Regulatory operations conducted through technology
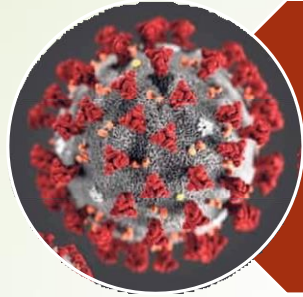
The beginning of a new way of business in biosecurity

Pathway Operations Cargo/ Vanessa Warden-Hutton

June 2021

The inception of virtual label inspections

COVID created a hurdle in facilitating inspections and along with the public panic buying put pressure on the major supermarkets in Australia

The department sought to identify innovative solutions utilising new technologies to facilitate and regulate while adhering to the legislation around the process of inspections
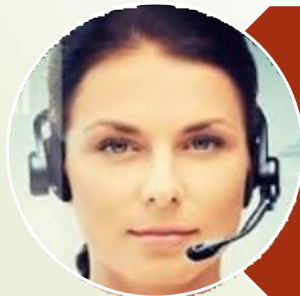
The Department determined that the low risk foods parameters in the Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS) would permit some inspections to be done virtually
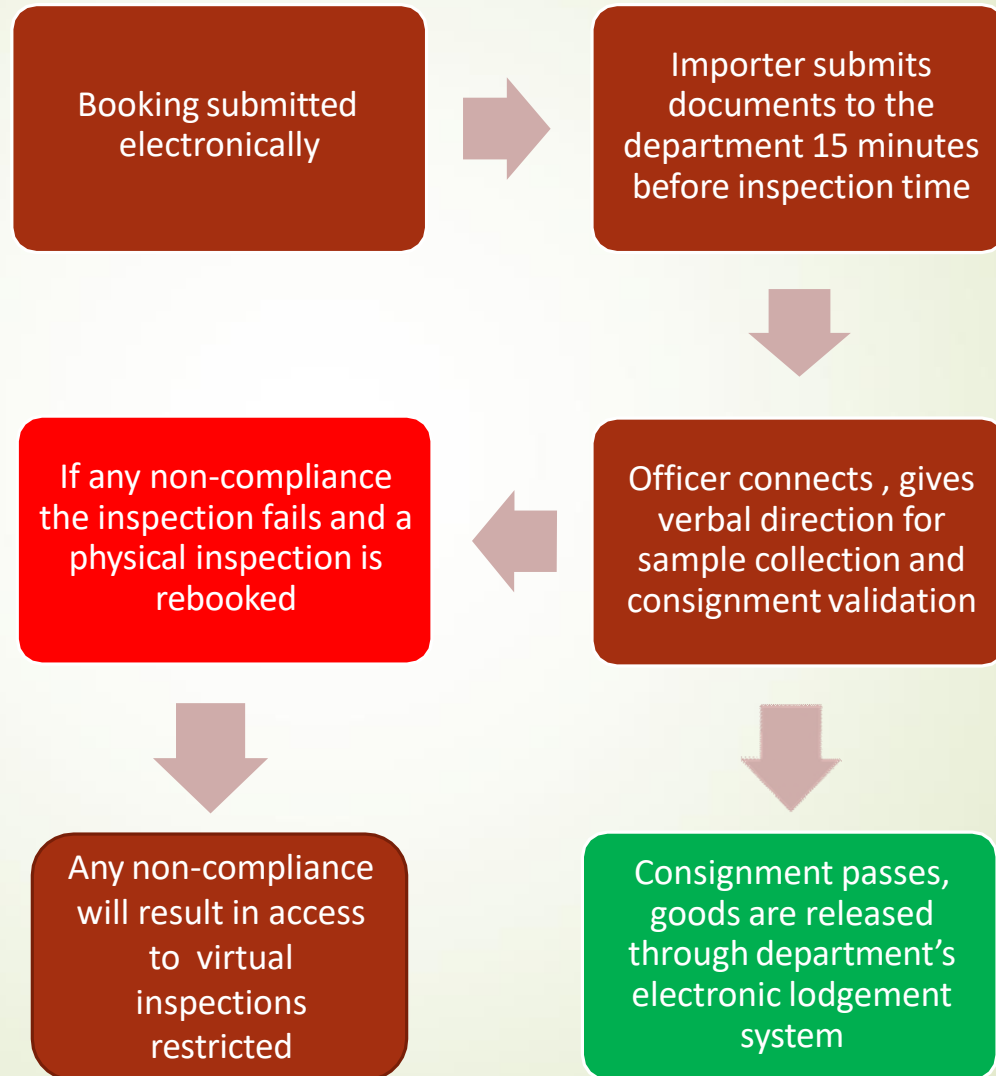
Virtual Inspections in Imported Food

Benefits and responsibilities

- Time saver for both the department & importers in larger cities and remote locations
- Industry participants with good compliance benefit as well as the department in time and cost

- Importers request a connectivity assessment
- Baseline requirements stipulated prior to assessment and adherence to the departments Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS)

- The department officer conducts an assessment and validates connectivity and that the industry representative can comply with the requirements (verbal directions and live stream requirements)
- The importers compliance is also confirmed by analysing past inspection compliance history

Process for inspecting

```
┌─────────────────────┐         ┌─────────────────────────┐
│ Booking submitted   │   ──▶   │ Importer submits        │
│ electronically      │         │ documents to the        │
│                     │         │ department 15 minutes   │
│                     │         │ before inspection time  │
└─────────────────────┘         └─────────────────────────┘
                                             │
                                             ▼
┌─────────────────────┐         ┌─────────────────────────┐
│ If any non-compliance│  ◀──   │ Officer connects , gives │
│ the inspection fails │         │ verbal direction for    │
│ and a physical      │         │ sample collection and   │
│ inspection is       │         │ consignment validation  │
│ rebooked            │         │                         │
└─────────────────────┘         └─────────────────────────┘
          │                                  │
          ▼                                  ▼
┌─────────────────────┐         ┌─────────────────────────┐
│ Any non-compliance  │         │ Consignment passes,     │
│ will result in access│        │ goods are released      │
│ to  virtual         │         │ through department's    │
│ inspections         │         │ electronic lodgement    │
│ restricted          │         │ system                  │
└─────────────────────┘         └─────────────────────────┘
```

Industry partnered with the department to trial the virtual label inspection process as one way to facilitate increased flexibility and efficiencies while mitigating the heighten WHS risks associated with COVID-19.

The inspecting officer is able to assess the Nutritional Ingredient Panel (NIP) and ingredients clearly

All labels must comply with the Australian New Zealand Food standards code

Good communication skills and a commitment to compliance requirements is required from both the department and industry to make this virtual platform viable.

The ability to isolate images from a virtual inspection and enhance the screen shots ensures compliance is met for the FSANZ.
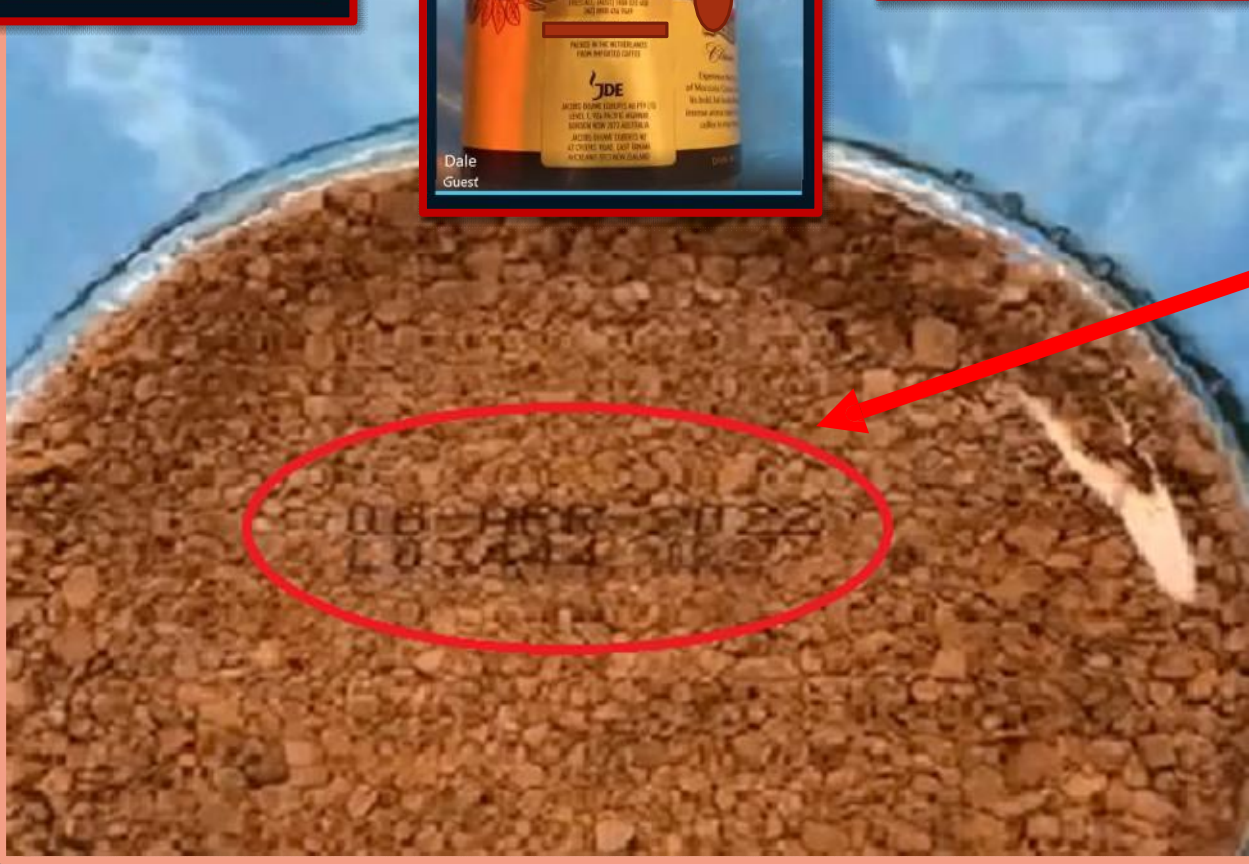
Example of other products
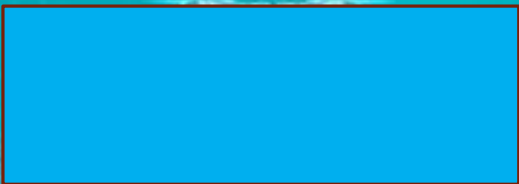
BRUT *Suprême*

ENJOY IN MODERATION

EXCLUSIVELY IMPORTED BY WEARING MEMORIES WINE M
EAST ST, EAST TOOWOOMBA, QLD 4350 AUSTR

Approx. 7.1 Standard Drinks Preservative (2
Elaboré Par La Maison du Champagne, Epernay, France N

WARNING THIS WINE IS STORED UNDER PRESSURE TAKE CARE
ORDINARY THE BOTTLE AS IT MAY CAUSE IT TO EXPLODE TO OPEN
ON SELF AND OTHERS. DO NOT USE CORKSCREW TO REMOV
info@champagne-royalriviera.com

PRODUCT OF FRANCE
PRODUCE OF FRANCE

CONTIENT DES SI
CONTAINS SUL

750 ML - 12.5% ALC/VOL.

7.1

Get the facts
DRINK WISE
DWG.AU

023130 2043

500 ml

RP

08:23:49
123
RRIBRSTXXNG/AU050

PRODUCT OF FRANCE
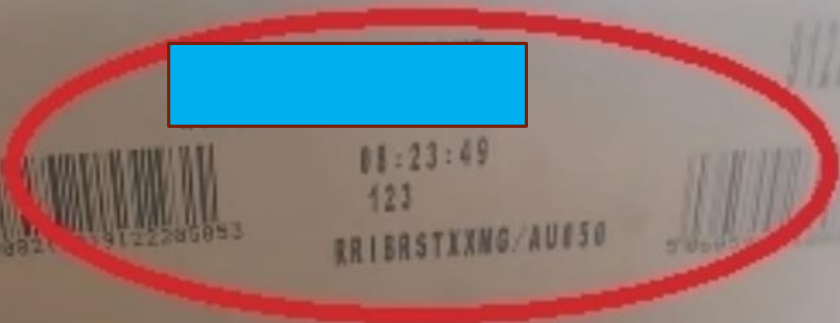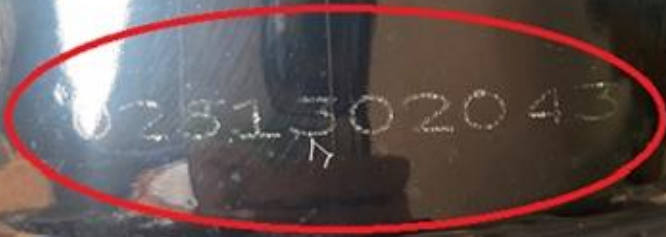
Even with imperfect images, an officer can still assess if the label is compliant
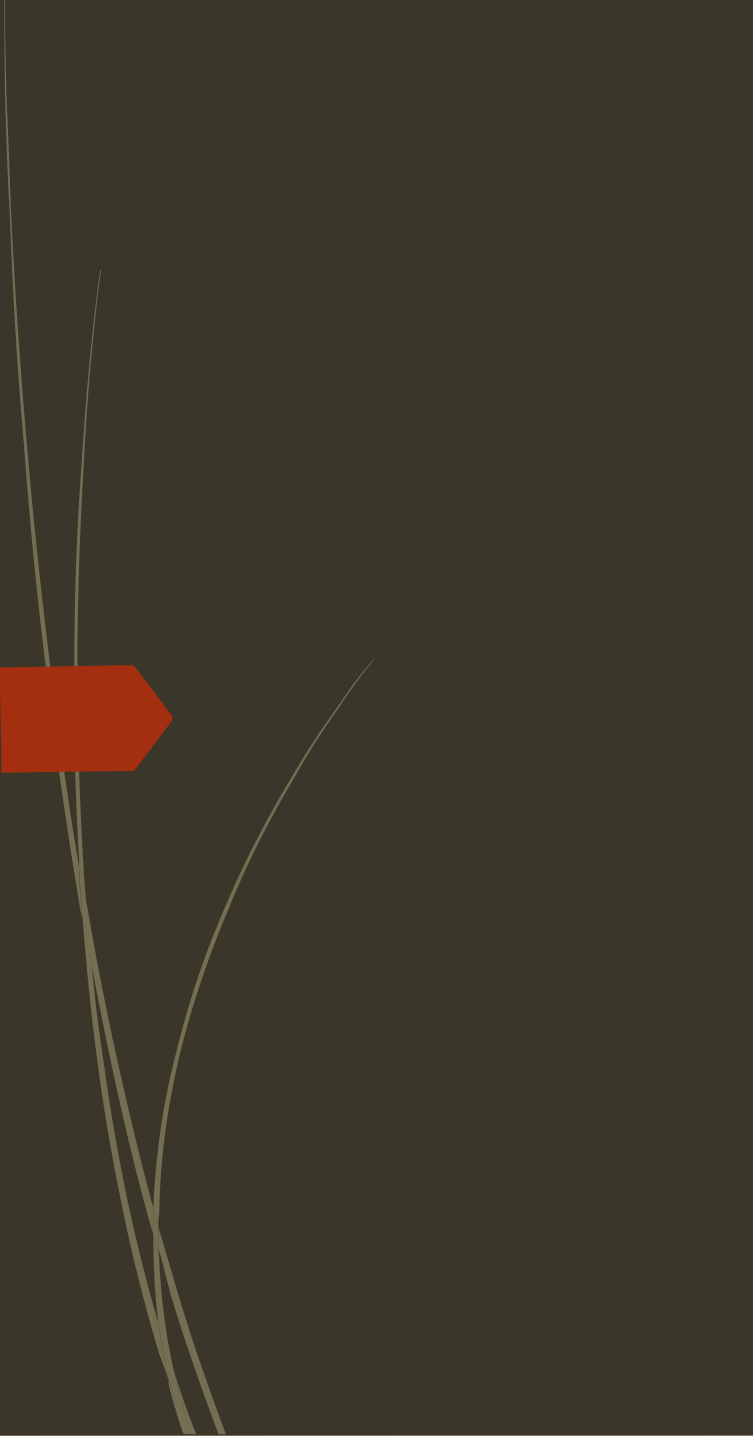
Other Innovative technologies implemented by the department

Departmental Adopted Innovations

- In May 2019 the department installed Australia's first 3D x-ray unit in Melbourne's international mail gateway
- Another unit was installed into Sydney Mail Facility in October 2020.

In addition to looking to improve the efficiency of international mail screening and fast-tracking algorithm development, the trial aims to identify opportunities to share infrastructure and undertake joint screening with Australia Post and the Australian Border Force.

3DX-Ray Intervention

RTT 100 Rapiscan

These x-ray units can produce 3D tomography images or slices in real time as the item passes through the x-ray unit. This is done without the need to slowly rotate an x ray emitter and detector around the object.
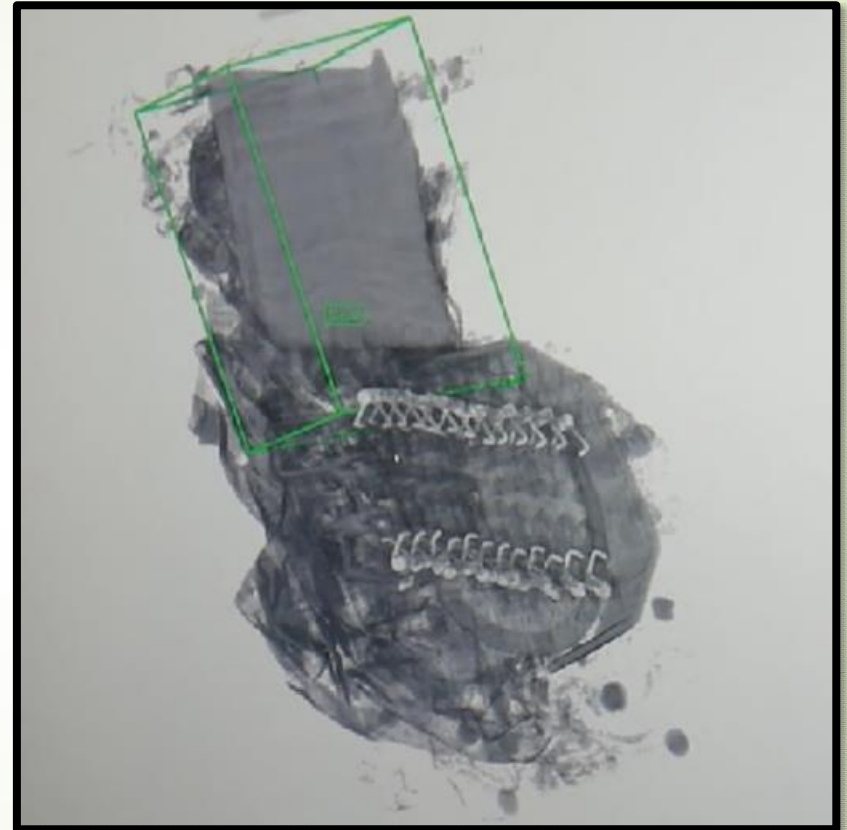
mylink.agdaff.gov.au/AboutDept/SD/BioRisk/Docume nts/RTT Promotional Video.mp4