



FERTILIZER INDUSTRY FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA

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FIFA Container Inspection Procedure

Inspection and Certification of Empty (Dry Box) Containers for
Bulk and Bagged Containerised Fertiliser Imports to Australia.

This document is not to be revised without the approval of AQIS.

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Attachment 2 – Inspection Standard for Prescribed Goods (Dry Box) Containers

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1. Purpose

To describe the procedure to follow when inspecting empty (dry box) containers to be used for the import of fertilisers (bulk and bagged) to Australia in line with the “Imported Containerised Fertiliser Cargo (Bulk or Bulk in bags greater than 100kgs) Inspection Protocols”

2. Scope

The procedures set out in this document apply to the inspection and certification of empty (dry box) containers to be used for the import of fertilisers (bulk and bagged) to Australia under the “Imported Containerised Fertiliser Cargo (Bulk or Bulk in bags greater than 100kgs) Inspection Protocols”

3. Additional material(s) to be used in conjunction with this document

AQIS Empty (Dry box) Inspection Course Notes available from the FIFA web site.

4. Definitions

Actionable items/cargo:

- grains and cereal crops (e.g. wheat, barley, oats, maize, sorghum);
- leguminous crops (e.g. beans, peas, soybean, lucerne);
- meals and/or stock feed;
- oilseed crops;
- rice (raw, unpolished, with husks on);
- sugar cane;
- sand;
- soil;
- contaminant plant material (e.g. leaves, weed seeds, twigs, woodchips, bark, etc.);
- other quarantineable items identified in the Quarantine Act 1908 and other related legislative and regulative documents; and
- animal material e.g. feathers, bird excreta etc.

Approved Person - a suitably endorsed and qualified independent third party inspection company person approved by the Importer to undertake the inspection of dry box containers in accordance with this procedure.

Empty - (dry box) container – a purpose made, secure, container system unit (CSU) for the transportation of either bulk or bagged goods to overseas destinations including Australia.

Container liners – removable materials (timber, plastic, cardboard) that may be used to line a container to prevent contact between the container and the loaded goods.

CSU - any transport system unit used to securely contain the cargo from point of loading to destination.

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Dry Box - containers that have either wooden or steel floors, that may or may not be lined and are not refrigerated.

Infestible residue - any residue that can sustain insect life.

Infested - any residue that contains live insects (includes all stages).

Lined Containers – container units lined with wood, fibreglass etc.

Non Infestible residue - any residue that can contaminate the product to be loaded but not necessarily able to harbour insect life (i.e. flaked paint, rust, non-organic residues).

Pest - any form of plant, animal or microbial life (including insects, rodents, birds and vermin), or any pathogenic agent, injurious or potentially injurious to Animal, Plant or Microbial life.

Proclaimed goods – goods included in a class of goods, that are declared to be 'Mined or Chemical' fertiliser and subject to AQIS Import Permit conditions under the Quarantine Act of 1908.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Management Responsibility

The importer is responsible for;

- the implementation and execution of this procedure.
- ensuring that only 'Approved Persons' undertake the inspection of empty (dry box) containers, and
- that all inspections and certifications of empty (dry box) containers are carried out in accordance with the requirements of this procedure.

5.2. Approved Persons Responsibilities

The Approved Person is responsible for ensuring that inspection and certification of empty (dry box) containers is carried out in accordance with the requirements of this procedure.

6. Work activities

6.1. Preparation for Inspection of Empty (Dry Box) Containers

The Approved Person will ensure the following prior to commencing inspection of empty (dry box) containers;

- what commodity is to be loaded e.g. Type of 'Mined and/or Chemical' fertiliser,
- that all containers are to be inspected to the appropriate level in accordance with Inspection Standards given in Attachment 1,
- that all the equipment listed in Attachment 2 is available and in working order, and
- that a second person is available to assist during the inspection of the empty (dry box) container.

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The Approved Person will not undertake the inspections of empty (dry box) containers should any of the inspection equipment items be faulty / unavailable and / or a second person not be available to assist them during the inspection.

6.2. General Inspection of Empty (Dry Box) Containers.

The Approved Person will record the container number of all containers inspected on the FIFA Empty Container Inspection Record. (FECIR) (Attachment 3)

Note: All containers inspected, including rejected containers will be recorded on the FECIR.

If any of the following pests are either found or suspected to be present either on the outside or with in an empty (dry box) container;

- Giant African Snail,
- Khapra Beetle,
- Termites,
- Asian Gypsy Moth, or
- Japanese Tussock Moth,

the Approved Person will undertake to control and remove the pest.

In all cases where these pests are found / suspected to be present in / on an empty (dry box) container the 'Approved Person' must notify the importer at the earliest opportunity and obtain a direction as to the actions required for the container / prevention measures to be taken to contain / destroy the pests.

6.3. External Inspection of Empty (Dry Box) Containers

Inspect the outside of the container including the roof to examine for the following:

- The exterior of containers must be free of insect infestation, infestible residues and adhering soil.
- Particular attention should be paid around doorways, fork holes, locking cams and ledges, the discharge chutes and roof hatches to ensure they are free of insects and infestible residue.
- Presence of structural damage on the outside of the container, including the presence of fumigation nipples.
- That the door and door-seals are free of damage.
- That door locks / securing devices are examined and tested to ensure that the container can be securely fastened.

Note: Containers must be safely inspected thoroughly on **all** exterior surfaces, including the underside frame and fork holes.

If any of the above defects are found the container should be deemed to have failed the inspection and be rejected by the Approved Person.

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6.4. Container Light Check

The Approved Person will perform a light check on each container inspected. This will entail the person assisting the Approved Person closing up the container with the Approved Person inside to determine that the container walls (including floor and ceiling) door / hatch seals are sound.

Note: It is the Approved Person's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe to be inside the container for the duration of the light check.

Where the Approved Person feels that it would be unsafe to perform a light check the container in question should be deemed not to have passed inspection.

If light can be seen from within the container, the Approved Person will record the defect and reject the container.

6.5. Internal Inspection of Empty (Dry Box) Containers

The Approved Person is to examine the inside of the container with the doors open.

The Approved Person must pay particular attention to the following areas for the presence of actionable cargo/items: insects (including all life cycle stages), frass, rodents (including droppings) weed seeds, infestible residues (including previous cargo grain / plant materials) non infestible residues, flaking paint, rust, wet areas (including condensation):

- Around the door seals, discharge chutes and roof hatches,
- The floor of the container, in particular tongue and groove flooring,
- Horizontal ledges at or near the wall / roof angle,
- Ceiling and walls, including ventilation grills,
- The floor / wall angle,
- Around bulk heads if fitted,
- Inspect temporary bulk heads (if available) and,
- Ensure that all ventilation grills /openings are taped / sealed .

The vents in the container will be sealed with tape or other material to prevent the introduction of pests.

Where container liners are to be used / re-used the Approved Person will inspect liners to ensure they are free of actionable cargo/items including, insects, residues, and only allow installation after the container itself has been passed as fit for use.

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6.6. Container Liners and Lined Containers

6.6.1. Container Liners

The Approved Person will ensure that the liner is fully removed from the container prior to inspecting the container.

6.6.2. Lined Containers (Timber or like linings)

Where it is revealed that the container lining has been damaged, evidence of insect infestation or infestible residue is likely to occur, it is necessary to order measures to eliminate the infestation or residues or reject the container.

Lined containers will be inspected in the same manner as unlined containers. (Clauses 6.2 to 6.5)

6.7. Infestible Residue Disposal

Where the Approved Person finds significant quantities of infestible residue (including timber spacers / pallets etc and previous prescribed goods cargo residues) inside the container the Approved Person will ensure disposal / destruction of the infestible residue.

6.8. Rejection Procedures

All containers that fail inspection will be rejected

The Approved Person will record the details of any containers found to be defective (clause 6.3 and 6.5). The reasons for the container's rejection are to be documented on the Container & Treatment Record (Attachment 4).

Rejected containers will not be accepted for re-inspection unless they are accompanied by a signed and completed Container & Treatment Record identifying the treatment that has taken place.

Note: If a container that has been rejected is re-presented without a completed Container & Treatment Record the Approved Person will reject the container until the Container & Treatment Record is provided.

6.9. Containers Re-presented for Inspection

Containers that have failed inspection may be re-presented for inspection once all the faults have been rectified. An Approved Person will carry out inspection on these containers as per clauses 6.2 to 6.6 of this procedure.

All re-presented containers found to have defects (clauses 6.2 to 6.5) will be rejected and the reasons for the rejection recorded on the Container & Treatment Record.

6.10. Completed Inspections

All containers that have passed inspection are to be marked by the Approved Person by placing a completed inspection sticker on the inside, right-hand side, of the container. Inspection stickers are to comply with the requirements of Attachment 6.

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Containers being re-packed immediately after inspection.

Where the inspected container is to be packed immediately (with in a maximum of 1 hour) after inspection the Approved Person will attached a completed inspection sticker to the inside of the container on the right-hand side wall, and close up the container.

NOTE: Where the Approved Person is unsure as to how long it will be before the container is to be packed, the container will be treated as a container to be packed more than 1 hours after inspection.

Containers to be packed at another location or more than 1 hour after Inspection

Where the inspected container is to be packed at another location (or more than 1 hour after inspection) from where the inspection took place, the Approved Person will sticker the inside of the container and close up the container.

On closing up the container the Approved Person will apply a seal to the container doors in such a manner that the doors can not be open without the seal being broken.

6.11. Inspection Documentation

The 'Approved Person' will record all inspection details (eg. vents taped, floor swept, infestible residue removed etc.) on the 'FIFA Empty Container Inspection Record' (Attachment 3)

The 'Approved Person' will record the details of any containers found to be defective (clause 6.2 and 6.5). The reason for the containers rejection are to be documented on the 'Container & Treatment Record' (Attachment 4).

For all containers that have passed inspection the Approved Person will complete a 'Certificate Of Inspection For Empty (Dry Box) Containers'. (Attachment 5)

6.12. Document Control

The Approved Person having completed and signed all inspection documentation as applicable (Clause 6.10) will ensure that this documentation is forwarded to the Importer for presentation to AQIS with all other documentation when the consignment arrives in Australia.

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7. References

AQIS Inspection of Empty (Dry Box) Containers Workshop Notes.
(http://www.fifa.asn.au/default.asp?V_DOC_ID=1135)

8. Documentation

Attachment 1 - FIFA Inspection Standard for Proclaimed Goods - Empty (Dry Box) Containers

Attachment 2 - Recommended Inspection Equipment

Attachment 3 - FIFA Empty Container Inspection Record (FFECIR)

Attachment 4 - FIFA Container Treatment Record

Attachment 5 - FIFA Certificate of Inspection for Empty (Dry Box) Containers

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Attachment 1 FIFA Inspection Standard For Proclaimed Goods Empty (Dry Box) Containers

Empty (Dry Box) Container Inspection Tolerances Level 1 (non-consumable)	Rejection codes to be used on FIFA Empty Container Inspection Record (FECIR)
One or more live insects in residues or on the structure of the container either inside or out.	LI
One or more live rodents or evidence of rodents.	LR
Any residue infestible by insects.	IR
Structural damage such that insects could enter after loading.	SD
Non-infestible materials; odour, water, rodent carcasses or droppings.	NI

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Attachment 2 Equipment List for Inspection Of Empty Containers

- A suitable torch, capable of being focused to a bright spot.
- A scraper for scraping out residues and dislodging rust flakes behind which insects may be harbouring.
- A pair of tweezers for removing residues from cracks and also for collecting larger insects found during an inspection.
- A hand lens X 10 magnification.
- Pest and pest identification information.
- Specimen jars.
- Record Sheets.
- FIFA Empty Container Inspection Records.
- Container Treatment Record.
- Certificate of Inspection for Empty (Dry Box) Containers.
- Seals.
- Stickers.

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Attachment 3. FIFA Empty Container Inspection Record (FECIR)

Approved Persons Name _____

Date	Container No:	Seal No:	Exporter/ Packer	Where Inspected	Contents	Pass/Reason For Failure	Treatment/ Rejection	Action/Comments
Signature Of Approved Person:							Date:	
Failure codes					Treatment Codes			
LI	One or more live pests in residues or on structure inside or out				R	Rejected for loading (not treatable or repairable or returned to container depot)		
LR	One or more live rodents, or evidence of rodents harbouring behind linings.				T	Treatment or repair ordered (complete Container Rejection Advice and Treatment Record F2)		
IR	Any residue infestible by pests.							
SD	Structural damage such that pests could enter after loading (includes vents).				Contents Description			
NI	Non-infestible material, odour, water, rodent carcasses or rodent droppings.				Fertilizer	State type, i.e. MOP, DAP, etc.		

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Attachment 4 FIFA Container & Treatment Record

Date of Inspection:			Exporter/packer:			
Place of Inspection:			Approved Person:			
Container No:						
Site	Floor	Ceiling	Walls	Doors	Seals	Outside
Fault						
Fault Codes:						
LI	One or more live pests in residues or on structures inside or out.					
LR	One or more live rodents, or evidence of rodents harbouring behind lining.					
IR	Any residue infestible by pests.					
SD	Structural damage such that pests could enter after loading (include vents).					
NI	Non-infestible material, odour, water, rodent carcasses or rodent droppings.					
Description of Fault:						
Treatment Required (Tick appropriate box):						
Repair	Clean	Dismantle/ Remove	High Volume Spray	Fumigate		
Treatment Applied (Tick appropriate box):						
Repaired	Cleaned	Dismantled/ Removed	High Volume Sprayed	Fumigated		
High Volume Spray Details						
Chemical		Concentration		Carried Out By		
Fumigation Details						
Fumigant	Concentration		Duration	Temperature		
Carried Out By:						
Re-inspection						
Date:		Approved Person:				
Passed		Rejected		Signature:		

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Attachment 6 FIFA Empty Container (Dry Box) Inspection Sticker

A sample format for stickers which are to be placed on all containers that pass inspection is as follows:

The colour, shape, and type print is not a major consideration; the requirements are that all the information contained on this sample sticker appear on the sticker used by the organisations approved personnel.

Inspected	
Container No.	
Approved Person Name	
Signature:	Date:

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