

2008 QUARANTINE REGULATORS SEMINAR: TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING HARMONIZED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ENSURING EFFECTIVE QUARANTINE TREATMENTS - (ATC 03/2008)

DATE AND VENUE:

March 2008 - Brisbane, Australia

OVERVIEW:

The 2008 Quarantine Regulators Seminar is a meeting of Government regulators on the effective implementation and regulation of quarantine management systems. In particular, the Seminar will focus on the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) methodology which has been recognized as a tool for successfully implementing methyl bromide fumigation company management systems, and how it can be adapted to other quarantine treatments. The Seminar will also seek opportunities for the development of multilateral arrangements between all interested economies to replace some of the bilateral arrangements that currently exist between Australia and other economies under AFAS. This Seminar has been developed to respond to one of the outcomes of the recent APEC funded AFAS Symposium, held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 16 - 19 April 2007. The expected outputs of the Seminar are:

1) Expanded knowledge of the AFAS methodology throughout APEC economies. This expanded knowledge will benefit economies by:

providing an opportunity for improved quarantine treatment administrative and management arrangements to be implemented and the possibility of voluntary multilateral arrangements to be developed to improve quarantine effectiveness.

2) AFAS methodology expanded to additional treatments. The expansion of the AFAS methodology to incorporate additional treatments will benefit economies by:

providing education and training in best practice treatment techniques;

significantly enhancing occupational health and safety awareness and practices;

potentially reducing import and export costs and delays for participating economies;

expansion of trade through voluntary multilateral arrangements facilitating the development and recognition of arrangements between APEC and other economies for quarantine treatment providers;

contributing to environmentally sustainable development through decreased use of methyl bromide fumigant (an ozone depleting substance - in accordance with the Montreal Protocol);

providing information on implementing administrative and management systems that assist quarantine agencies mitigate quarantine risks;

enabling economies to contribute to a number of APEC priorities.

TARGET AUDIENCE:

Government regulators in APEC and other economies.

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