Ref: CTO 2014 148 [1] **Zoo: Antelope Various**

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of zoo antelope

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Vicki Melville, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for zoo Nyalas to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard for zoo antelope from South Africa (zooantic.saf):

1. Extension of time limits for tests and treatments.
This CTO direction will allow an extension of a maximum of ten days for tests and treatments.
The addition of up to 10 days is not considered to significantly change the risks or health status of the animal.

2. Clause 3.2 of the veterinary certificate requires the antelopes to be tested for Bovine Tuberculosis on two occasions with an interval o 13 to 33 days between the tests using the following protocol:
Test 1:
The hair in an area of 100mm X 100mm at the mid cervical site was shaved clean and injected intradermally with 0.1 ml of1mg/ml (50,000IU/ml) PPD Bovine tuberculin. Blood samples were collected for the Bovigam and BTB serological tests.72 hours later, each mid cervical injection site was observed for any evidence of a swelling reaction.
Test 2:
13 to 33 days after Test 1, blood samples were taken for repeat Bovigam and BTB serological tests:

Based on a declaration from the Chief state Veterinarian that the animals have been free of disease and are kept in a Quarantine facility together with the indication that the animals have been kept in a herd free of disease and that animals were born in captivity, the application of a single intra dermal skin test followed by an Elisa test (ideally 13-33 days after skin tuberculin testing, as this increases the specificity of the Elisa test) was stated as sufficient by the risk team.
In View of the above, the likelihood of importing subclinically infected animals that have been skin tested and serologically tested (with negative results) is assessed to be extremely low.
According to the OIE manual the prescribed test for international trade is the Intra dermal Tuberculin test only, so use of the Elisa as an ancillary test would exceed the requirements of the OIE.

This CTO direction will allow for the antelopes to undergo a single intra dermal skin test followed by an Elisa test 13-33 days after the skin tuberculin testing.

3. Clause 2.3 of the veterinary certificate requires the premises to be located in a frost prone zone and utilized during winter (low vector season).
The risks that imported animals may pose in regards to introducing and establishing bluetongue was examined in the 2010 Import risk analysis: Llamas (*Lama glama*) and alpacas (*Vicugna pacos*).
BTV transmission to other animals would not be possible due to New Zealand's freedom from

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Culicoides spp. Even if an animal were discovered to be infected or seropositive, the Code states that New Zealand would not lose its BTV-free status. BTV is not considered to be a hazard. Similarly epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus is not considered a hazard in the risk analysis.

This CTO direction will allow that clause 2.3 of the veterinary certificate and clause 7.1 and 7.2 of Appendix 2 is not required.

4. Clause 1.3 of the veterinary certificate requires the antelopes to have been born, and continuously resided in government registered or licensed, zoo or zoo farms.

Based on a declaration from the chief state veterinarian Wildlife Assignments International Pty Ltd is considered to be equivalent to a government registered or licensed zoo or zoo farm.

5. Clause 3.1.1 requires two tests for *Brucella abortus* using either the ELISA or CFT, within an interval of at least 30 days between the tests.

Based on consultation with the risk team and that the Nyalas destined for export have been isolated (PEI) from other animals for over 60 days it was decided that being subjected to a single buffered *Brucella* antigen and complement fixation tests with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment will be sufficient to mitigate any risks. This option is given in the Risk Analysis for cattle from Australia, Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America.

6. Clause 3.1.3 and 4.1.4 of the veterinary certificate requires testing for *Anaplasma marginale* using the ELISA test and testing for Babesia *bovis* and *B. bigemina* using the indirect fluorescent antibody test within 14 days of the scheduled date of export.

This CTO direction will allow that the testing may be done within 30 days prior to exportation due to the Nyalas having been in PEI for over 60 days.
Furthermore if any of the animals test positive these must be retested. The Nyalas that tested negative may still be shipped as both Anaplasmosis and *Babesia* are tick borne diseases and the PEI facility is required to be tick free.

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