

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ZOO FELIDAE INTO NEW ZEALAND

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 17 July 2006

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.

Part E. APPENDICES

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 of zoo felidae into New Zealand from all countries.
- 1.2 Approval for the importation of each consignment of zoo felidae into New Zealand is dependent on containment approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) for that particular species of felidae and 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 zoo felidae 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 or clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent.
- 2.3 The importer must make all arrangements for transport of the zoo felidae to and within New Zealand. If the planned route is not directly from the country of origin 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 Biosecurity Standards 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 felidae are transported to the transitional facility.
- 2.4 The importer must give the New Zealand Official Veterinarian, MAF Quarantine Section at the port of arrival, at least 7 days notice of the expected time of arrival and flight number (if arriving by air) or name of shipping vessel.
- 2.5 If a species of felidae that is not held in a zoo within New Zealand is to be imported, the importer is responsible for obtaining approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority before importation will be permitted.

3 EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the zoo felidae will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply completely with this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence may be considered and may be issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority:

- 3.1 which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 3.2 the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status and/or what proposal is made to return the consignment to an equivalent health status as set out in this standard; and
- 3.3 the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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*.

Zoo Felidae

Any member of the Order Carnivora, Family Felidae, other than the domestic cat (*Felis catus*)

PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 5.1 A permit to import is required for the importation of zoo felidae into New Zealand. Application must be made in writing, at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation. Applications should be made to: Animal Imports, Pre Clearance Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P O Box 2526, Wellington.
- 5.2 The importer must supply the following information:
 - 5.2.1 name and address of exporter;
 - 5.2.2 number, sex, age and species of zoo felidae;
 - 5.2.3 date of the proposed importation;
 - 5.2.4 name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand, to which the consignment is to proceed following importation;

- 5.2.5 a letter from the New Zealand Official Veterinarian supervising post-arrival quarantine indicating that the facility is available for this consignment; and
- 5.2.6 port of arrival and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.
- 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 zoo felidae may be imported into New Zealand.

6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 6.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by the permit to import and all appropriately completed health certification that meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION. The required documentation is:
 - 6.1.1 Zoosanitary Certificate with attached copies of laboratory test results; and
 - 6.1.2 Permit to Import.
- 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 direction, or rejection of consignments.

[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.]

7 ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

- 7.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to members of the Family Felidae, excluding the domestic cat (*Felis catus*).
- 7.2 The zoo felidae must:
 - 7.2.1 have been continuously resident in a government registered/ licensed zoo or wildlife park since birth or for the 12 months prior to the scheduled date of export.
 - 7.2.2 be more than 9 months old at departure, weaned, healthy and fit to travel.
 - 7.2.3 not be in the last third of pregnancy at the scheduled date of date of export.
 - 7.2.4 be permanently identified by microchip transponder.
- 7.3 The felidae and the premises of origin, must have been free of quarantine restrictions for the 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export.
- 7.4 The premises of origin must be under veterinary supervision, where the health of the animal(s) is monitored so that incursions of disease are identified, and control and/or

eradication measures can be applied. A health monitoring program should include microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies.

- 7.5 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 (PEI)

- 8.1 The animals must be held for at least 30 days immediately prior to export to New Zealand in PEI premises. The PEI premises must be approved and supervised by a government approved veterinarian or 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 PEI.

9 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 9.1 Date, expected time of arrival and the flight number or ships name must be notified to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 7 days in advance of importation.
- 9.2 Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard (refer to www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/forests/index.htm)

PART C: CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

10 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 10.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, an Official Veterinarian must inspect the zoo felidae and the documentation accompanying them.
- 10.2 Providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, may give a biosecurity direction authorising the zoo felidae to be moved to the transitional facility named in the permit to import.

11 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

- 11.1 The zoo felidae must remain in the transitional facility for at least 7 days, or for a longer period if required by the Supervisor of the transitional facility.
- 11.2 During the post-arrival quarantine period, the zoo felidae may be subjected to any further testing, treatments or procedures as required by the Supervisor.
- 11.3 On satisfactory completion of the post-arrival quarantine period, and on the written confirmation from the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager, the Supervisor shall

authorise the movement of the felidae from the transitional facility to a containment facility for zoo animals.

- 11.4 The felidae and any offspring must remain permanently in a registered zoo, and may not be transferred to another zoo without the prior permission of a Biosecurity Inspector.
- 11.5 All other requirements of the MAF Standard for Low Security Farm Animal Transitional Facilities must be complied with. This document can be obtained at: www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-02-13.htm

PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

11 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of zoo felidae into New Zealand:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I a Registered Veterinarian from the zoo of origin, certify after due enquiry in regards to the felidae identified in this certificate that:

1 Animals

- 1.1 each felid is a member of the Family Felidae
- 1.2 each felid has been continuously resident in a government registered/ licensed zoo or wildlife park since birth or for at least the 12 months prior to the scheduled date of export.
- 1.3 each felid will be more than 9 months old at the date of export
- 1.4 no female felid is in the last third of pregnancy
- 1.5 the felidae and the premises of origin, have been free of quarantine restrictions for at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export.

2 Premises of Origin

- 2.1 The premises of origin has remained free of:
 - 2.1.1 bovine tuberculosis for the past 5 years,
 - 2.1.2 glanders for the 12 months prior to certification
 - 2.1.3 diagnosed cases of canine distemper in felids for the 12 months prior to certification
 - 2.1.4 diagnosed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in felids for the 3 months prior to certification.

3 Pre-export isolation (PEI)

- 3.1 The felidae were held for at least 30 days immediately prior to export to New Zealand in PEI premises approved and supervised by a government approved veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian .
- 3.2 The felidae were isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status, and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during PEI.
- 3.3 During the pre-export isolation period, the felid was not fed any meat or offal which has originated from premises where anthrax has been reported in the last 20 days.

4 Rabies

4.1 The felidae were born and have been continuously resident in a rabies free country as defined by the OIE International Animal Health Code,

Or

4.2 Each felid was vaccinated against rabies with an officially approved inactivated virus vaccine in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions:

Either

4.2.1 in the case of a primary vaccination, not less than 6 months and not more than one year prior to the scheduled date of shipment, when the animal was at least 3 months old;

Date of vaccination:

Or

4.2.2 in the case of a booster vaccination, not more than one year prior to the scheduled date of shipment;

Date of vaccination:

(Delete whichever is not applicable)

4.3 Each felid was identified with an implanted microchip transponder, at least six months prior to export and before the most recent rabies vaccination.

5 Tests and Treatments

5.1 During the pre-export isolation period, each felid was subjected to a neutralising antibody titration test for rabies conducted at an official laboratory in accordance with one of the methods described in the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines, and found to have at least 0.5 IU/ml of antibody in its serum. A copy of the laboratory report is attached.

Date of sampling:

5.2 Within 30 days of the scheduled date of shipment, the animal was subject to two faecal examinations, at least 14 days apart, using a sensitive flotation procedure (able to detect 50 eggs per gram) which was negative for hookworm eggs;

Date of faecal collection for first test;

Date of faecal collection for second test:

5.3 Within 21 days **AND** within 4 days of the scheduled date of shipment the animal was treated with a broad spectrum anthelmintic(s) effective against nematodes, cestodes and trematodes, at the manufacturers recommended dose rate;

Date of first treatment:

Active ingredient(s) and dosage used:

Date of second treatment:
Active ingredient(s) and dosage used:

5.4 Within 4 days of the scheduled date of shipment, the animal was treated with an ectoparasiticide dip, spray or topical preparation capable of killing ticks, lice and fleas;

Date of treatment:.....

Active ingredient(s):

5.5 During the pre-export isolation period, thick and thin blood smears from the felid were examined microscopically for haemoparasites, and were found to be negative.

5.6 During the pre-export isolation period the felid has been tested and treated for heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) according to the following schedule:

a blood sample was collected from the felid and tested negative to the following tests:

5.6.1 a microfilariae concentration test

Date of test:

And

5.6.2 an antigen test

Date of test:

5.7 During the pre-export period the faeces of the felid was examined for the presence of coccidial oocysts, and if found to positive, the felid was subsequently treated with a effective product for the treatment of coccidial infections according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

5.8 Within 24 hours of export to New Zealand the felid was treated with one dose of ivermectin at a dose rate of 50 mcg/kg.

5.9 Within 48 hours of export, I examined the felid for export to New Zealand and found it to be free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases and free from external parasites.

5.10 All laboratory tests were conducted at a Government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Government Veterinary Service of this country.

.....
Registered Veterinarian

.....
Date of Signature

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE - B

I an Official Veterinarian at the port of export of the felid identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, certify that:

- 1. At the time of export the felid was inspected and found to be healthy and fit to travel, and free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
- 2. The country of origin of the felid is/is not (delete one) free of rabies as defined by Article 3.1.5.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code.
- 3. The veterinarian certifying Veterinary Certificate A is a registered veterinarian in the exporting country.
- 4. All the required documents were examined and found to be correctly completed in accordance with the New Zealand import health standard requirements.
- 5. The felid was placed in a container that met IATA standards, and the container was fastened with an official seal bearing the number or mark:

.....

.....
Official Veterinarian Official stamp and date

Name and address of office:
.....
.....

NB: Official stamp must be applied to all pages

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