



Unclassified

Phytosanitary inspections after air cargo has been security cleared

Under certain circumstances, security cleared air cargo that undergoes a phytosanitary inspection will not have its security cleared status revoked.

Key points

- 1) Typically for the Known Consignor scheme, opening of a security cleared box or carton would mean that the cargo is no longer cleared and would require re-examination.
- 2) However, due to the strict requirements associated with phytosanitary inspections, cargo that undergoes a phytosanitary inspection will not lose its cleared status and the Security Declaration for the cargo would still be valid.
- 3) In all other circumstances, the opening or unauthorised access to security cleared air cargo would breach the security status of the cargo and it would be deemed uncleared.

Conditions

- 1) The phytosanitary inspection will need to take place at the premises of an air cargo regulated business (i.e. a Known Consignor, Accredited Air Cargo Agent or Regulated Air Cargo Agent) and a staff member of the regulated business would need to be present to observe the phytosanitary inspection to ensure that no unauthorised explosives are placed in the cargo. For DAWR purposes, the phytosanitary inspection must take place at a registered establishment.
- 2) If the Authorised Officer is employed directly by the regulated business they will not require supervision as they perform the phytosanitary inspections. The staff member may need an Aviation Security Identification Card (ASIC) but that would depend on the personnel security requirements and background checking already undertaken by the business. Generally within the Known Consignor scheme, any individuals with lone access to cargo would be required to hold an ASIC.
- 3) If the Authorised Officer is not an employee of the regulated business but works alone at the regulated business' premises then the regulated business may ask the Authorised Officer to apply for a white ASIC to negate the need to be supervised when performing the phytosanitary inspection.

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Background

- 1) Australian phytosanitary inspections are required for fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and horticultural plants or plant products (for example, dried fruit, nursery stock, cut flowers, plant foliage etc).
- 2) Phytosanitary inspections are regulated by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) and can only be performed by an Authorised Officer. An Authorised Officer is a person appointed under section 20 of the *Export Control Act 1982* to conduct export activities on behalf of DAWR. Authorised Officers can be employed by DAWR or be externally employed.
- 3) Phytosanitary inspections certify that the Australian plants or plant products have been inspected according to appropriate procedures and they are considered to be free from quarantine pests, other injurious pests and conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country. The phytosanitary inspections ensure there is no loss, addition or substitution to the consignment and aim to prevent infestation and contamination of the consignment by pests through the application of appropriate phytosanitary measures.
- 4) The client is responsible for maintaining the export-compliant status of the consignment, (i.e. keeping it in secure conditions) from the time of the phytosanitary inspection until the time the consignment is exported.

More Information:

For more information, contact the Aviation and Maritime Security Division Guidance Centre:
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