



How to use the AQIS Entity Identifier (AEI) field

Background

Customs brokers are requested to enter AEI information into the AEI field in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) to assist with the tracking and management of certification accompanying consignments entering Australia.

Initially, the AEI is being used to track and manage both Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) and non-AFAS methyl bromide treatment providers. Expansion to include additional schemes is planned.

Where consignments are accompanied by AFAS methyl bromide treatment certificates (covering commodity, non-commodity or both), customs brokers will be required to select the appropriate AEI code from the reference file provided, using the guidelines below.

Note: ISPM15 compliant packaging is not covered in these changes and will continue to be managed as per current guidelines.

Through the implementation of these changes, the referral of consignments with accompanying treatment certificates issued by non-acceptable treatment providers will be managed through the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) profiling in the ICS. Customs brokers will also benefit from the time saved by no longer having to manually confirm a treatment provider's acceptability status on the department's website.

AFAS Methyl Bromide Treatment Certificates

To enter an AEI for AFAS methyl bromide treatment certificates (commodity and non-commodity), customs brokers should:

1. Determine the AFAS identification number or AEI of the company that issued the certificate.
2. In the AEI field in customs broker third party software, select the appropriate AEI or AEIs from the list provided ensuring that the company name in the second column matches the company name on the certificate.

All AFAS registered treatment providers (acceptable and non-acceptable) are included in the AEI list in the ICS. Upon submission of consignment details, the ICS will profile non-acceptable treatment providers and refer these consignments to the department.

Customs brokers are no longer required to manually check the acceptability status and address details of AFAS treatment providers on the [offshore methyl bromide treatment provider lists](#) on the department's website. Assessment of the contents of treatment certificates is still required.

Non-AFAS Methyl Bromide Treatment Certificates

To enter an AEI for non-AFAS methyl bromide treatment certificates (commodity and non-commodity), customs brokers should:

1. Identify the country of origin and name of the methyl bromide treatment provider that issued the certificate.
2. In the AEI field in customs broker third party software, search the AEI list by country code and company name to determine if the company has had an AEI allocated to it
 - where it has, select the AEI with the matching country code and company name
 - where it has not, select the 0001 numbered AEI (all acceptable companies) allocated to the country of the treatment provider

Note: All countries are included in the list in alphabetical order according to their ISO 3166-1-ALPHA2 country code.

Notification of required referral of consignments to the department will be provided upon submission of consignment details.

FAQs

What are the advantages to customs brokers of recording the AEI?

By entering the AEI, customs brokers will no longer be required to manually check the offshore methyl bromide treatment provider lists on the department website to determine if the treatment provider is acceptable or not and that the company address details are correct.

Profiles will be created in the ICS for treatment providers that are not acceptable. Where an AEI is selected which is not acceptable, the entry will be directly referred to the department.

This will save time spent manually checking the [offshore methyl bromide treatment provider lists](#) on the department's website. There are no other changes to the current process.

How do I determine the AEI for an AFAS treatment certificate?

For AFAS countries, the AEI uses the current AFAS format of a two-character country code (ISO 3166-1-ALPHA2) followed by a four-digit company identification number. The treatment code MB (methyl bromide) is then added to the end. The AEI list in the ICS includes two columns, the first contains the AEI, and the second contains the AEI and the company name.

AFAS treatment providers have been advised to change the way they display their AFAS identification number to reflect the AEI requirements, but it will take time for this to be fully implemented.

How do I determine the AEI for a methyl bromide treatment certificate from a non-AFAS country?

Methyl bromide treatment certificates issued by treatment providers in non-AFAS countries will not have the AEI included on them. Only non-acceptable methyl bromide treatment providers have an AEI allocated to them. This AEI also uses a two-character country code (ISO 3166-1-ALPHA2) followed by a four-digit company number starting from 0002. The treatment code MB is added at the end. The AEI list in the ICS includes two columns, the first contains the AEI, and the second contains the AEI and the company name.

The AEI list in the ICS also includes a 0001 numbered AEI which is to be selected for all methyl bromide treatment certificates issued by acceptable treatment providers that have not had an AEI allocated to them.

Is it mandatory to record an AEI?

For consignments that are not accompanied by a methyl bromide treatment certificate, the AEI field is not mandatory. However, brokers are required to enter an AEI for all consignments that are accompanied by a methyl bromide treatment certificate.

Can you record more than one AEI for a single consignment?

Yes. There may be occasions where a consignment is accompanied by more than one methyl bromide treatment certificate and these can all be recorded in the same location. AEIs are only required to be entered once for each consignment.

Are brokers required to record AEIs against every line?

No. If there is only one AEI for multiple commodities in a consignment, brokers are only required to record the AEI against the first tariff line when they lodge a declaration. If there are two different AEIs for two different commodities, brokers are required to record both AEIs against the first tariff line of the consignment only. Some customs broker IT software will allocate the selected AEI to all tariff lines, and this is also acceptable.

How do you record an AEI for a non commodity?

An AEI can only be entered against the commodity. Where non-commodity is treated offshore and is accompanied by a methyl bromide treatment certificate (not ISPM15), brokers will be required to record the AEI in the same way as described above. If the commodity also has an accompanying methyl bromide treatment certificate, brokers will be required to record both AEIs.

Is ISPM15 included?

No. Acceptable ISPM15 packaging and dunnage does not require an AEI to be recorded against it.

Who do I contact if I have problems entering an AEI?

For further assistance, email afas@agriculture.gov.au