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11 August 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/38

IMPORT RISK ANALYSES: OVINE AND CAPRINE SEMEN AND EMBRYOS FROM CANADA, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

DECISION ON NEW CONDITIONS

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides the final report of the import risk analyses (IRAs) for scrapie and for diseases of sheep and goats other than scrapie, and new quarantine policies for the importation of ovine and caprine semen and embryos from Canada, the United States of America (USA) and Member States of the European Union (EU). Stakeholders who wish to appeal the process followed in these IRAs should advise the Director of Quarantine by 12 September 2000.

According to the process set out in AQIS's *Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, the Executive Director of AQIS has considered the final report on scrapie (Attachment A) and other diseases of sheep and goats (Attachment B), and agreed to the requirements set out in the attached conditions for the importation of ovine and caprine semen and embryos from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU (Attachments C-F).

The draft reports were circulated in January 2000 as AQPM 2000/06. The proposed approaches to risk management were amalgamated to form a single set of conditions for ovine and caprine semen and embryos from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU. Comments were largely supportive and all responses were considered in finalising the IRAs. A summary of written comments received and AQIS's response is at Attachment G.

The final import conditions do not differ greatly from the proposed conditions. There are minor modifications to clarify the intent of certain conditions and AQIS included a requirement that donors be subjected to DNA testing to confirm the origin of the genetic material. The final conditions allow for the importation of ovine and caprine embryos and semen.

Next Steps

This AQPM advises the final conditions endorsed by the Executive Director of AQIS.

The IRAs were conducted in accordance with the routine process as described in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which provides an opportunity for appeal to the Director of Quarantine. A

stakeholder who considers that the process set out in the *Handbook* was not properly followed or that AQIS failed to consider a significant body of relevant scientific or technical information may appeal to the Director of Quarantine. Appeals on other grounds can not be considered.

Information on appeals is made public. Appeals should be sent to:

Mr Michael Taylor
Director of Quarantine
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Appeals should be received by close of business on 12 September 2000. If there are no appeals, the attached conditions will be adopted on 19 September 2000. AQIS will issue a further AQPM advising adoption or, alternatively, that an appeal has been received. All inquiries should be directed to the officers whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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Attachments:

- A Import risk analysis report on the revision of import policy related to scrapie.
- B Import risk analysis report on the revision of import policy related to the disease risks, other than scrapie, associated with the importation of ovine and caprine semen and embryos from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU.
- C Quarantine requirements for the importation of ovine semen from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU.
- D Quarantine requirements for the importation of ovine embryos from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU.
- E Quarantine requirements for the importation of caprine semen from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU.
- F Quarantine requirements for the importation of caprine embryos from Canada, the USA and Member States of the EU.
- G Comments on the draft IRAs and conditions.