



1st February, 2010.

Animal Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA, ACT 2601.
Email : animal@biosecurity.gov.au

Dear Sirs,

Re : Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Horses from Approved Countries

The Australian Horse Industry Council (AHIC) thanks Biosecurity Australia for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Import Risk Analysis for Horses from Approved Countries, noting that for this document, Japan has been added to the list of approved countries.

The general theme of relying on effective quarantine procedures at all stages to minimize the risk of disease is fully supported.

The one equine disease incursion into Australia of Equine Influenza (EI) 2007 was clearly the result of poor pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and sloppy post arrival quarantine (PAQ) practices. The latter had presumably arisen due to complacency and yet Australia had remained free of EI until 2007.

The assessment of the risk levels for the listed diseases should be met with the improved standards of quarantine PEQ, Border and PAQ that have been implemented as a result of the various enquiries into the 2007 EI outbreak.

There must be no relaxation of the improved situation as time goes by and no problems arise. Complacency must be avoided at all costs. Also the potential changes to the quarantine station situation that will take place in the near future must not allow any lowering of the current standards.

AHIC has consulted with the members of its Industry Advisory Committee and have had no direct response but it is possible that some of these large organisations may comment independently.

Yours faithfully,
AUSTRALIAN HORSE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



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President

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