



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



3 December 2001

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GIRAFFE SEMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND

1 GENERAL

1.1 A valid *Permit to Import Quarantine Material into Australia*, obtained from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import, must accompany each consignment of giraffe semen. The exporter must ship the consignment to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.

1.2 Each consignment must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate which must:

- accompany each consignment in original form (copies not acceptable);
- conform with Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Health Code (*Code*) model international veterinary certificate for semen and, under ***V. Sanitary information***, contain the certifications specified in Section 2 of these requirements;
- include an attached table showing details of the donor(s), semen identification semen collection dates and the dates of isolation periods;
- be signed by the *certifying veterinarians*, that is:
 - the *Approved Veterinarian* who supervises semen collection and is a veterinarian approved by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (NZ MAF) and
 - the *Official Veterinarian* who is a veterinary official of NZ MAF, and
- be in English, and be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

1.3 Before importing giraffe semen permission must also be obtained from Environment Australia to meet the requirements of the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982*. Further information may be obtained from:

The Director
Wildlife Protection
Environment Australia
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
Ph: 02 6274 2291
Fax 02 6274 1921
email wps@ea.gov.au
website: <http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/plants/wildlife/intro.htm>

1.4 The *Approved Veterinarian* must

- supervise the isolation of the donors from all animals not of equivalent health status for 30 days prior to, and during, semen collection, and
- supervise the collection and processing of semen and record the required details for each donor on a table attached to the Animal Health Certificate.



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

- 1.5 Any requests for dispensation from these requirements must be submitted through NZ MAF. Such applications must include the reasons and contain all relevant information necessary for the application to be evaluated. AQIS/Biosecurity Australia will only consider requests for dispensation received through NZ MAF with their recommendation. Dispensations will be issued by AQIS in exceptional circumstances when it can be demonstrated that the quarantine security of the consignment has not been compromised.
- 1.6 AQIS/Biosecurity Australia may vary or review quarantine requirements at any time.

2. CERTIFICATION

The Animal Health Certificate, under ***V. Sanitary information***, must attest that:-

- 2.1 Immediately prior to semen collection each donor was continuously resident either since birth or for at least 12 months in New Zealand or Australia in premises registered or approved by the responsible national government.

2.2 Bovine tuberculosis

Immediately prior to semen collection each donor was held in premises in which bovine tuberculosis has not been reported during the previous 5 years.

2.3 Semen collection, processing and storage

The *Approved Veterinarian*

- supervised isolation of the donor;
- supervised the collection and processing of the semen;
- ensured that suitable antibiotics were added to the diluent and that the diluents were prepared in accordance with *Code* recommendations for bovine semen, and
- verified the donor was clinically healthy during isolation and collection.

The *Official Veterinarian*

- verified that bovine tuberculosis has not been reported from premises on which the donor had been held since birth or during the 5 years immediately prior to semen collection;
- verified the permanent identification of the semen straws with the identification details of the donor and the date of collection or a code from which this information could be determined, and
- sealed the semen transport container with an official seal prior to shipment.

- 2.4 The semen was stored in sterilised containers in which no biological material, other than semen, embryos or ova of equivalent health status, was held.

3. POST ARRIVAL

- 3.1 AQIS will hold the consignment until a Quarantine Veterinary Officer (QVO) or a Quarantine Officer, under the supervision of a QVO, has audited the contents of the shipping container.

3.2 In the event of a transport container with one or more consignments of genetic material arriving in Australia without the correct certification, with the seals on the transport containers broken or in any other way not having met these requirements, AQIS may place the container and its contents in quarantine, return it to the country of origin or destroy it without recompense.

4. IMPORTER'S/AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the importer or importer's agent to arrange for the provision of any health certification or testing additional to that required by AQIS (eg for inherited diseases or genetic defects, or as required by State/Territory veterinary authorities).
- 4.2 The importer or agent must nominate a person who can be contacted by AQIS officers and who will be responsible for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
- 4.3 The Australian Government will charge the importer for services provided. The Australian Government will not compensate the importer or agent for any losses incurred while the animals intended for importation are under AQIS control.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity