



Ref: CTO 2013 042

Commodity: Rabbits from Australia

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of rabbits from Australia.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Cathy Dyer, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for rabbits from Australia to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard for domestic rabbits from Australia (RABDOMIC.AUS).

- 1) For Veterinary Certificate clause 2: Equivalence is granted to replace the country freedom statement for European brown hare syndrome with a statement that there have been no reported cases of European brown hare syndrome in Australia.

This is a historic equivalence which has been granted for many years. Most likely this is based on a lack of active surveillance for freedom from this disease.

- 2) For Import Health Standard clause 6.1: Equivalence is given for the post-arrival insecticidal treatment provided the treatment in section 4.2 has been completed and the rabbit is free from external parasites on post-arrival inspection.

More effective and safer ectoparasite treatments are available now than when the IHS was issued in 1995. Pre-export treatment and post-arrival inspection should be adequate to mitigate the risk of external parasites, without the possible toxic effects of over treating or using outdated treatments.

- 3) For Import Health Standard clause 6.3: An inspection on the premises is not required unless the rabbit should become ill or die.
- 4) For Import Health Standard clause 6.4: In the event of any sickness or death occurring during this period the importer is to immediately advise the MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.

Signed at Wellington this 20th day of September 2013

Cathy Dyer
Senior Adviser, Animal Imports
Ministry for Primary Industries
(Acting under delegated authority)

**Standards
Directorate**

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