IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF FRESH EMBRYOS FROM ALPACAS AND LLAMAS FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Dated: 23 March 2004

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 alpaca and llama embryos from Australia.

1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of alpaca and llama embryos

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 Director Animal Biosecurity.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of alpaca and llama embryos 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 and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent

2.3 The Biosecurity (Imported Animals, Embryo and Semen Information) Regulations 1999 place 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 Regulations are currently being amended to include alpacas and llamas. Until alpacas and llamas are included in the regulations a permit to import alpacas and llamas will only be given subject to the condition that these regulations apply to alpacas and llamas.

2.4 A copy of the Regulations can be obtained from the website: www.legislation.govt.nz

A document explaining obligations can be obtained from Animal Imports and Exports, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

AGM
Animal genetic material including semen and embryos

AQIS
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Biosecurity clearance
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993

Director Animal Biosecurity
The Director Animal 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 Director Animal Biosecurity

Donor animal
Refers to female animals from which embryos are collected or male animals whose semen was used to fertilise the ova

Equivalence
Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity 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

Herd of origin
The herd in which the donor animal resided prior to entering the embryo collection centre. If the donor animal has been on the embryo collection centre for more than 60 days the embryo collection centre can be deemed to be the herd of origin

IETS *Manual*
Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society (1998)

Inspector
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993

Lamoids
Lamoids is the generic term used in this import health standard for the South American camelids, alpacas and llamas

MAF
The 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*

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 Director Animal Biosecurity 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 must be obtained from Animal Imports and Exports, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington.

5.2 The importer must supply the following information:

- 5.2.1 name and address of exporter
- 5.2.2 name, address and approval/registration number of the embryo collection centre(s)
- 5.2.3 species of donor animals(s)
- 5.2.4 number of embryos to be imported
- 5.2.5 name and address of importer.

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 embryos may be imported into New Zealand.

6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 Only fresh *in-vivo* fertilised alpaca and llama embryos are eligible for importation under this import health standard.

6.2 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.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by the permit to import and all appropriately completed health certification which meets the requirements of PART D, Zoosanitary

Certification. The required documentation is:

7.1.1 Zoosanitary Certificate with attached laboratory test results for those tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate.

7.1.2 Import permit

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.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

8.1 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.

8.2 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, and the consignment released to the importer.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

9 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of fresh alpaca and llama embryos into New Zealand from Australia:

MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: FRESH ALPACA AND LLAMA EMBRYOS
To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number: .....

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA

Competent Authority: .....

I. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DONOR ANIMALS (FEMALES AND MALES)

(For more than one animal, please use a schedule)

	Species	Identification	Date of Birth	Date of natural mating
Donor female				
Donor male				

Name, address and approval/registration number of embryo collection centre(s): .....

.....

Name and address of owner: .....

.....

II. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE EMBRYOS

	Date(s) of collection	Straw identification (markings to be indelible)	No. of straws per donor (include the no. of embryos per straw)
Embryos			

Total number of embryos in consignment: .....

Name and address of exporter: .....

.....

III. DESTINATION OF THE EMBRYOS

Name and address of importer: .....

.....

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I, ..., an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Australian Government certify, after due enquiry, with respect to the donor animals and embryos identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

1 Donor animals and embryo collection centre

1.1 The donors were:

Either 1.1.1 born in and lived continuously in Australia;

Or 1.1.2 were imported and have been resident in Australia during the previous 60 days, and have been in the herd of origin for at least 60 days immediately prior to entering the embryo collection centre.

(Delete as appropriate)

1.2 The donors were moved onto an AQIS approved embryo collection centre within 7 days of being treated for ticks and held there until completion of embryo collection for the consignment. During this time, the donors were isolated from animals not of an equivalent health status.

1.3 The herd(s) of origin of the donor animals and the embryo collection centre were free from any quarantine restrictions from 90 days prior to embryo collection for this consignment.

1.4 The donor males used to fertilise ova (either by natural mating or artificial insemination), were of an equivalent isolation and tested health status to the donor females.

1.5 The embryo collection centre is approved by AQIS to collect embryos for export and is inspected by an Official Veterinarian at least once a year, at a time when embryo collection is being conducted.

Date of last inspection: .....

2 Embryo collection and processing

2.1 On the day(s) of collection of embryos, all female donor animals were examined by the team veterinarian and were free from any clinical evidence of infectious diseases caused by micro-organisms transmissible in embryos.

2.2 The embryos were collected, processed and stored under the supervision of an AQIS approved embryo collection team veterinarian in accordance with the OIE *Code*, Appendix for *in vivo* derived embryos.

2.3 The embryos were collected, washed, processed, identified and stored under conditions which comply with the recommendations in the *Manual of the International Embryo Transfer Society*. Each embryo was examined over its entire surface at not less than 50X magnification and was free of adherent material.

2.4 All biological products of animal origin used in the media and solutions for collection, processing, washing or storage of embryos were free of pathogenic organisms including pestiviruses. Media and solutions were sterilised according to the IETS *Manual* and handled in such a manner as to ensure that sterility was maintained. Antibiotics effective against *Leptospira* and *Mycoplasma spp.* were added to collection, processing, washing and storage media as recommended in the IETS *Manual,* or a combination of antibiotics with equivalent activity was used.

2.5 The names and concentrations of antibiotics used in the embryo preparations included:
.....
.....

2.6 Only fresh *in-vivo* fertilised alpaca and llama embryos are included in this consignment.

3 Testing and treatment of donor animals

3.1 For bluetongue virus (BT) and epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD) virus.

Either 3.1.1 When importing from BT and EHD virus free zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*), the donor animals were kept in a BTV and EHDV free zone for at least 100 days prior to, and during, collection of the embryos;

Or 3.1.2 When importing from BT and EHD virus seasonally free zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*), the donor animals were kept during the seasonally free period in a BT and EHD virus seasonally free zone for at least 100 days prior to commencement of, and during, embryo collection;

Or 3.1.3 When importing from BT and EHD virus infected zones (as defined by the OIE *Code*), the donor animals were protected from *Culicoides* attack for at least 100 days prior to commencement of, and during, embryo collection;

(Delete as appropriate)

3.2 Donor animals were treated for ticks within 7 days prior to the collection of the blood sample for Q fever and then maintained in a tick free environment until completion of embryo collection.

Date of treatment: .....
Acaricide used: .....
Dose rate: .....

3.3 Q fever: During the 10 days prior to embryo collection the donor animals were tested with negative results for Q fever using either the complement fixation test (CFT) (negative being no fixation of complement at a dilution of 1:10 or higher) or the ELISA.

Test used:.....
Date of sample collection:.....

3.4 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by AQIS to conduct export testing and laboratory results for tests specified in this certificate are attached.

4 Storage and transport

4.1 All straws are clearly marked with the identification of the donor animals and the date(s) of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

4.2 The embryos were only stored with other embryos or semen that were eligible for export to New Zealand. The containers were held in an approved storage place under the supervision of AQIS until export.

4.3 The embryos were placed in new or sterilised transport containers.

Method of sterilisation (if applicable): .....…
Date of sterilisation (if applicable):.....

4.4 Prior to export, the container in which the embryos are to be transported was sealed by either the embryo collection team veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian using seals bearing the marks: .....

.....
Signature of Official Veterinarian Official stamp and date

Name and address of office: .....

.....

N.B. Official stamp must be applied to all pages