Import Permit Update

Background

The Biosecurity Act 2015 specifies that Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Biosecurity (Quarantine) import permits cannot be issued retrospectively. If your goods require an import permit and they arrive at the Australian border without a valid import permit, they will be destroyed at your expense.

What to do

Before importing goods search BICON for the import conditions see link: https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0

If BICON states that your material requires an import permit then you must apply for the permit in ample time prior to importing your material (note that some complex import permits may take up to 6 months to approve, however most import permits take a maximum of 20 working days and some only take 48 hours). Some imported items do not require an import permit but do require other paperwork e.g. declarations and descriptions (BICON will detail what you need). You can browse BICON at any time but to apply for a permit you need to be registered – contact your local BICON contact who will register you with the appropriate School/Institute/Division see link: http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/bicon-account-administrators-uq

Other considerations – Import Permit conditions

Remember that import permit conditions must strictly align with your work practices – if not you are potentially in breach of the Biosecurity Act 2015. If, for some reason, you cannot abide by the import permit conditions then you can apply to have the import permit varied/amended (through BICON). In the case of expired permits you will have to apply for a new permit – request that the previous permit number is merged onto the new permit, so that previously imported material can be used as per the new conditions. For new permits you must ensure your overseas suppliers and all permit users are aware of the new permit.

For in vivo work in non-laboratory animals (not mentioned in your permit) you can apply for an in vivo approval see link: http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/biological/checklist/in-vivo

To avoid costly variations, include ALL the relevant information on your original permit application and carefully consider all the conditions on the DRAFT import permits before finalising.

Contact for Additional Information

Your local Work Health and Safety Manager/Coordinator, UQ Biosafety Quarantine Advisor or the UQ OHS Division:

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