



Import Health Standard

Guinea Pigs

GUINEAPG.AUS

17 March 2015

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Guinea Pigs

COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on 17 March 2015.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Import Health Standard is issued under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Dated at Wellington this 17th day of March 2015

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(acting under delegated authority of the Director General)

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMPORTER AND BORDER STAFF

Date: 11 November 2015

The following relates to Chief Technical Officer Direction: CTO 2015 081

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMPORTERS

The following equivalent Veterinary Certificate should be used for importing guinea pigs from Australia under this import health standard:

[Guinea Pigs to Australia - Veterinary Certificate](#) [PDF, 107 KB]

Introduction

This introduction is not part of the import health standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

- (1) This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus*) into New Zealand from Australia.

Background

- (1) The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.
- (2) Import health standards issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Who should read this import health standard?

- (1) This IHS applies to importers of eligible consignments of guinea pigs from Australia.

Why is this important?

- (1) It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and/or further information may be sought from importers. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act or treated in accordance with this IHS prior to release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

Equivalence

- (1) The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures under section 27(1)(d) of the Act, different from those set out in this IHS, that may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods. If an equivalent measure is approved a permit to import may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act, if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so.

Guidance for equivalence

- MPI's preference is that the exporting country's Competent Authority makes equivalence requests. Equivalence requests can be lodged with animalimports@mpi.govt.nz
- MPI may accept an alternative method, system or process that can be shown to achieve the biosecurity requirements of the IHS (i.e. equivalence).
- A permit may be required where specific equivalence measures are approved by MPI as per the equivalence clause in the IHS. A permit to import serves as evidence of equivalence decisions and will be written as specific notes in the special conditions section of the permit.
- Permit to import application forms can be found on the MPI website at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/animals/forms>.
- Completed applications are lodged with animal imports animalimports@mpi.govt.nz.

Document history

- (1) Refer to Schedule 1.

Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to all importers of guinea pigs eligible for import into New Zealand from Australia.

1.1.1 Eligibility

- (1) The guinea pigs must:
 - a) be exported from Australia.
 - b) have been born and reared in captivity.
 - c) be identified with a microchip prior to export. The identification must be shown on the certificate accompanying the animals.
 - d) be weaned, healthy and fit to travel.

1.2 The outcome this standard is seeking to achieve

- (1) The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve is the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with eligible consignments of guinea pigs.

1.3 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
 - a) The *International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR)*: a copy is available for reading, free of charge, at MPI, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington.
 - b) The *Australian Marine Orders*, Part 43, Issue 6 (equivalent to the *New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C*) is available free of charge: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details?F2006L03643>.
- (2) Under section 142O(3) of the Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces the above listed standards, guideline or lists has legal effect as part of these documents.

Guidance for incorporation of material by reference

- Incorporation by reference means that standards, guidelines or lists are incorporated into the IHS and they form part of the requirements. This is done because technical documents are too large or impractical to include in the IHS.
- Where the IHS states that section 142O(1) of the Biosecurity Act does not apply, this means that importers need to refer to the most recent version of any standards, guidelines or lists that are incorporated by reference in the IHS.

1.4 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this standard and the attached guidance document, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The Act is available at the following website:
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>.

- (2) See Schedule 2 for additional definitions that apply.

1.5 Transport

- (1) In the case of transport by:
 - a) Air: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the relevant requirements published in the *IATA Live Animal Regulations*.
 - b) Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the requirements of the *Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 6* (which is equivalent to the *New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C*).
- (2) Only sterilised peat, soft board, paper, a towel or other inert products may be used as bedding. Straw or hay bedding is not permitted.
- (3) All used equipment accompanying guinea pigs into New Zealand must comply with the IHS for Used Equipment Associated with Animals or Water: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1157>
- (4) Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the IHS for Wood Packaging Material from All Countries: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>.
- (5) The importer must notify the date, expected time of arrival, port of arrival and the flight number or ship's name to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of arrival at least 5 days in advance of importation. Please email applicable arrival point:
 - a) Auckland: mqsakav@mpi.govt.nz
 - b) Wellington: wellingtoncertification@mpi.govt.nz
 - c) Christchurch: liveanimalgroup@mpi.govt.nz

1.6 Inspection and verification

- (1) The following veterinary inspections are required:
 - a) Pre-shipment veterinary inspection by the official veterinarian.

Guidance for inspection and verification

- On arrival, all documentation accompanying the consignment will be verified by an inspector. Inspectors are able to inspect and verify due to their authorised powers under the Act.
- These requirements are independent of the IHS requirements.

1.7 Permit to import

- (1) A permit to import is required prior to the importation of eligible guinea pigs from Australia
- (2) Permit to import application forms can be found on the MPI website at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/animals/forms>.
- (3) Completed applications can be submitted to Animal Imports animalimports@mpi.govt.nz.

1.8 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) The consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the following:

- a) A permit to import issued by MPI (copy acceptable) for a single consignment only. The importer must supply the following information to obtain a permit:
 - i) The name and address of the exporter.
 - ii) The number, sex, age, species and microchip transponder identification of the animal.
 - iii) The date of the proposed importation.
 - iv) The name and address of the importer.
 - b) A veterinary certificate, that must include the following:
 - i) A unique consignment identifier.
 - ii) The description, species.
 - iii) The name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
 - iv) The name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
 - v) Specified requirements, outlined in Part 2 of this IHS, to be certified and endorsed by the Official Veterinarian.
 - c) The owner or exporter's declaration.
- (2) The exporting country's Official Veterinarian must certify the consignment meets all the requirements of this IHS.
- (3) All documents must:
- a) Be original, unless otherwise stated in this IHS.
 - b) Accompany the imported goods.
 - c) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
 - d) Be endorsed on every page by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date or be endorsed in the space allocated and all pages have paper based alternative security features (except the permit to import) .
- (4) Copies of all documentation must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport or port of arrival at least 72 hours in advance of importation. Please see section 1.5 for contact details.

1.9 Biosecurity clearance

- (1) A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when the guinea pigs meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of the section 27 of the Act are met.

Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

2.1 Model veterinary certificate

- (1) Guinea pigs from Australia must meet all the specified requirements included in the following veterinary certificate.

Country: Australia				
Certificate reference number:		Import permit number:		
1. Importer name: Address:		2. Exporter name: Address:		
3. Country of destination: New Zealand		4. Country of origin: Australia		
5. Description of commodity: Species <i>Cavia porcellus</i>				
Microchip Number	Site of Microchip	Other ID	M/F	Age
Official Veterinarian: Name: Address: Signature: Date:		Office Details: Name: Address: <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Official Veterinarian signature, Official stamp and date</p> </div>		

Country: Australia	Certificate reference number:
<p>I,..... an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of Australia, certify after due enquiry, with respect to the guinea pigs identified in this veterinary certificate, that:</p> <p>(1) I have no reason to doubt the owner or exporter's declaration.</p> <p>Inspection and transport</p> <p>(2) The guinea pigs were identified and examined by an Official Veterinarian in the 24 hours prior to shipment, and were free from clinical evidence of infectious disease, plant and seed contamination, and appeared to be fit for travel.</p> <p>(3) As far as can be determined:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(a) During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand, all bedding provided will be free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(b) If shipped by air, the animals will be shipped in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations; if shipped by sea, the animals will be shipped in accordance with the Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 6.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">(c) The crates or pens to be used for transporting the animals to New Zealand are either new or if previously used will be cleaned and disinfected with an effective disinfectant.</p>	
<p>Official Veterinarian:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Office Details:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Address</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <p>Official Veterinarian signature, Official stamp and date</p> </div>

2.2 Owner's declaration

I,..... being the owner or exporter of the guinea pigs identified in the veterinary certificate certify that:

(1) The guinea pigs described in the veterinary certificate were born and reared in captivity

(2) The guinea pigs described in the veterinary certificate have been fed a high quality diet free of weed seeds for 3 days prior to export.

Name:

Address:

Signature of owner or exporter:.....

Date:.....

Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
17 March 2015	Guinea Pigs	GUINEAPG.AUS
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode

Schedule 2 – Definitions

Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Code* in the whole territory.

IATA

The International Air Transport Association.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the OIE *Code* Chapter for certification procedures.

OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

OIE Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Any reference in this standard to the OIE *Code* is to the most current as found on the OIE website.

Permit to Import

A written order issued by the Director General of MPI under section 24 (D)(2) of the Act.

Veterinary Certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the OIE *Code* Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.