



CBC session 20-21/01
AEPCOMM EXPANSION – 4 AUGUST 2020

Q&A

| | Question | Answer |
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| 1. | <p>Maybe off-topic for current AEPCOMM but related to future AEPCOMM, are there any future plans for industry members to undertake inspections or other activities as trusted operators as opposed to booking a DAWE officer per shipment?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>Live Answer:</p> <p>There are plans within the broader approved arrangements for those types of activities. We can take a question offline, and refer to our approved arrangements section for a full response.</p> <p>Advice from Approved Arrangements Section:</p> <p>The department has broadened the activities covered under biosecurity Approved Arrangements in recent years and will continue to consider new opportunities. Currently, there are no plans to broaden these arrangements to include inspection activities.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Does the expansion in to Fertiliser Products expand into Gypsum and those Products not classified within 3102 – 3105</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>At this stage, no. It is only including the tariff chapters, which are indicated on the webpage. But we're always looking for opportunities to expand and we can look into that at a later date if there's a need to.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Could you please verify once more. The Newly added tariffs for Highly processed wooden articles was it 92 or should it be 94?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>Yes, confirming the tariff chapter is 92.</p> |
| 4. | <p>What happens if I forget to enter an ACC code for the Permitted plant fibres commodity group?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>If you don't enter the ACC code, then the AEP system will generate an AEP processing error, which means it won't lodged successfully through AEP and you'll need to lodge the documents through COLS. So it is very important that when assessing permitted plant fibres, you enter that ACC code as directed in BICON.</p> |
| 5. | <p>Why aren't products containing permitted plant fibres available now?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>That is due to our Plant import operations program currently updating the BICON case to provide more detail around what is considered highly processed so that there is no confusion. The update is being</p> |



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| | | progressed at the moment and we are expecting it to go through fairly soon. Once BICON is updated, we will send out an industry advice notice to let everyone know the group is available to be lodged through AEPCCOMM. |
| 6. | Will the ACC code now be required for lodgement of all commodities under the AEPCCOMM? | No. An ACC code is required to indicate commodities that fall under a broad tariff classification or when specific outcomes are required. The BICON onshore outcomes will stipulate when an ACC code is required. |
| 7. | What happens if I make a mistake or forget to enter an ACC code to indicate the risk level rating for the fertiliser? (Answered live) | The system will generate an outcome fertiliser risk level 3 (which is a higher level of intervention to what is required for risk level 1 and 2). Therefore it is very important that you indicate that risk level rating by applying the correct ACC code. |
| 8. | Is there an ACC code for risk level 3 fertiliser? (Answered live) | No. As discussed there is no ACC code required for fertiliser categorised as risk level 3. |
| 9. | There is a 21-day export condition after treatment for dried willow and wicker which I think was not mentioned. | Yes. Documentation provided for clearance of a commodity must comply with the requirements stipulated in the relevant BICON case. |
| 10. | My question has now been answered, only for risk level 1 & 2. Thanks | An ACC code is required for fertilisers classified as risk level 1 and risk level 2. Fertilisers classified as risk level 3 does not require an ACC code. |
| 11. | What if the importer assures me that the fertiliser is risk level 1 or 2 but I don't have documentary evidence in the form of a certificate or a man dec? (Answered live) | In that case, you are required to lodge the documents to the department for assessment. Documentary evidence via a certificate, or as statement on the manufacturer's declaration is required in order to determine the risk level. If the consignment is selected for document assessment verification you are required to present evidence, if no evidence is presented this will be considered noncompliance. |
| 12. | Will the ASG team be undertaking this training as there is little consistency in their interpretations? (Answered live) | Yes. All these tutorials will be made available for our staff as well and they will perform their assessments in accordance with BICON, as is required for industry participants. |



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| 13. | Where ASG make errors what should we do to escalate the error so they are further trained/corrected. | <p>If you believe that an AEP lodgement has been processed incorrectly by the department you can request a re-assessment through the COLS system.</p> <p>If you believe the issue was not resolved please contact the AEP support team through aepsupport@awe.gov.au.</p> |
| 14. | CAT 1 level Accredited suppliers are not listed for Brokers to access - Importers can ask suppliers but suppliers will not provide written evidence. Can Brokers have access to CAT level suppliers via BICON | At this stage evidence of fertiliser risk level must be obtained from the supplier/manufacturer as this type of information is identified as Commercial in confidence. |
| 15. | What happens when a HS, CP AQIS Question and/or AEPCOMM code BICON case is being updated and we have a consignment that has met the previously listed BICON & AEPCOMM requirements, however the goods arrive while BICON AEPCOMM is on hold and or the previous requirements are now no longer valid as they have been updated - however the importer met the requirements before the goods left origin & AWE change them while in transit? | <p>The department will consider this issue on a case by case basis. It is crucial that accredited persons adhere to conditions of the approved arrangement and keep records of a consignment's documentation for evidence of their assessment at the time.</p> <p>BICON has a 'history' repository that records all changes to the relevant cases that can be accessed to determine compliance.</p> |
| 16. | Under existing AEPCOMM new motor vehicle parts (BMSB season), some specific classifications/origins (High risk) are approved, but I can have up to 960 entry lines and 15x40' containers every fortnight - why does the system approve those AEP lines (and gives me a direction for treatment - MB), other lines restricts (Low risk/ class not subject to AEP-rubber goods etc.) as not AEPCOMM approved - present docs to DAWE and 3rd direction to submit ALL docs via COLS? Surely the system can be set up to detect that the 1 direction is sufficient | <p>The system cannot be set up to provide a 'blanket' treatment direction for example, as it needs to consider the individual biosecurity risk associated with each product line that is subject to biosecurity control.</p> <p>All BMSB 'target high risk goods' tariffs are in scope for AEPCOMM however, if there are lines not subject to BMSB on the same entry which have active Biosecurity profiles and the tariff is not in scope for AEPCOMM, then the system will refer the line for assessment.</p> <p>If there are any concerns with a particular lodgement where you think all lines should have processed through AEP then please email: aepsupport@awe.gov.au for advice.</p> |
| 17. | How do we get a fertiliser supplier certified? | Please refer all your queries in regards to supply chain classification to airandseacargo@awe.gov.au . |



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| 18. | Does each fertiliser shipment have to be assessed for risk by department? | No. If the supply chain has not been audited by the department and assigned a risk level category, it will be treated as high risk (Level 3) consignment. The consequence of a Level 3 rating is a high level of department intervention at the border, i.e. increased inspection. |
| 19. | AEP was previously only available for boats where they were discharging to the wharf. I cannot see any mention of this in item 1 page one of the Approved commodities and related information for class 19.2 AEPCOMM approved arrangement document. Does this mean I can lodge boats that will discharge direct to water via AEP? | <p>The scope for the Boats commodity group remains the same and waterside discharge is still out of scope of the approved arrangement.</p> <p>The AEPCOMM section of the BICON onshore outcomes includes a note stating: 'Request for waterside discharge of break bulk vessels must be submitted through Cargo Online Lodgement System (COLS) for assessment.'</p> |
| 20. | If at the time of lodgement the details of codes are not appropriately lodged, will the system clear it if the entry is amended to process these codes? | <p>If you are required to amend an import declaration that has previously processed successfully through AEPCOMM and the amendment(s) is deemed as "major" a hold will be placed on the entry in the ICS.</p> <p>In these circumstances, you will need to contact the department to find out if a reassessment is required via COLS.</p> |
| 21. | <p>Can I use AEPCOMM if I have a product containing gum as one of the ingredients (that is, if the product contains other ingredients as well)?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>The answer to that question is, no. Generally, it will have to be a bulk product containing and classified under the tariffs which are in scope for gum products to be used on AEPCOMM. Otherwise it'll be considered out of scope.</p> |
| 22. | <p>Does a product have to be on the BICON list to be able to lodge it through AEPCOMM? What if I can't find it on the list but I know it's highly processed?</p> <p>(Answered live)</p> | <p>Assuming the question relates to highly processed chemicals and substances, the answer is yes. You need to be able to determine the product is listed in BICON for you to be able to lodge it on AEPCOMM. It is important that you have the documentary evidence to support your decision. Where the lodgement is subject to verification, you will be required to provide evidence to support that the product classified as a highly process substance.</p> |
| 23. | Is it possible to make an amendment to an AEP entry after it has been submitted and a direction issued? Or will the amendment | At this point in time, any amendments which are the major will trigger the system to request that documents are presented to the department for |



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| | trigger document assessment with the department? (Answered live) | assessment. There are some amendments which are considered minor and the system will handle those. We recently made a change to the AEP system where vessel changes were downgraded to a minor. They no longer cause the entry to have that major amendment associated with it and present documents. So we are always looking to make those types of improvements, but any major amendment will trigger a presentation of documents. |
| 24. | Will there be any service charges for AEPCOMM entries that go REL upon entry? (Answered live) | Yes, all AEPCOMM lodgements are subject to an \$18 Approved arrangement AEPCOMM charge. |
| 25. | Is Sulfur the same as Sulphur? | Yes, different spelling. |
| 26. | Will the department be looking at including AEPCOMM when the end use in animal feed and the importer can include an import permit number? | At this stage there are no plans for commodities requiring an import permit to be included on AEPCOMM however, this feedback will be noted for future consideration. |
| 27. | Will the Highly processed and manufactured wooden articles be expanded to include all wooden articles/products on the highly processed wooden articles list? | Yes, the department will consider the wooden articles list in BICON in the next AEPCOMM expansion. |
| 28. | Will there be any updates to COLS to allow AEP Directions to be re-issued? | If you require a direction re-issue for entries processed via AEPCOMM, you can use the COLS functionality by selecting "Make an enquiry". An existing LRN is not required to use this option. |
| 29. | How do I know what format to enter the New Zealand certificate number? (Answered live) | Both NZ phytosanitary and NZ sanitary certificates have a certificate number format similar to NZL2019/ABCD/123456. More information about this, including a Help Card, is available at www.agriculture.gov.au/ecertimports . |
| 30. | Will AEPCOMM be updated to include break bulk unfinished timber out of NZ? (Answered live) | Yes, break bulk is available through AEPCOMM for pathways that were already in scope of the arrangement. |
| 31. | How can we confirm the eCert applies if we cannot see it but we are held liable? | If a phytosanitary or sanitary certificate from New Zealand is required according to BICON import conditions, then an eCert is available. The NZ exporter will be notified of the certificate number once it has been issued and will provide this to you with |



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| | | <p>other import documentation. This certificate number must be provided for relevant lodgements.</p> <p>For entries lodged to the department, the NZ exporter will provide you with the certificate number which must be entered into the ICS/third party software. A copy phytosanitary certificate or extract sanitary certificate can be provided by the NZ exporter if requested, however this is not required as the eCert will be used for import clearance by departmental staff.</p> <p>For entries processed under AEPCOMM, a copy phytosanitary certificate or extract sanitary certificate is able to be provided by the NZ exporter. Accredited persons must ensure they obtain this documentation prior to conducting assessments and lodgements under AEPCOMM.</p> |
| 32. | What constitutes documentary evidence for Phyto Cert or Sanitary Cert? | <p>NZ exporters can provide a copy of the phytosanitary certificate or extract of the sanitary certificate that will be used for the clearance of goods lodged under Automatic entry processing for commodities (AEPCOMM).</p> <p>Accredited persons utilising AEPCOMM must ensure they obtain this documentation prior to conducting assessments and lodgement under AEPCOMM. An example of this copy/extract is available in the Help Card on our website: www.agriculture.gov.au/ecertimports.</p> |
| 33. | Has BICON website been updated to reflect all the recent changes | Yes, all electronic systems were updated on 31 July 2020. |
| 34. | Do we have re-access to this video | Yes. Please refer to our CBC activities webpage to access the webinar and tutorials recordings. |
| 35. | How do I check that my BICON account has AEPCOMM access? | <p>When you log into your BICON account if your AEPCOMM access has already been set up you will be able to view AEPCOMM related information (such as AEPCOMM and ACC codes) on in-scope BICON pathways.</p> <p>You can set up BICON AEPCOMM user access through your employer's Multiple</p> |



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| | | <p>user account (if they are accredited to operate under a Class 19.2 approved arrangement).</p> <p>Help cards to set up a multiple user account and AEPCOMM user access are available under the Account registration and maintenance heading of the BICON Help tab.</p> |
| 36. | <p>Thanks for the webinar, great content and very clearly communicated - looking forward to further information about trusted operator import inspections (or however it's named!)</p> | <p>We appreciate the feedback.</p> |