IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF CERVINE EMBRYOS FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Dated: 23 March 2004

USER GUIDE

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections that outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand. When MAF has accepted health certification produced by a government authority in the exporting country as meeting the requirements of the model health certification this is noted. When no health certification is required to accompany consignments Part D. will note “none required”.

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation into New Zealand of cervine embryos from Australia.

1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of cervine embryos imported into New Zealand from Australia is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of cervine embryos shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.

2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent.

2.3 The Biosecurity (Imported Animals, Embryo and Semen Information) Regulations 1999 place obligations on owners (including any subsequent owners) or persons in charge of imported sheep, goats, cattle and deer and imported genetic material (semen and embryos) of these species.

2.4 A copy of the Regulations can be obtained from the website: www.legislation.govt.nz

A document explaining obligations can be obtained from Animal Imports and Exports, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

AGM
Animal genetic material including semen and embryos

AQIS
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Biosecurity clearance
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993

Director Animal Biosecurity
The Director Animal Biosecurity, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the power and functions of the Director Animal Biosecurity

Donor animal
Refers to female animals from which embryos are collected or male animals whose semen was used to fertilise the ova

Equivalence
Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard

Herd of origin
The herd in which the donor animal resided prior to entering the embryo collection centre. If the donor animal has been on the embryo collection centre for more than 60 days the embryo collection centre can be deemed to be the herd of origin

IETS *Manual*
Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society (1998)

Inspector
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993

MAF
The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Official Veterinarian
An official veterinarian means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the chapter of the OIE *Code* pertaining to principles of certification

OIE *Code*
The Office International des Epizooties *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

4 EQUIVALENCE

This import health standard is in accordance with agreements between the exporting country and New Zealand. Biosecurity clearance will not normally be given to a consignment that does not meet the requirements of this import health standard in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter a consignment does not comply with the requirements of this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence submitted prior to importation will be considered and may be given at the discretion of the Director Animal Biosecurity if the following information is provided by the exporting country's government veterinary authority:

4.1 the clause(s) of the import health standard that cannot be met and how this has occurred;

4.2 the reason(s) why the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and/or what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status;

4.3 the reason(s) why the veterinary authority believes this proposal should be acceptable to MAF and their recommendation for its acceptance.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 A permit to import must be obtained from Animal Imports and Exports, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

5.2 The importer must supply the following information:

- 5.2.1 name and address of exporter
- 5.2.2 name, address and approval/registration number of the embryo/semen collection centre(s)
- 5.2.3 species of donor animal(s)
- 5.2.4 number of embryos to be imported
- 5.2.5 name and address of importer.

5.3 The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment. Attached to, and an integral part of the permit to import, is the current import health standard which describes the conditions under which the embryos may be imported into New Zealand.

6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 The Wild Animal Control act 1977 prohibits the importation of new species of deer (i.e. deer species which do not have an established feral range). Only deer (or cervine semen and embryos) of the following species may be imported into New Zealand: *Cervus elaphus scoticus* (red deer), *C. elaphus nelsoni* (wapiti), *C. nippon* (sika deer), *C. u. unicolour* (sambar deer), *C. timorensis* (rusa deer), *C. dama dama* (fallow deer), *Odocoileus virginianus borealis* (white-tailed deer).

6.2 The period of embryo collection(s) must be 60 days or less.

6.3 Only frozen *in-vivo* fertilised cervine embryos are eligible for importation under this import health standard.

6.4 All requirements of this import health standard, including those detailed in the Model Zoosanitary Certificate must be met for the commodity to be eligible for importation.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by the permit to import and all appropriately

completed health certification which meets the requirements of PART D. Zoosanitary Certification. The required documentation is:

7.1.1 Zoosanitary Certificate with attached laboratory test results for those tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate

7.1.2 Import permit.

7.2 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of consignments.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

8.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand the documentation accompanying the consignment shall be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival. The Inspector may also inspect the consignment.

8.2 Providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, and the consignment released to the importer.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

9 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of cervine embryos into New Zealand from Australia:

MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: CERVINE EMBRYOS
To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number: .....

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA

Competent Authority: .....

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DONOR ANIMALS (FEMALES AND MALES)

(For more than one animal, please use a schedule)

	Species (systematic and common name)	Identification	Date of birth	Batch number of semen (if applicable) or date of natural mating
Donor hind				
Donor stag				

Name, address and approval/registration number of semen/embryo collection centre(s): .....

.....

Name, address and approval registration number of semen processing laboratory (if applicable) ..

.....

Name and address of owner: .....

.....

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CERVINE EMBRYOS

	Date(s) of collection	Straw identification (markings to be indelible)	No. of straws per donor (include the no. of embryos per straw)
Embryos			

Total number of embryos in consignment: .....

Name and address of exporter: .....

.....

III. DESTINATION OF THE CERVINE EMBRYOS

Name and address of importer: .....

.....

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I, ..., an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Australian Government certify, after due enquiry, with respect to the donor animals and embryos identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

1 Donor animals and embryo collection centre

1.1 The donor females:

Either 1.1.1 were born in and lived continuously in Australia;

Or 1.1.2 were imported and have been resident in Australia for at least 60 days, and have been in the herd of origin for at least 30 days immediately prior to entering the embryo collection centre.

(Delete as appropriate)

1.2 The herd(s) of origin of the donor females and the embryo collection centre, were free from any quarantine restrictions from 60 days before the first embryo collection until completion of the donor animal testing for this consignment.

1.3 The donor females were held in an AQIS approved embryo collection centre for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the collection of embryos for this consignment and until the testing specified in this certificate was completed. During this time were isolated from animals not of an equivalent health status.

1.4 The ova were fertilised as follows:

Either 1.4.1 Donor males used for natural service were of an equivalent isolation and tested health status to the donor females

Or 1.4.2 Semen used for insemination was eligible for export to New Zealand.

(Delete as appropriate)

1.5 The embryo collection centre is approved by AQIS to collect embryos for export and is inspected by an Official Veterinarian at least once a year, at a time when embryo collection is being conducted.

Date of last inspection: .....

2 Embryo collection and processing

2.1 The period of embryo collection(s) for this consignment was 60 days or less.

2.2 On the day(s) of collection of embryos, all female donor animals were examined by the team veterinarian and were free from any clinical evidence of infectious diseases caused by micro-organisms transmissible in embryos.

2.3 The embryos were collected, processed and stored under the supervision of an AQIS approved embryo collection team veterinarian in accordance with the OIE *Code*, Appendix for *in vivo* derived embryos.

2.4 The embryos were collected, washed, processed, identified and stored under conditions, which comply with the recommendations in the *Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society.* Each embryo had an intact zona pellucida and was examined over its entire surface at not less than 50X magnification and was free of adherent material.

2.5 The embryos were treated with the enzyme trypsin in accordance with the recommendations of the IETS *Manual.*

2.6 All biological products of animal origin used in the media and solutions for collection, processing, washing or storage of embryos were free of pathogenic organisms including pestiviruses. Media and solutions were sterilised according to the IETS *Manual* and handled in such a manner as to ensure that sterility was maintained. Antibiotics effective against *Leptospira* spp. were added to collection, processing, washing and storage media as recommended in the IETS *Manual*, or a combination of antibiotics with equivalent activity was used.

2.7 The names and concentrations of antibiotics used in the embryo preparations included:
.....
.....

2.8 Only frozen *in-vivo* fertilised cervine embryos are included in this consignment.

3 Testing and treatment of donor animals

3.1 For bluetongue virus (BT) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus:

(**NB**: indicate which option was followed for BT and EHD, tests used and date(s) of sampling)

Either 3.1.1 When importing from BT and EHD virus free zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*):

Either 3.1.1.1 The donor animals were kept in a BT and EHD free zone for at least 100 days prior to, and during, collection of the embryos;

Or 3.1.1.2 The donor animals were subjected to serological tests to detect antibodies to BT and EHD, such as the competitive ELISA or the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID),

between 28 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment, with negative results;

Or 3.1.1.3 The donor animals were subjected to tests for BT and EHD, such as a virus isolation test or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, on blood samples taken on the day(s) of embryo collection for this consignment, with negative results.

Tests used: .....
Date(s) of sample collection:.....

Or 3.1.2 When importing from BT and EHD virus seasonally free zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*):

Either 3.1.2.1 The donor animals were kept during the seasonally free period in a BT and EHD virus seasonally free zone for at least 100 days prior to commencement of, and during, embryo collection;

Or 3.1.2.2 The donor animals were subjected to serological tests to detect antibodies to BT and EHD, such as the competitive ELISA or the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID) test, between 28 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment, with negative results;

Or 3.1.2.3 The donor animals were subjected to tests for BT and EHD, such as a virus isolation test or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, on blood samples taken on the day(s) of embryo collection for this consignment, with negative results.

Tests used: .....
Date(s) of sample collection: .....

Either 3.1.3 When importing from BT and EHD virus infected zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*):

Either 3.1.3.1 The donor animals were protected from *Culicoides* attack for at least 100 days prior to commencement of, and during, embryo collection;

Or 3.1.3.2 The donor animals were subjected to serological tests to detect antibodies to BT and EHD, such as the competitive ELISA or the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID); between 28 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment, with negative results;

Or 3.1.3.3 The donor animals were subjected to tests for BT and EHD, such as a virus isolation test or a polymerase chain reaction

(PCR) test, on blood samples taken on the day(s) of embryo collection for this consignment, with negative results.

Tests used: .....
Date(s) of sample collection:.....

(Delete as appropriate)

3.2 For Q fever Between 10 and 30 days after the final embryo collection, the donor females were tested with negative results for Q fever using the complement fixation test (CFT) (negative being no fixation of complement at a dilution of 1:10 or higher) or the ELISA

Test used:.....
Date of sample collection:.....

3.3 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by AQIS to conduct export testing, and laboratory results for tests specified in this certificate are attached.

4 Storage and transport

4.1 All straws are clearly marked with the identification of the donor animals and the date(s) of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

4.2 The embryos were only stored with other embryos or semen that were eligible for export to New Zealand. The containers were held in an approved storage place under the supervision of AQIS until export.

4.3 The embryos were placed in new or sterilised transport containers filled with fresh (previously unused) liquid nitrogen.

Method of sterilisation (if applicable): .....
Date of sterilisation (if applicable):.....

4.4 Prior to export, the container in which the embryos are to be transported was sealed by either the embryo collection team veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian using seals bearing the marks: .....

.....
Signature of Official Veterinarian Official stamp and date

Name and address of office: .....

N.B. Official stamp must be applied to all pages