



e-Newsletter

Information from the Samoa Quarantine Service

August 2006

Working closer together as partners

The new Quarantine (Biosecurity) Act 2005 provides new opportunities for stakeholders to become more involved in protecting our country from biosecurity risks.

Biosecurity awareness needs to be seen as everyone's responsibility, not just Quarantine's.

The Act allows for the use of Compliance Agreements signed between Quarantine and an Importer, allowing certain imported goods under Quarantine control to be taken to an "approved facility" to await inspection. Provided the importer agrees to abide by the specific Quarantine conditions these agreements will smooth the passage of most goods away from the wharf or airport where they may be attracting penalty payments.

Eventually it is envisaged that importers will play a much greater role in surveillance of low risk imports using this Compliance Agreement system.

Total Border Inspection Team concept

Quarantine and Customs already work closely together at the border (and SQIP provided Senior Customs Officers with X-Ray operation training at Faleolo last year) however there is still much that can be achieved.

Recently Quarantine, through the SQIP Team Leader, assisted the Customs Department with some further training.

This time the SQIP TL was asked to assist with Customs with advice on procedures, training systems, and inspection methods and techniques at the border.

More particularly he was asked to help with recognition, detection and inspection for narcotics and drug equipment.

The TL gave two presentations to a total of 30 Customs Officers, management as well as frontline staff, emphasizing the fact that although Quarantine and Customs were two separate disciplines there were many techniques, skills and tools that we should **all** be using to keep our border tight.

It is hoped that this will be the first of many cross-training opportunities that will further strengthen our total border inspection team.

Want more information about Quarantine, or about Plant and Animal Export issues ?

Come and see us at our office at the [Quarantine Operations Centre, Matautu-tai](#), telephone [20924/22171](#).
Visit our website www.samoaquarantine.gov.ws