

Overseas Market Access Requirements Notification - Animal Products Act 1999 - Standards Branch, Animal and Animal Products Directorate, Ministry for Primary Industries

Ref: AE-AU-23L

Date: 14 August 2012

OMAR B MIRANIEC.AUS 14.08.12 – LABORATORY RODENTS (MICE, BLACK RATS AND BROWN RATS) from NEW ZEALAND to AUSTRALIA

1. Statutory authority

Pursuant to section 60 of the Animal Products Act 1999:

(i) I notify the following overseas market access requirements, entitled laboratory rodents (mice, black rats and brown rats) from New Zealand to Australia.

(ii) Revoke OMAR B MIRANIEC.AUS 18.08.05.

This notice takes effect from date of signing.

Dated at Wellington this 4th day of September 2012.

Signed: Howard Pharo BVSc, MScTAD, MPP, MANZCVSc
Manager Import and Export Animals
Animal and Animal Products Directorate
Standards Branch
(pursuant to delegated authority)

2. Australia requirements

Laboratory rodents (mice, black rats and brown rats) from New Zealand to Australia must comply with the import regulations of Australia listed in this notice as follows:

2.1 An Import Permit is required for the exportation of laboratory rodents (mice, black rats and brown rats) from New Zealand to Australia.

2.2 An Official Veterinarian of New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry must certify, after due enquiry, the following:

2.2.1 The animals for export have been bred and housed for their lifetime in premises that are part of a bona fide scientific institution (usually as evidenced by the existence of an Animal Ethics Committee or equivalent arrangement with the organisation).

2.2.2 The colony of origin is housed in accommodation that precludes access from wildlife, including rodents and insect vectors, and is free of infestation with ectoparasites.

2.2.3 In the thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of export, the animals to be exported and any animals in contact with them have remained isolated from animals not of equivalent health status.

2.2.4 Disease freedom: hantavirus, ectromelia virus and rabies:

2.2.4.1 During the twelve (12) months prior to the date of export there has been no clinical or other evidence of infectious agents in the colony including hantaviruses, ectromelia virus and rabies

2.2.4.2 During the pre-export isolation there were no new introductions to the isolation unit and the animals remained clinically healthy and free from evidence of hantaviruses, ectromelia virus and rabies.

2.2.5 Hantavirus testing:

2.2.5.1 The colony was tested with negative results for hantavirus by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or multiplex fluorescent immunoassay (MFI) during the six (6) months immediately prior to export. Animals tested were at least eight (8) weeks of age. The number of animals tested provided 99% confidence of detecting disease at 25% prevalence. Laboratory reports must be attached to this certificate and include the date of blood sampling, number of animals tested and the number of animals in the colony*

or

2.2.5.2 Sentinels of the same species, eight (8) to twelve (12) weeks of age were placed in the boxes with the donor animals (other forms of contact may occur where DAFF has provided written advice). An appropriate number of sentinels were tested to provide 99% confidence of detecting disease at 25% prevalence. The sentinels remained in contact for a minimum of forty five (45) days but not more than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to testing. Sentinels were tested with negative results for hantavirus by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or multiplex fluorescent immunoassay (MFI) during the six (6) months immediately prior to export. Laboratory reports must be attached and include the date of introduction of sentinels, date of blood sampling, number of animals tested and the number of animals in the colony*

or

2.2.5.3 Testing for hantavirus has not occurred*

2.2.5.4 For colony's tested for hantavirus: no new animals were introduced to the colony (unless from a colony tested negative for hantavirus) between the time of testing for hantavirus and export.*

(* To be deleted as appropriate)

2.2.6 Within seventy two(72) hours prior to leaving the facility of origin, each animal for export was examined and was free from evidence of infectious and contagious disease and ectoparasites.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

Any term or expression that is defined in the Animal Products Act 1999 and used, but not defined in this document, has the same meaning as in this Act.

Explanatory note

These overseas market access requirements are based on the export certificate for laboratory rodents (mice, black rats and brown rats) from New Zealand to Australia, dated 14 August 2012.

**Additional Information on OMAR Notification: MIRANIEC.AUS
14.08.12**

1. This OMAR replaces the previous one dated 18 August 2005. This OMAR was updated in August 2012 to include the option of testing for hantavirus. It was approved by Melinda Noble, DAFF on 24 August 2012.
2. A valid Import Permit is required at the time the goods are imported into Australia.
3. *Colony*: The entire group of animals that is in contact with the animals to be exported. In contact animals are those that share airspaces, handlers and equipment and are not separated by air filters or any physical barriers.
4. Clause 2.2.5: Sample size required for detecting disease with 99% confidence and if it is present at 25% prevalence:

Population size	Number of animals to be sampled to detect 25% prevalence
10	10
15	10
20	11
40	13
60	14
80	15
100	15
150	16
200	16
∞	16

5. Clause 2.2.5.2: Hantavirus testing: sentinel testing is generally used where immunocompromised animals are involved or animals are otherwise unsuited to be tested directly.
6. Clause 2.2.5.3: For animals that are not tested for Hantavirus, or have had an unsatisfactory test completed; the animals will be directed to a Quarantine Approved Premise on arrival in Australia.
7. The imported rats or mice must be imported into premises recognised by DAFF as being bona fide scientific premises.

8. The importer/agent must lodge a Quarantine Entry for each consignment. The inspecting DAFF officer must be advised of the entry number prior to inspection.

9. Consignments must be addressed and sent to DAFF at the port of arrival.

10. The importer must notify the DAFF office in the state of import in writing at least three (3) business days prior to import. The notification must include the DAFF Import Permit number, flight number, airway bill number, date and estimated time of arrival and list of animals being imported.

11. The importer or agent must make an appointment for DAFF inspection of the animal(s) and documentation. The importer or agent may be required to be present at this inspection. The consignment will be held by DAFF until completion of inspection.

12. It is the importer's responsibility to identify and to ensure compliance with all requirements of any other regulatory and advisory bodies prior to and after importation.

13. Animals must be shipped in secure, escape proof containers that are clearly labelled 'Live animals under quarantine'. The container must meet the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live animals Regulations.

14. One importer, as listed on the Import Permit, or nominated agent, must be accessible to DAFF officers and accept responsibility for ensuring that all import conditions are met including the DAFF inspection.

15. Consignments that do not meet the DAFF import conditions will remain in quarantine control, be exported or destroyed without recompense.

16. DAFF will accept copies of documents where each page bears the original signature, date and stamp of the Official Veterinarian.

17. Additional post quarantine requirements for rats and mice not tested for hantavirus:

- If pre-export testing for hantavirus has not been undertaken or has not been completed to the satisfaction of DAFF, the rats or mice will be ordered into quarantine at a quarantine approved premise (QAP)

- If any animals return a positive result for hantavirus, all imported and introduced animals and progeny will be destroyed
- Imported animals will be released from quarantine only if they have been tested in a manner equivalent to the pre-export testing for hantaviruses. Testing must be conducted within three (3) months of importation
- Upon application to the regional DAFF office, the animals may be released from quarantine following hantavirus testing. Animals will only be released into premises that are part of a bona fide scientific institution.

Section 61.A of the Animal Products Amendments Act 2005 states that 'The Crown is not liable, and nor is the Director-General or any employee of the Ministry liable, for any loss arising through the refusal or failure of the relevant authority of an overseas market to admit export animal material or animal product to that market'.