

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR HORSES FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Dated: 11 February 2008

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 five 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 that must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and must accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

Part E. APPENDIX 1 contains a Veterinary Declaration.

APPENDIX 2 contains a MAF Standard for the Pre-Export Isolation (PEI) of Horses

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 horses from Australia.
- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of horses 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 Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of horses shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, and obtaining a biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the entry of goods into New Zealand.

Biosecurity Standards Group Manager

The Biosecurity Standards Group Manager, 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 Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

Equivalence

Acceptance by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager 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.

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

New Zealand Inspector

A person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration 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 Section 1.2 of the *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

Terrestrial Manual

The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Manual*

Terrestrial Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health *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 Biosecurity Standards Group Manager 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 is required for all consignments of horses imported into New Zealand from Australia. Application for a permit to import shall be made at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to Animal Imports Team, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.
- 5.2 An application for a permit to import shall provide the following information:
- (i) name and address of importer
 - (ii) name and address of exporter
 - (iii) description and number of the horses to be imported
 - (iv) date of the proposed importation
 - (v) name and address of the TRANSITIONAL FACILITY to which the consignment is to proceed following importation
 - (vi) a letter from the authorised supervisor of the transitional facility stating that the facility is registered and is available for the dates proposed and has the capacity to accommodate the consignment proposed to be imported
 - (vii) the transport method and route during importation into New Zealand, which will be in accordance with all requirements for TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND noted in this import health standard, and evidence of transit authority from countries on the transport route, and
 - (viii) the transport method and route during transfer from the port of arrival in New Zealand to the transitional facility.
- 5.3 A permit to import will be granted for a single consignment only.

6 ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 If any horse in the consignment tests positive to any serological tests the Import Standards Group Manager must be notified and give clearance for the importation to proceed
- 6.2 The horses must be held for at least 21 days immediately prior to export to New Zealand in Pre-Export Isolation (PEI) premises. The PEI premises must be approved and supervised by an official veterinarian and meet the specifications and management procedures detailed in the New Zealand MAF Standard for the pre-export isolation (PEI) of horses, dated January 2006. This Standard is in Appendix 2 of PART E of this Import Health Standard.

- 6.3 All equipment entering New Zealand with the horses must comply with the Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of equipment associated with animals or water (refer to <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/imports-health-standards/search>)

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed health certification that meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION. The laboratory results for the tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate must be attached.
- 7.2 The official veterinarian of the exporting country must sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and any documents that form part of the extended health certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and print.
- 7.3 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 clearance or rejection of the consignment.

8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 8.1 No animals other than those destined for New Zealand and officially certified as meeting a New Zealand import health standard (or other animals determined to be of an equivalent health status by MAF) are permitted to be carried on the aircraft or ship.
- 8.2 Date, expected time of arrival and the flight number or ship's name must be notified to the New Zealand official veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 72 hours in advance of importation.
- 8.3 Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of New Zealand's wood packaging Import Health Standard (refer to <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>).
- 8.4 All equipment entering New Zealand with the animals must be visually clean and free of organic material

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 10.1 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, or a sample of the consignment.
- 10.2 A biosecurity direction may be given by an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 authorising the consignment to move to the transitional facility named in the permit to import, providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY.

10 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

- 11.1 Following biosecurity direction being given, the consignment shall proceed to a transitional facility registered according to *MAF Biosecurity Authority Animal Biosecurity Standard 154.02.13 Standard for Low Security Farm Animal Transitional Facilities*.
- 11.2 The consignment shall remain in the transitional facility for no less than 14 days, or for a longer period if required by the Imports Standards Group Manager.
- 11.3 While in the transitional facility, the consignment will be subjected to such testing, treatments or procedures required by the Imports Standards Group Manager , including:
- 11.3.1 after at least 5 days testing for Equine Influenza using the PCR from a nasopharyngeal swab with negative results

11 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

- 12.1 On successful completion of the terms detailed under TRANSITIONAL FACILITY 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.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

12 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

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

MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

Commodity: HORSES

To: NEW ZEALAND

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA

Competent Authority:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF HORSES

Species/breed:

Age:

Sex:

Identification records are attached to the Zoosanitary Certification. (Identification is by either: (i) brand or microchip number/site; or (ii) an official passport; or (iii) an identification silhouette that notes all distinguishing markings.)

Total number of horses in consignment:

II: ORIGIN OF HORSES

Name and address of owner:

Name and address of exporter:

Place of origin of the horses:

Airport/port of embarkation:

III: DESTINATION OF HORSES

Name and address of importer:

Means of transport:

Airport/port of arrival:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I,an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Government of Australia certify, after due enquiry, with respect to the horses identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate that:

1. COUNTRY/REGION DISEASE FREEDOM AND RESIDENCY

1.1. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV): The horses were:

- Either: 1.1.1 resident for at least the previous 21 days in a part of Australia where JEV has never been reported.
- Or: 1.1.2 imported into Australia from a country that is free of JEV and since importation have been resident in a part of Australia where JEV has never been reported.
- Or: 1.1.3 imported into Australia from a country where JEV is endemic and were vaccinated against JEV with an inactivated vaccine prior to importation into Australia.

(Delete as appropriate)

2. HORSES FOR EXPORT

- 2.1. No mare in the consignment is more than 300 days pregnant.
- 2.2. No horse in the consignment is less than 1 month of age.
- 2.3. The horses were free from all quarantine restrictions prior to entry in pre-export isolation.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ORIGIN

3.1. The horses were resident since birth, or for the period specified in brackets, immediately prior to export on premises where there was no evidence of any of the following diseases during period of time specified:

- equine infectious anaemia (3 months)
- equine viral abortion (EHV-1, including neurological disease) (3 months)
- equine viral arteritis (3 months)
- Hendra virus in horses (3 months)
- anthrax (20 days)
- equine influenza (3 months)
- melioidosis (3 months).

4 PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION (PEI)

- 4.1 The horses were kept for a minimum 21 day period prior to export in a pre-export isolation facility.
- 4.2 Prior to export, the horses were subject to a period of pre-export isolation in facilities approved for the purpose and under the supervision of an *Official Veterinarian*. During pre-export isolation they remained isolated from all other livestock not of an equivalent isolation and tested health status, and free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease. All horses of the same consignment have been isolated in the same premises.
Date of entry into isolation:
Date of export:
Premises of isolation:

4.3 HORSES EXPORTED FROM CATTLE TICK INFECTED AREAS

(Delete if not applicable)

- 4.3.1 Horses are stabled for at least the last 3 days of pre-export isolation
- 4.3.2 Prior to the last 3 days of isolation, both the horses and the stabled environment were treated to eliminate ticks, horses being treated with a registered acaricide and no livestock held within 100 metres of the premise.
- 4.3.3 Prior to the last 3 days of isolation the premise was managed to prevent entry of cattle tick on animals, in bedding or stock food.
- 4.3.4 During the last 3 days of isolation the horses were thoroughly inspected for ticks and found to be free of evidence of ticks. (Horses were retreated until free of evidence of ticks).

5 TESTING/TREATMENTS

- 5.1 All laboratory testing was conducted at a laboratory accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia to conduct export testing and laboratory result sheets or certified copies are attached.

5.2 Equine Influenza (EI)

5.2.1 Between 42 and 120 days prior to export the horses (except for foals less than 2 months old and accompanied by their vaccinated dam) were vaccinated against equine influenza using ;

5.2.1.2 an approved inactivated vaccine, either twice as a primary course following manufacture’s guidelines (usually not less than 21 days apart), or once as a booster to a previous primary course of vaccination

or

5.2.1.2 an approved recombinant live vectored vaccine, either twice as a primary course following manufacturer’s guidelines (usually not less than 28 days apart), or once as a booster to a previous primary course of vaccination

Date/s of vaccination/s:

(N.B. Approved vaccines must comply with the recommendations in the *OIE Terrestrial Manual*)

5.2.2 During PEI two nasopharyngeal swabs were collected at least 5 days apart, and tested negative for EI using PCR.

5.3 Equine infectious anaemia* (EIA):

The horses were tested with negative results for EIA virus using an agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test or an ELISA during the 21 days prior to export.

Test used:

Date of sampling:

(*Does not apply to unweaned foals less than 6 months of age accompanied by their negative tested dam.)

5.4 Equine viral arteritis (EVA) :

Entire male horses older than 12 months of age (actual age) were:

Either 5.4.1.1 tested for EVA virus with negative results using a virus neutralisation (VN) test during the 28 days prior to export

Date of sampling:

Or 5.4.1.2 in the case of a stallion that is seropositive for EVA virus. Since seroconversion and during the 12 month period prior to export the stallion has been tested with negative results by virus isolation on the sperm rich fraction of two separate semen samples

Date(s) stallion was blood sampled and seropositive.....

Date(s) of semen sampling:

Or 5.4.1.3 in the case of a stallion that is seropositive for EVA virus. Since seroconversion and during the 12 month period prior to export the stallion has been test mated to two mares which were subjected to the VN test on two blood samples, one collected at the time of test mating and the other 28 days after mating, with negative results.

Date(s) stallion was blood sampled and seropositive.....

Dates mares were blood sampled:

Or 5.4.1.4 vaccinated* against EVA virus under official veterinary control and have been re-vaccinated at least annually.

Date(s) of vaccination:

(*Approved programmes for initial vaccination are as follows:

- a) Vaccinated on the day a blood sample was taken which was subjected to the VN test with a negative result.
- b) Vaccinated during a period of isolation of not more than 15 days, commencing on the day a blood sample was taken which was subjected to the VN test with a negative result.
- c) Vaccinated when the stallion was at an age of 180 to 270 days during a period of isolation, during which two blood samples taken at least 10 days apart were subjected to the VN test and demonstrated a negative, stable or declining antibody titre.)

(Delete as appropriate)

5.4.2 For an EVA seropositive stallion a Veterinary Declaration is attached (see Appendix 1) that has been signed by a veterinarian indicating that there is no evidence of the stallion ever shedding virus in semen or being treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist.

(Delete if not appropriate)

7 PARASITE TREATMENTS

7.1 Within 48 hours prior to the scheduled date of export the horses were treated as follows:

7.1.1 for ectoparasites:
product(s) with efficacy against flies, ticks, lice and mites was applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations:

Ectoparasiticide(s) used:

Dose rate:

Date of treatment:

7.1.2 for endoparasites:
a macrocyclic lactone compound according to the manufacturer's recommendations:

Endoparasiticide used:.....

Dose rate:

Date of treatment:.....

8 VETERINARY INSPECTIONS

8.1 Within 48 hours prior to the scheduled date of export and after the treatments administered in section 6.1, the horses were thoroughly examined by a registered veterinarian and were found to be free of evidence of ticks. A systematic approach was undertaken with close examination of ears, false nostrils, under body areas (axillary, inguinal, submandibular), perineum, mane and tail.

Either: 8.1.1 No ticks were found.

Or: 8.1.2 Ticks were found, but subsequent re-inspection after another treatment determined that there was no evidence of tick infection.

(Delete as appropriate)

8.2 Within 48 hours prior to the scheduled date of export the horses were examined by an registered veterinarian and were found to be free of evidence of infectious disease and were fit to travel.

9 TRANSPORT

9.1 The vehicle for transport of the horses to the port of departure was cleaned and disinfected with a virucidal disinfectant prior to the loading of the horses.

- 9.2 During transport from pre-isolation premise to the port of departure the horses were kept isolated from horses that were not of equivalent tested health status.
- 9.3 The crates or pens to be used for transporting the horses to New Zealand are either new or, if previously used, have been cleaned and disinfected with a virucidal disinfectant.
- 9.4 All feed loaded for use during transport to the port of departure and to New Zealand was visibly free from evidence of contamination with ticks.
- 9.5 Only sterile peat, soft board treated wood shaving, shredded paper or other inert approved products was loaded for use as bedding during transportation.
- 9.6 No other animals are being transported on the aircraft or ship except those certified by an official veterinarian as eligible for export to New Zealand.
- 9.7 In the case of transport by:
- Air: the container/s meet the design principles published in the IATA Live Animal Regulations
 - Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements were inspected and they meet the requirements of the Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 2 (which is equivalent to the New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C).
- 9.8 For horses being transported by air, the cargo space of the aircraft in which the horses are to be transported was sprayed with an effective insecticidal spray.

Official stamp:

.....
Signature of Official Veterinarian

.....
Name of Official Veterinarian

Date:

Name and address of office:

.....

NB Official stamp must be applied to all pages

PART E. APPENDIX 1

VETERINARY DECLARATION

I,, the veterinarian who holds the records for the equine viral arteritis virus seropositive stallion identified in the attached Zoosanitary Certificate, certify after due enquiry of the owner of the stallion and examination of relevant records relating to the horse's breeding life that:

- there is no evidence to indicate that the stallion has shed equine viral arteritis virus in his semen at any time

AND

- there is no evidence to indicate that the stallion has ever been treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist.

.....
Signature of Veterinarian:

.....
Date

.....
.....
Name and address

PART E. APPENDIX 2

NEW ZEALAND MAF STANDARD FOR THE PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION (PEI) OF HORSES

DATED: 31 JANUARY 2008

1. Approval

- 1.1. The premises and facility must be approved by an official veterinarian of the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country as meeting the requirements of this Standard.
- 1.2. The premises and facility must be audited annually by an official veterinarian and records of inspections and management must be retained for audit purposes for at least 2 years.

2. Location

- 2.1. The premises must be within 240 km of the port of embarkation and must be conveniently located for supervision by an official veterinarian.

3. Premises

- 3.1. The premises must be surrounded by two stock-proof perimeter fences at least 2 metres apart, except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter.
- 3.2. The premises must be lockable to ensure that there is no contact with other livestock and no entry of unauthorised personnel.
- 3.3. The premises must have:
 - 3.3.1. an area for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles separated from the stables, holding pens and the loading area
 - 3.3.2. an area for the safe unloading and loading of horses.

4. Facility

- 4.1. The facility must be located at least 100 metres from any other horses not been quarantined for export to New Zealand.
- 4.2. Stables must be constructed so that they can be readily cleaned and disinfected.
- 4.3. Stables, yards, fences, and feeding and watering arrangements must be constructed so that the horses are protected from injury, and other welfare needs are met.
- 4.4. The facility must be managed to prevent entry of ticks on animals and in bedding or stock food.
- 4.5. Where the facility must be insect vector protected, this will be specified in New Zealand's import health standard.
- 4.6. The facility must have an adequate drainage system and hygienic management of waste.
- 4.7. The stable must have facilities for veterinary examination and the collection of samples.
- 4.8. External yards may be used for exercise and should be constructed of stock-proof materials with a solid or sand covered base.

5. Management

- 5.1. The veterinary clinician employed by the premises must have no financial interest in the horses undergoing isolation.
- 5.2. All staff working at the facility must shower in and have a thorough knowledge of the isolation requirements and the sanitation procedures.
- 5.3. Access to the PEI facility should be limited to staff essential to the running of the quarantine facility and animal health. Other personnel (for example farriers) may be granted access provided approval is given by the official veterinarian. The necessity for access must be justified as required for the health and welfare of the horse and an understanding of isolation conditions demonstrated by any personnel granted access. A register of visitors must be maintained.

6. Supervision

- 6.1. The official veterinarian must ensure that the horses for export meet New Zealand's relevant import health standard requirements prior to the horses entering PEI premises.
- 6.2. The official veterinarian must visit the facility at least weekly during the isolation period to ensure that the requirements of the New Zealand import health standard are being met. During the visit, the veterinarian must inspect the horses, observe the operation, review the records and record the visit and activities undertaken.
- 6.3. The veterinary clinician must record in a register the visit and activities undertaken while on the PEI facility and amend the health records of each horse treated.
- 6.4. The PEI facility must be managed by an experienced horse person who is responsible for the other stock attendants and who must report any problems promptly to the official veterinarian.
- 6.5. Any health problems affecting the horses that occur during the isolation period or breaches in isolation must be reported to the official veterinarian overseeing the shipment, and to the Imports Standards Group Manager, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

7. Operation

- 7.1. The facility must have been emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to the commencement of each PEI.
- 7.2. The PEI period will start from the time of entry into the facility of the last horse in the consignment.
- 7.3. During the PEI, the facility must be occupied only by horses of the same export consignment, or of an equivalent health status.
- 7.4. All equipment used in the feeding, handling and treatment of the horses in PEI must be new or cleaned and disinfected prior to the commencement of the PEI.
- 7.5. Personnel attending the horses must wear outer clothing and footwear used exclusively in the facility.
- 7.6. A detailed health record must be kept for each horse on the premises during the PEI period and it must be available to the supervising official veterinarian.
- 7.7. Bedding used must be visually clean and free of evidence of contamination with ticks eg sterilised peat, soft board, shredded paper or other inert material. Straw and hay must not be used.
- 7.8. The stock food must be visually free from evidence of ticks.

7.9. The horses must be treated with an acaricide prior to entering the stables and once in the stables be given a thorough inspection for ticks. If ticks are found on a horse, all the horses in the consignment must be retreated until they can be certified as free from evidence of ticks.

8. Transport

8.1. Vehicles for transport of horses from the premises to the port of embarkation must be cleaned and disinfected to the satisfaction of the official veterinarian prior to loading.

Supplementary Notes

Premises – area surrounding and including the facility.

Facility – stables and associated yard.

Disinfectant – should be of a virucidal and bactericidal nature and should be approved for use by the Government Veterinary Authority.