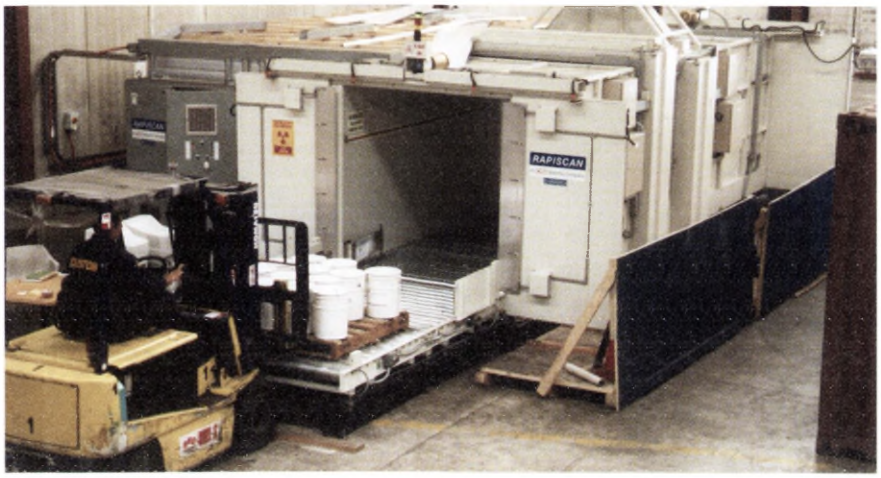
X-ray acquisition



Customs has more than 60 x-ray units in operation, offering flexible size and penetration capabilities to suit different densities and packaging. However, a worldwide evaluation of x-ray suppliers resulted in an investment in new technology for mail, cargo and baggage examinations; moving away from backscatter machines and toward advanced transmission systems employing the latest in colour-image processing.

Customs is also introducing dedicated mobile baggage-examination x-rays at a number of airports that combine an electric cart with a purpose-built trailer on which is mounted state-of-the-art x-ray technology.

Pallet-sized x-ray systems have been commissioned for Sydney and Melbourne to complement the sea container examination facilities and offer a significant enhancement to inspection capabilities.

Customs is adding to the number of x-ray systems in airfreight depots as part of a commitment to lifting the rate of air cargo examination for handguns and other contraband.

And in a joint initiative between Customs and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, ten new x-ray systems integrating proven x-ray technology with a purpose-built shelter mounted on a van will be operating at our borders.

top: A pallet x-ray system being used to screen air and sea cargo.

bottom: Cabinet x-ray machines used to screen postal and air cargo items - similar units are used at airports to screen passenger luggage.