



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



3 December 2001

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/34**

### **HORSES 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 permanent importation of horses from the United Kingdom (UK), effective 3 December 2001.

On 10 March 2001 in response to the FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom, Australia temporarily suspended imports of livestock, including horses. On 14 March 2001 the suspension was extended to the European Union following outbreaks in other Member States. 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, but precluded the direct importation of horses from Great Britain.

Conditions to allow the direct importation of racehorses were announced on 6 July 2001 after a 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 permanent importation of horses from the UK now that the FMD situation has improved significantly. No case of FMD has been reported since 30 September and racehorses from Great Britain have already been successfully imported for the Melbourne Cup. This decision takes effect from 3 December 2001 and will allow horses residing in Great Britain to be imported permanently to Australia.

Additional measures to be applied to both the permanent and temporary importation of horses 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 for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in the 21 days before entering PEQ;
- two-week or three-week mandatory PEQ at authorised facilities at least 10 kilometres from any FMD-infected property for horses imported temporarily or permanently respectively;
- cleaning and disinfection of horses and transport;
- no cloven hoofed animals on PEQ or post arrival quarantine premises.



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](http://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 4436  
Facsimile no: 02 6272 3399  
E-mail: warren.vant@affa.gov.au