REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS ON
DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR HORSES FROM AUSTRALIA

Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Wellington
New Zealand

23 December 2008
Animal Imports/Exports Standards Group
Biosecurity New Zealand

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS ON:

DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR HORSES FROM AUSTRALIA

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Approved for general release

Matthew Stone
Animal Imports/Exports Group Manager
Biosecurity New Zealand
INTRODUCTION

The draft import health standard for horses from Australia was notified for public consultation on 21 November 2008 in the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) publication, Biosecurity Act 1993, Section 22.

MAFBNZ received the following submissions:

Louise Pellow, New Zealand
Phillip Bell, for the Department of Conservation, New Zealand
Greg Northcott, for the New Zealand Equine Health Association
Graeme Hansen for the New Zealand racing industry (including the New Zealand Racing Board, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand).

This document summarises the issues raised in the submissions, and presents the MAFBNZ response to each submission.

Appendix 1 includes copies of submissions received during the consultation period.
SUBMISSIONS

1. Louise Pellow, New Zealand

Ms Pellow expressed her satisfaction and agreed to the draft conditions, looking forward for trans-Tasman movements of horses to resume without restrictions between Australia and New Zealand.

*MAFBNZ acknowledges Ms Pellow’s comment and notes her agreement to the draft import conditions of horses from Australia.*

2. Phillip Bell, for the New Zealand Department of Conservation (DOC)

DOC had “no concerns over the reissuing of the IHS for horses from Australia, so long as Australia is proven to be free of EI in accordance with the OIE terrestrial animal health code.”

DOC also wanted to know that the current conditions would stay if Australia did not show freedom from Equine Influenza.

*MAFBNZ acknowledges the DOC comment. MAFBNZ has received information from the Australian Government that satisfies MAFBNZ that Australia has met the surveillance requirements of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Code for freedom from Equine Influenza. The 25th of December marks the one year anniversary of the last case of EI in Australia. The IHS will be issued as final post receiving formal notification from Australia with regards to the requirements of the Terrestrial Code that 'no clinical case of the disease has been reported for at least one year'.

The current measures, including vaccination, testing and pre and post arrival quarantine would have remained in place if Australia was unable to show freedom from Equine Influenza.*

3. Greg Northcott, for the New Zealand Equine Health Association (NZEHA)

NZEHA “felt comfortable with the format of the IHS as long as MAFBNZ is satisfied with the Australians response to MAFBNZ queries on their EI free status”.

NZEHA also emphasised the importance to resume trans-Tasman movements of horses without quarantine restrictions as soon as possible to help industry “to maximise the success of the summer racing carnival”.

*MAFBNZ notes NZEHA comments and assures that MAFBNZ is satisfied with the information Australia provided with regards to their freedom from Equine Influenza. Considerable efforts have been, and continue to be put into restoring trans-Tasman movements of horses under conditions that would facilitate participation in competitions and racing.*
4. Graeme Hansen, for the New Zealand racing industry (comprising the New Zealand Racing Board, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, Harness Racing New Zealand).

The New Zealand racing industry “is supportive of the new Import Health Standards as set out in the Draft Import Health Standard dated November 2008.”

The racing industry submission is particularly concerned with the issue date of the import health standard given the “several key race meetings early in the New Year for which trans-Tasman participation is critical to their success….. The success of these meetings would be greatly assisted if unobstructed travel between Australia and New Zealand was reinstated to enable Australian horses to travel to New Zealand for these events.”

The industry also noted the potential impact [of quarantine restrictions] on breeding patterns and the domicility of foals.

MAFBNZ notes the racing industry’s comments and assures that considerable efforts have been, and continue to be put into restoring trans-Tasman movements of horses.
APPENDIX 1

Copies of submissions

1. Louise Pellow, New Zealand

From: Louise [mailto:louarn@xtra.co.nz]
Sent: Saturday, 22 November 2008 9:20 a.m.
To: Plant Imports
Subject: [Requires Classification] horse importation

To Alice Ormond
MAF Biosecurity
Hi there,
I am extremely happy that at last we may be able to bring our horses home from Australia. I have read your Notification of Consultation and am very agreeable the draft. Hopefully all goes well and the business of horse transportation between Australia and New Zealand can resume.

Yours Sincerely

Louise Pellow

2. Phillip Bell, Department of Conservation, New Zealand

From: Phillip Bell [mailto:pbell@doc.govt.nz]
Sent: Tuesday, 9 December 2008 10:40 a.m.
To: Alice Ormond
Cc: Carol West
Subject: [Requires Classification] Draft import health standard for the importation into New Zealand of horses from Australia.

Hi Alice,

I just wanted to say that the Department of Conservation has no concerns over the reissuing of the IHS for horses from Australia, so long as Australia is proven to be free of EI in accordance with the OIE terrestrial animal health code. If in the unlikely event that Australia does not show EI freedom, I assume the existing IHS will continue to stand with the conditions for EI controls/practises in place?

Thanks,

Phil Bell

Senior Technical Support Officer (Biosecurity)
Threats Management
Research and Development Group
Department of Conservation
Wellington
3. Greg Northcott, New Zealand Equine Health Association (NZEHA)
Mathew Stone  
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington

Dear Mathew

Re. New Import Health Standard for horses from Australia

Thanks for your time on Wednesday at our meeting. It was very much appreciated to see Rachelle, Aurelie and yourself, being available to discuss the new proposed Import Health Standard and other issues.

I can advise that after discussing the new IHS with the NZEHA, we feel comfortable with its format should MAFBNZ be satisfied with the Australians response to your queries on their E1 free status.

Since the release of the draft, we have fielded a number of requests with regard to timing of the anticipated introduction of the new IHS. We note that the new requirements will be in place by Monday 26th January 2009, however should MAFBNZ feel there is no more risk of E1 from Australia and believe an earlier timeframe is possible this would certainly help our industry.

We request this to maximise the success of the summer racing carnival (the first race being January 17th), something Government itself has a stake in and also a number of equestrian events taking place in NZ over the summer. The initiative by government and other sponsors has certainly heightened the awareness and excitement around Australasia, in both New Zealand racing and equestrian events and we feel their future success does depend on unobstructed travel between Australia and NZ.

As you will also appreciate there is a large backlog of broodmares and foals that NZ owners are very anxious to bring home from Australia for weaning and have their investments and pets on New Zealand’s fresh green pasture.

We are certainly not looking to compromise the security of our borders however we do feel good process can also include good timing. We look forward to having free trade between the two countries back and should be of any assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards

Greg Northcott  
Chairman
SUBMISSION IN RELATION TO:
DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW
ZEALAND OF HORSES FROM AUSTRALIA
Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Dated: November 2008
1. This is a combined submission from the New Zealand racing industry, comprising of
the:
   • New Zealand Racing Board of 106-110 Jackson Street, Petone;
   • New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing of 106-110 Jackson Street, Petone;
   • Harness Racing New Zealand of 135 Lincoln Road, Christchurch;
2. Please contact Graeme Hansen, Chief Executive, New Zealand Racing Board should
there be any further information required on 04 576 6999 or 021 576 690 or by
email graeme.hansen@nzracingboard.co.nz.
The New Zealand Racing Board is supportive of the new Import Health Standards (IHS)
We note the anticipated implementation for these standards has been flagged as 26
January 2009. However, we strongly urge that MAF Biosecurity New Zealand re-
consider this date and bring it forward, if at all possible. This is because there are
several key race meetings early in the New Year for which trans-Tasman participation is
critical to their success. These key events start with the $1 million Telegraph Handicap
scheduled to take place in Wellington on 17 January.
The success of these meetings would be greatly assisted if unobstructed travel between
Australia and New Zealand was reinstated to enable Australian horses to travel to New
Zealand for these events. Current restrictions on travel make it impractical for Australian
owners to bring their horses to New Zealand to race. In particular, the training regimes
are interrupted by the quarantine requirements.
The potential impact on breeding patterns and the domicility of foals (with consequential
impacts on the New Zealand stud register) is also an important issue. There is already a
large backlog of New Zealand broodmares and foals in Australia that New Zealand
owners are anxious to bring home for weaning.
We respect the need to be sure of Australia’s equine influenza free status before lifting
any quarantine restrictions. However, it is now almost a full year since the last case was
reported in that country and we acknowledge the work that has been done on both sides
of the Tasman in the meantime.
In making this request, we would like to reiterate that our key preference is to ensure the security of our borders and we would not wish to compromise this at any stage. We will work with MAF Biosecurity wherever appropriate to maintain the highest protocols at our borders.

Graeme Hansen
Chief Executive
New Zealand Racing Board
Date: 19 December 2008