**Ref: CTO 2015 003 [G]**

**Ovine Semen: Pellets**

## CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of ovine semen from Australia in pellets

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Marnie Thomas, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for ovine semen in pellets to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard *OVISEMIC.AUS*, issued 23 March 2004:

MPI expects that veterinary authority will substitute the word pellet(s) or pellet container where the veterinary certificate says straw(s).

Ovine semen can be stored as pellets, instead of in straws, provided that the following clauses are certified by the veterinary authority:

Straw/pellet identification_____

Number of straws/Pellets_____

Dry ice and associated equipment to process semen pellets must be managed to prevent contamination with semen of donors not of equivalent tested health status.

The pellet container must have a tamper evident seal.

All pellet containers are clearly marked with the identification of the donor animal and the date of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

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

The semen was placed in new or sterilised transport containers filled with fresh (previously unused) liquid nitrogen.

Prior to export, the container in which the semen is to be transported was sealed by either the semen collection centre veterinarian or an Official Veterinarian, using seals bearing the marks:_____

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

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