought

Future Directions

• Rollout to containerised consignments

• Expand to other commodities / risk pathways