



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



10 July 2001

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/13

RACEHORSES FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM - LIFTING OF TEMPORARY FMD RESTRICTIONS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the lifting of the temporary foot and mouth disease (FMD) restrictions on importation of racehorses from the United Kingdom (UK), effective 6 July 2001.

On 14 March 2001 in response to the FMD outbreak in Europe, Australia temporarily suspended imports of livestock, including horses, and their products from the European Union (EU) and other countries where FMD is present. As part of the undertaking to review the suspension and make adjustments as necessary, interim conditions were announced on 17 May 2001 allowing the importation of horses from the EU, providing pre-export isolation is undertaken in a country that does not have a significant FMD outbreak. These conditions precluded the direct importation of horses, including racehorses, from Great Britain.

Following further review of the FMD situation in the UK and detailed inspections of pre-export quarantine (PEQ) facilities by a Veterinary Officer from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), the Director of Quarantine has approved the lifting of the FMD restrictions on the temporary importation of racehorses from the UK. This decision takes effect from 6 July 2001 and will allow racehorses residing and training in Great Britain to be imported to Australia temporarily for race meetings such as the Melbourne Cup.

Additional measures to be applied to the temporary importation of racehorses from the UK are attached and include such things as:

- the horses must not have been kept in premises classed as 'restricted' by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Regional Affairs in the 21 days before entering PEQ;
- two-week mandatory PEQ at authorised facilities at least 10 kilometres from any FMD-infected property;
- cleaning and disinfection of horses and transport
- the horses to remain under quarantine surveillance in Australia at specified premises, following post arrival quarantine, until exported within 60 days.

Biosecurity Australia will continue to monitor the FMD outbreak in the UK with a view to the reviewing the temporary suspension for the permanent importation of horses residing in Great Britain.



Centenary of Federation

Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity 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.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

Contact officer: Warren Vant
Telephone no: 02 6272 443
Facsimile no: 02 6272 3399
E-mail: warren.vant@affa.gov.au