

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR ZOO LIZARDS FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 22 October 2010

USER GUIDE

The information in this import health standard is in five parts:

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION describes the legal basis for this import health standard and the general responsibilities of the importer.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE outlines whether a permit is required, the conditions of eligibility, and documentation that may need to accompany the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE describes the clearance requirements at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, whether the consignment must go to a transitional facility or containment facility.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed fully and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

Part E. APPENDIX contains the list of species of zoo lizards deemed by the Environmental Risk Management Authority as present in New Zealand.

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 zoo lizards from Australia.
- 1.2 To obtain biosecurity clearance the consignment must meet the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 Obtaining biosecurity authority for entry of lizards into New Zealand is dependent on containment approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority for that particular species of zoo lizards and the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 It is the importers responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant import health standard at the time of importation. Current versions of import health standards are available on the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>

A register of import health standards is also publicly available for inspection at the office of the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.

- 2.2 The costs to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand in performing functions relating to the importation of zoo lizards must be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity authority must be covered by the importer or agent
- 2.3 The importer must make all arrangements for transport of the zoo lizards to and within New Zealand. If the planned route is not directly from Australia to the port of entry into New Zealand, the importer must obtain the necessary transit authorities from any third countries on the transport route. The proposed routes and means of travel both to New Zealand and within New Zealand must be advised to and approved by the Animal Imports & Exports Group Manager. The vehicles and crates used for transport within New Zealand may be subject to inspection by a New Zealand Official Veterinarian, who may seal the container in which the zoo lizards are transported to the containment facility.
- 2.4 If the species of zoo lizard is not listed in Appendix A, it is the importer's responsibility to obtain approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority (www.ermanz.govt.nz) before importation will be permitted.

[Note: only species covered by an import risk analysis may be added to Appendix A. Risk analyses can be found on our website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports/ihs/risk>]

- 2.5 Where required, the consignment must be accompanied by a permit to export by the legislation of the country of origin and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): <http://www.cites.org> . The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of animal in relation to international agreements on their trade, prior to export. Material arriving in New Zealand without a permit to export may be subject to seizure by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

3 EQUIVALENCE

- 3.1 The import health standard has been agreed as suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the consignment will meet the conditions in every respect.
- 3.2 Occasionally it may be found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the specific requirements in this import health standard, but may meet the outcomes sought. In such cases, a permit to import application may be made, equivalence granted and import permit issued at the discretion of MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. The following information must be forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority for an equivalence to be considered:

- which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status;
- the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believes this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Animal Imports & Exports Group Manager

The Animal Imports/Exports Group Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the delegated power and functions of the Animal Imports & Exports Group Manager

AQIS

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Biosecurity authority

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act (1993), to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Certifying Official

A person authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to sign international veterinary certificates.

Inspector BA

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993). (Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and controls imposed under HSNO).

MAFBNZ

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

Official Veterinarian

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 *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

OIE *Terrestrial Code*

The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Permit to import (Import Permit)

A written order issued by the Director-General of MAF authorising the importation of risk goods to a specified facility.

Zoo

A containment facility approved to the zoo containment standard where live zoo animals are kept for the purposes of public exhibition, conservation, research or education. Note: A zoo includes for example, a circus, butterfly house, aquarium or an oceanarium. A zoo may also hold indigenous animals that are not new organisms but these animals are not covered by this Standard.

Zoo animal

A new organism approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996 (HSNO) to be held in a zoo. The organism is both a new organism under the HSNO Act and a restricted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Zoosanitary certificate

A veterinary health certificate issued by the exporting country in accordance with the OIE.

PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**5 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

- 5.1 A permit to import is required for the importation of all lizards into New Zealand.
- 5.2 An application form to apply for a permit to import can be obtained from our website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-live-animals-into-trans-facility>
- 5.3 Application for a permit to import must be made in writing at least 30 days before the proposed date of importation:

Animal Imports
Border Standards
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526
Wellington
New Zealand.
Email animalimports@maf.govt.nz

- 5.4 The importer must supply the following information:
- 5.4.1 name and address of exporter;
- 5.4.2 number, sex, age, species and microchip transponder identification of the animal;
- 5.4.3 date of the proposed importation;
- 5.4.4 name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand, to which the consignment is to proceed following importation;

5.4.5 a letter from the New Zealand Official Veterinarian supervising the transitional facility indicating that the facility is available for this consignment.

5.4.6 port of arrival and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.

5.5 The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment.

6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

6.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by:

6.1.1 the permit to import;

6.1.2 all appropriately completed health certification that meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION;

6.1.3 laboratory test results, or certified copies of results, for those tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate must be attached to the certification.

6.2 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 authority or rejection of the consignment.

[Note: Any requirement for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) or other conservation related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer and is independent of this certification.]

6.3 All documentation must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 72 hours in advance of importation. Email: liveanimalsector@nzfsa.govt.nz

6.4 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 certificate.

7 ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

7.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to lizards of the species specified in appendix A, which have been:

7.1.1 resident in a government approved zoological collection in Australia for at least twelve months prior to importation

OR

7.1.2 have been born in captivity in a government approved zoological collection in Australia and remained there for their entire lives prior to importation.

7.2 The lizards must be permanently identified by microchip transponder.

- 7.3 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.

8 PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION

- 8.1 The lizards must be held in pre-export quarantine for at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export to New Zealand. The pre-export premises must be approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.
- 8.2 The animals must be isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status, and must remain free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during pre-export quarantine.

9 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 9.1 Date, expected time, port 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 7 days in advance of importation. Email: liveanimalsector@nzfsa.govt.nz
- 9.2 Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard (refer to: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>)

PART C: CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

10 BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY

- 10.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand an Official Veterinarian must thoroughly inspect the zoo lizards and the documentation accompanying them. The zoo lizards must be found to be visibly free of clinical signs of disease and be free from both ectoparasites and soil contamination.
- 10.2 A biosecurity authority may be given by an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 authorising the zoo lizards to move into permanent containment at the zoological park 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.

11 CONTAINMENT FACILITY

The zoo lizards and any offspring must remain permanently in a registered zoo, approved to MAF Standard 154.03.04 *Containment Facilities for Zoo Animals* and may not be transferred to another zoo without the prior permission of the Animal Imports & Exports Group Manager.

PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAFBNZ to accompany imports of zoo lizards into New Zealand from Australia:

MODEL ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATE

Species of lizard:
 (insert one of the species listed in appendix A)

To: NEW ZEALAND

Permit to Import Number:.....

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA
 Competent Authority: Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Identification				
Microchip identification number	Site of microchip	Other identification (eg ARKS number)	Sex	Date of birth

Total number of lizards in the consignment:

II: ORIGIN OF ANIMALS

Name and address of exporter:

Premises of origin of lizards:

Port of embarkation:

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

Name and address of consignee:.....

Flight number or ship's name:

Port of arrival:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I, Official Veterinarian authorised by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, certify after due enquiry, with respect to the zoo lizards identified in this zoosanitary certificate, that:

1. Animals

1.1 Each animal is of the species:
(insert one of the species listed in appendix A)

1.2 Each animal:

1.2.1 was resident in a government approved zoological collection in Australia for at least twelve months prior to importation

OR

1.2.2 was born in captivity in a government approved zoological collection in Australia and remained there for its entire life prior to importation.

(Delete as appropriate)

1.3 The zoo lizards and the premises of origin were free from quarantine restrictions for at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export.

2. Premises

2.1 All animals of the species to be exported were resident in the premises:

2.1.1 for at least 90 days prior to the start of the pre-export isolation period;

OR

2.1.2 since birth/hatching.

(Delete as appropriate)

2.2 The premises of origin was under veterinary supervision and the health of the animals was monitored so that incidents of disease and death were identified promptly.

2.3 Within the last 12 months adenoviruses were excluded as the cause of illness or death affecting any animals of the genus to be exported on the basis of either specific laboratory diagnostic procedures, clinical or pathological grounds or on the basis of the diagnosis of an alternative cause of disease.

3. Pre-export isolation (PEI)

- 3.1 For at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export to New Zealand the zoo lizards were kept in PEI facility approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.
- 3.2 During the PEI period the zoo lizards and all in contact animals were free from clinical signs of disease.
- 3.3 During the PEI period, the PEI facility was maintained free from evidence of insects for the entire period, excluding insects introduced specifically for feeding purposes.

4. Tests and Treatments

4.1 Gastro-intestinal nematodes

- 4.1.1 Within 48 hours of entering PEI, the animals were subjected to an anthelmintic treatment regime recognised amongst herpetologists and veterinarians experienced in herpetological medicine as effective for the removal of gastro-intestinal nematodes from lizards;

name of anthelmintic(s):

active ingredients:

dose rate(s):

date(s) of treatment:

- 4.1.2 During treatment, the PEI facility was cleaned thoroughly at least twice a week, for a minimum of two weeks, and during cleaning all bedding material and other potential parasite habitats were replaced.

4.2 Blood-borne protozoa

- 4.2.1 At least 30 days after the start of the PEI period and after a hibernation period (if applicable), the animals were tested for *Plasmodium spp.* and other Haemosporidia on two separate occasions, at least 14 days apart, using air-dried, alcohol-fixed, Geisma stained smears of peripheral blood from each animal to be exported with at least 10,000 erythrocytes examined per animal, with negative results.

4.3 Entamoeba invadens

- 4.3.1 Animals intended for export must have come from establishments that have no known history of *E. invadens* infection. The health of the animals have been monitored so that incidents of disease and death were identified promptly and *E. invadens* excluded as the cause of gastrointestinal disease in lizards, snakes, or testudines during the preceding 12 months.

OR

- 4.3.2 Any reptiles in contact with the animals intended for export within the preceding 12 months, have tested negative to *E. invadens* by examination of faecal samples or cloacal washings for *E. invadens* cysts.

[Note: reptile species in contact with the animals intended for export includes turtles and lizards that are cared for by the same staff, have utensils cleaned in shared facilities or are in enclosures with contact through drainage]

AND

- 4.3.3 It was confirmed that the animal itself is free from *E. invadens* by the repeat examination of faecal samples or cloacal washings on two separate occasions for cysts of *E. invadens* with negative results at least 14 days apart.

(Delete as appropriate)

4.4 Ectoparasites (ticks and mites)

- 4.4.1 During PEI the animals were subjected to a treatment regime recognised amongst herpetologists and veterinarians experienced in herpetological medicine as effective for the removal of ectoparasites from lizards.

name of anthelmintic(s):

active ingredients:

dose rate(s):

date(s) of treatment:

- 4.4.2 During treatment, the PEI facility was cleaned thoroughly at least twice a week, for a minimum of two weeks, and during cleaning all bedding material and other potential parasite habitats were replaced.

- 4.4.3 Effectiveness of ectoparasite removal was confirmed by:

- i. For lizards other than varanids:
two inspections (including the examination of skin folds and the cloaca of each animal), at least 14 days apart, with the first of those two inspections being at least 14 days after completion of the treatment regime, with negative results for ticks and mites.
- ii. For varanids:
two inspections, at least 14 days apart, with the first of those two inspections being at least 14 days after completion of the treatment regime, with negative results for ticks.

- 4.4.4 Treatment and inspection were repeated until the effectiveness of ectoparasite removal was confirmed by two successive inspections, the first at least 14 days after completion of the last period of treatment and the second at least 14 days after that, with negative results.
- 4.5 All laboratory tests were conducted at a laboratory approved by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and all results accompany this certification.

5. Transport to New Zealand:

- 5.1 The crates or pens to be used for transporting the animals to New Zealand are either new or if previously used were cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant approved by the competent authority in the exporting country.
- 5.2 If shipped by air, the animals were shipped in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations.
- 5.3 The crates or pens were sealed by an Official Veterinarian using seals bearing the unique mark or identification number:
- 5.4 Only sterile peat, soft board, treated wood shavings, shredded paper or other inert approved products was loaded for use as bedding during transportation.
- 5.5 The vehicles in which the animals will be transported from the pre-export isolation premises to the port of departure were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading using a disinfectant approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.
- 5.6 During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand the animals were kept isolated from animals that were not of equivalent health status.
- 5.7 During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand, all feed provided is free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds.
- 5.8 During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand the animal were protected against insect attack.
- 5.9 No other animals are being transported in the aircraft or ship except animals officially certified by an Official Veterinarian for export from Australia to New Zealand.
- 5.10 For animals transported by air, the cargo space of the aircraft where the animals are to be transported was sprayed with an approved insecticidal spray prior to departure.

PART E: APPENDIX A

**SPECIES OF ZOO LIZARDS ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION INTO
CONTAINMENT IN NEW ZEALAND:**

TAXONOMIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Brachylophus vitiensis</i>	Fijian Crested Iguana
<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Common Iguana
<i>Phelsuma madagascariensis</i>	Madagascar Day Gecko
<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i> (syn. <i>Pseudopus apodus</i>)	Scheltopusik
<i>Trachydosaurus rugosus</i>	Shingleback
<i>Varanus varius</i>	Lace Monitor