

# **IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR CERVINE EMBRYOS FROM GREAT BRITAIN**

**Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993**

**Dated: March 2009**

## **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 Great Britain.

1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of cervine embryos imported into New Zealand from Great Britain 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 It is the importers or agents 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 online at:<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihsearch>
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.
- 2.4 The Biosecurity (Imported Animals, Embryo and Semen Information) Regulations 1999 places 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. The obligations include:
- 2.4.1 Records of storage, dispatch, distribution and disposal of imported animal genetic material must be kept for 7 years and be made available for inspection by MAF
- 2.4.2 The identification of recipient animals for imported animal genetic material must be recorded by the technician
- 2.4.3 The owner or persons in charge of a specified animal originating from an imported embryo must keep, for 7 years, records that include the following:
- i. the date that the animal was born, together with its sex
  - ii. the animal's on-farm identification
  - iii. any change of ownership of the animal, and the name and address of the previous owners
  - iv. the date that the animal dies, other than at a slaughter facility
  - v. the date that the animal is consigned to slaughter
- 2.4.4 Records must be available for inspection within 48 hours of a request being made by the Director General or by an inspector or authorised person appointed under section 103 (1) (a) of the Act.

A document explaining these requirements in full can be obtained from: Import Management, Animal Biosecurity, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P O Box 2526, WELLINGTON

- 2.5 Please note that this import health standard does not include testing and treatment requirements for diseases that are endemic in New Zealand. This is a quality issue and, if necessary, testing and treatments additional to what is specified in this import health standard should be part of the purchase agreement for the animals concerned.

### **3 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

#### **Biosecurity clearance**

means a clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction.)

#### **MAFBNZ**

means the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand.

#### **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 the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996.)

#### **Official Veterinarian**

means a veterinarian authorized 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, where appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the Section 5.2 of the *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

### **4 EQUIVALENCE**

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.

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

- 4.1 which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 4.2 the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status;

- 4.3 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.

## **PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**

### **5 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

- 5.1 Importations of cervine embryos into New Zealand from Great Britain which meet the requirements of this import health standard may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act, be given biosecurity clearance and do not require a biosecurity direction to a transitional facility. As such, they do not require a permit to import.
- 5.2 Importations that claim equivalence with the requirements must obtain a permit to import prior to departure from Great Britain.

### **6 ELIGIBILITY**

- 6.1 Embryos, and the semen used to fertilise the embryos (in the case of artificial insemination), must have been collected outside of the following time periods:

1 January 2001 to 1 January 2002  
and  
1 June 2007 to 1 February 2008

- 6.2 The donor animals must have been born in Great Britain or, if imported, be clear of any quarantine restrictions and have been resident in Great Britain for at least 6 months prior to the date of embryo collection.
- 6.3 The donor animals must have been born after the date (1 August 1996) from which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants has been effectively enforced.
- 6.4 There must not have been any introduction of genetic material from North America, in the form of live deer or cervine germplasm, onto the farm of origin of the donor animals since 1998.
- 6.5 Only frozen in-vivo cervine embryos are eligible for importation under this import health standard.
- 6.6 The semen used to fertilise the embryos must be:
- Either** 6.6.1 semen from a donor male of equivalent isolation/tested health status as the donor female;
- Or** 6.6.2 semen collected and certified as eligible for export to New Zealand from Great Britain.

- 6.7 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).
- 6.8 The identification of donor animal(s) and the date(s) of collection must be shown on the veterinary certificate accompanying the embryos.
- 6.9 All straws must be permanently marked with identification of the donor animal/s and the date(s) of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

## **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.
- 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.
- 7.3 Where reliance for import is based on equivalence a permit must have been issued before departure from Great Britain.

## **8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND**

- 8.1 The cervine embryos must be transported in transport containers that have been sealed with an official seal of the government veterinary authority of the exporting country. The number of the seal must be recorded in the Veterinary Certification accompanying the consignment.

## **PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE**

### **9 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE**

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.

## **PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

### **10. NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION**

10.1 The following documents are recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION, and are approved to accompany imports of cervine embryos into New Zealand from Great Britain when appropriately completed by a representative of the exporting country's competent authority:

**MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

Commodity: CERVINE EMBRYOS

To: NEW ZEALAND

Exporting Country: GREAT BRITAIN

Ministry/Department: .....

Service: .....

Region:.....

**I: IDENTIFICATION OF DONOR ANIMALS (MALES AND FEMALES)**

Identification:.....

Species: .....

Breed:.....

Name and address of semen/embryo collection centres: .....

**II: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CERVINE EMBRYOS**

Identification of straws/packages (markings to be indelible): .....

Date(s) of collection:.....

Number of straws/packages (include number of in-vivo embryos per straw):.....

Name and address of exporter: .....

**III: DESTINATION OF THE CERVINE EMBRYOS**

Name and address of importer: .....

.....

## IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

### VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I, ....., being the *Official Veterinarian* supervising collection of cervine embryos for export to New Zealand certify with respect to the donor animals and embryos identified in the Zoosanitary Certificate that:

#### 1 Donor Animals

- 1.1 After due enquiry and examination of any relevant records I am satisfied that the deer were either born in Great Britain or imported into Great Britain and were free from all quarantine restrictions during the 6 months immediately prior to semen/embryo collection.
- 1.2 Donor males were of equivalent isolation and tested health status as donor females at the time of semen collection or natural mating, or the semen used to fertilise the embryos met the requirements for export to New Zealand. Semen collection, artificial insemination and/or natural matings were conducted under veterinary supervision ensuring the embryos are accurately certified regarding identity of donors.
- 1.3 The donor animals were born after the date (1 August 1996) from which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants has been effectively enforced.

#### 2 Establishment of Origin

- 2.1 The donor animals originate from a herd where no clinical, microbiological or serological evidence of infectious rhinotracheitis/cervine herpes virus-1 has occurred for the 12 months prior to the entry of the donor animals into pre-collection isolation.

- 2.2 The donor animals:

**Either:** 2.2.1 originate from a herd of origin that has been officially free from infection with bovine tuberculosis under the Rules of the Defra Deer Health Scheme for the 12 months prior to the entry of the donor animals into pre-collection isolation;

**Or:** 2.2.2 originate from a herd where no clinical, microbiological, pathological or other evidence of bovine tuberculosis has occurred for 12 months prior to the entry of the donor animals into pre-collection isolation; **And** within 6 months prior to the donor animals and teasers entering into pre-collection isolation, all cervine animals, over 6 months of age, in the herd of origin were subjected to a comparative intradermal test for bovine tuberculosis using Weybridge 0.5 mg/ml avian PPD tuberculin and 1.0 mg/ml bovine PPD tuberculin, applied at the cervical site, and they passed the test according to the Defra's standard interpretation for deer when read at 72

hours. If reactors were found, then subsequent investigations showed that the herd was free of *Mycobacterium bovis*.

Date of test: .....

- 2.3 There has not been any introduction of genetic material from North America, in the form of live deer or cervine germplasm, onto the farm of origin since 1998.

### **3 Embryo Collection Centre**

- 3.1 The donor animals have been held in the embryo collection centre for a continuous period of at least 30 days before the date of collection, and during this time they remained isolated from all other animals not of an equivalent health status.

- 3.2 Embryos, and the semen used to fertilise embryos (in the case of artificial insemination), were not collected during the following time periods:

1 January 2001 to 1 January 2002

or

1 June 2007 to 1 February 2008

- 3.3 The embryos were collected, processed, packaged and stored under the supervision of the officially approved Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian.

- 3.4 The embryos were collected, processed, packaged and stored under the supervision of the Team Veterinarian in accordance with Appendix 3.3.7 of the OIE *Code*. The embryos had an intact zona pellucida free from adherent material and were treated with the enzyme trypsin in accordance with the recommendations of the *International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) Manual*.

- 3.5 On the dates of collection of the embryos, all animals in the embryo collection centre were examined by the Team Veterinarian and were found to be free from any clinical evidence of infectious diseases transmissible in embryos.

### **4 Testing and treatment of donor animals**

- 4.1 For bluetongue virus (BT):

(NB: please indicate which option was followed for BT. The tests that were used and the date of sampling must also be listed)

EITHER at the time of collection Great Britain was free from bluetongue (as defined by the OIE *Code*),

OR The donor animals were kept in a BT virus free zone (as defined by the OIE *Code*) for at least the 100 days immediately prior to, and during, collection of embryos for consignment to New Zealand;

- OR The donor animals were kept during the seasonally free period (as defined by the OIE Code) in a BT virus seasonally free zone (as defined by the OIE Code) for at least the 100 days immediately prior to commencement of, and during, embryo collection for the consignment to New Zealand;
- OR The donor animals were kept in a BT virus infected zone (as defined by the OIE Code), **And** were protected from *Culicoides* attack during the 100 days immediately prior to, and during, collection of the embryos for consignment to New Zealand.
- OR The donor animals were subjected to serological tests to detect antibodies to BT, such as the competitive ELISA or the agar gel immunodiffusion test (AGID), between 28 and 60 days after the last collection for this consignment, with negative results;
- OR The donor animals were subjected to agent identification tests for BT, such as a virus isolation test or a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days (for virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (for PCR test) during, embryo collection for this consignment, with negative results.

Test used: .....

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

(Delete clauses that are not applicable)

4.2 During the pre-collection isolation period, the donor animals were subjected, with negative results, to the following tests:

4.2.1 for Q fever using the complement fixation test (negative is one in which there is no fixation of complement at a 1:10 dilution or higher);

Date sample collected: .....

4.2.2 for louping ill using the specific haemagglutination inhibition test;

Date sample collected: .....

4.2.3 for *Mycobacterium bovis* using a mid cervical intradermal tuberculin test

Date of test:

4.2.3 for *Brucella abortus* using either the CFT or an ELISA.

Date sample collected: .....

4.3 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by the veterinary authority of Great

Britain to conduct export testing, and laboratory result sheets are attached.

- 4.4 All donor animals were treated for leptospirosis, using an intramuscular injection of dihydrostreptomycin at a dose rate of 25 mg/kg live bodyweight or another antibiotic known to be effective for treating the carrier state.

Product and dose rate used: .....

Date of treatment: .....

## 5 Processing, storage and transport of embryos

- 5.1 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the cervine embryos were certified as either sterile preparations or as having been screened for adventitious viruses including tests for cytopathology in appropriate cell cultures, for haemagglutinating and haemadsorbing viruses, and for pestiviruses by immunoperoxidase or immunofluorescence techniques, with negative results in each case.

- 5.2 All biological products have been handled in a manner that ensures their sterility was maintained.

- 5.3 After processing, the cervine embryos were stored in new or previously sterilised transport containers filled with fresh nitrogen.

Method of sterilisation:.....

Date of sterilisation: .....

.....  
Signature of *Official Veterinarian*  
supervising the collection centre

Official stamp and date

Name and address of office: .....

Name and address of collection centre: .....

**N.B. OFFICIAL STAMP MUST BE APPLIED TO ALL PAGES.**

## VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I, ....., an Official Veterinarian employed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) of Great Britain, certify with respect to the donor animals, semen and embryos identified in the Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

### 1 Country/Region Health Status

1.1 No case of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, chronic wasting disease of deer, epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer, rinderpest, vesicular stomatitis or *Brucella melitensis* occurred in Great Britain during the 12 months prior to the collection of the cervine embryos.

1.2 Foot and mouth disease:

EITHER 1.2.1 at the time of collection Great Britain was officially free of foot and mouth disease according to the specifications for country freedom in the OIE Code;

OR 1.2.2 at the time of collection Great Britain was not free from foot and mouth disease according to the specifications for country freedom in the OIE Code. The products described in this certificate have been produced, processed and stored in accordance with Commission Decision(s) promulgated by committee procedures established under Article 89 of Council Directive 2003/85/EC

(Delete as appropriate)

1.3 Chronic wasting disease of deer and bovine spongiform encephalopathy are notifiable diseases in Great Britain.

1.4 Chronic wasting disease of deer and bovine spongiform encephalopathy have never been diagnosed in cervidae in Great Britain.

### 2 Endorsement

2.1 The Team Veterinarian who supervised the collection of cervine embryos for export is approved by Defra.

2.2 The collection centre is officially free from bovine tuberculosis.

2.3 The collection centre has been inspected and approved by the veterinary authority of Great Britain for collection of cervine embryos for export to New Zealand.

2.4 Prior to export, the container in which the cervine embryos are to be transported was locked and sealed by an Official Veterinarian or the Team veterinarian using seals bearing

the marks:

Signature of Defra Official Veterinarian .....  
.....  
..... Date

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

**N.B. Official stamp of the government veterinary authority of the exporting country must be applied to all pages of zoosanitary certification.**