



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Ship Sanitation Certificates

ADVICE TO AGENTS – SEAPORTS 07/07

Shipping Agents/Operators

The purpose of this advice is to notify shipping agents of the advice regarding Ship Sanitation Certificates published by the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Please refer to the Attachment.

If you have any queries the DoHA contact number is 0434 609 309. The phone is switched on from 7.00 am until 7.00 pm, 7 days per week.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Franks', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David Franks
National Manager
Seaports Program

26 Oct 2007



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

International Health Regulations 2005
Ship Sanitation Certificates

The World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) came into effect on 15 June 2007. The purpose of the IHR is to *“prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade”*.

One of the requirements of the IHR is that WHO member states issue Ship Sanitation Certificates.

The Ship Sanitation Certificate updates the Deratting Certificate, which was a requirement of the former (1969) iteration of the IHR. The Deratting Certificate dealt solely with the control of rats. The Ship Sanitation Certificate is aimed at the control of vectors and reservoirs of diseases of international concern. Presently, these are considered to be rodents and mosquitos and conditions that may harbour or attract them. In addition, conditions on board a vessel that could cause the spread of diseases of international concern via humans are addressed.

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will undertake inspection of ships for the issue of the Ship Sanitation Certificate. The inspection regime will be substantially unchanged from the current Deratting and Pratique inspections undertaken by AQIS. Australia already complies with IHR requirements for sanitation on ships, so the Ship Sanitation Certificate will not require that ships undertake any additional sanitary measures at this time.

Australia will commence issuing Ship Sanitation Certificates as of 15 December 2007. Until then, Australia will continue to issue and accept Deratting Certificates. Australia currently accepts Ship Sanitation Certificates issued by the competent authorities of WHO member states.

Summary:

- Australia will commence issuing Ship Sanitation Certificates on 15 December 2007.
- The Ship Sanitation Certificate replaces the Deratting Certificate.
- AQIS will undertake inspection of ships for the issue of the Ship Sanitation Certificate.
- Australia currently accepts Deratting Certificates and Ship Sanitation Certificates issued by the competent authorities of WHO member states.