



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



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T99/1180

4 December 2002

**QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE
CAPTIVE CROCODILIANS**

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 These conditions apply to the importation of all members of the order Crocodylia, ie. crocodiles, alligators, gharials and caimans.
- 1.2 Each consignment must be accompanied by a copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Further information may be obtained from the AFFA website www.affa.gov.au → Quarantine and Export Services - Animals, or by Email to animalimp@aqis.gov.au . A processing fee will be charged for the permit.
- 1.3 Permission to import crocodylians must also be obtained from Environment Australia (EA). Details are available from the Director, Permits and Enforcement Section, EA through the website <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use> or by Email to wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au .
- 1.4 The animals must be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate* signed by an *Official Veterinarian*. An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country of export to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.2 of the OIE (Office International des Epizooties) International Animal Health Code. The Certificate is to be in English and in a language understood by the certifying *Official Veterinarian* and stamped on each page with an Official stamp. There must be a separate certificate for each consignment.
- 1.5 The veterinary certificate should be in the format of the OIE Code Model International Veterinary Certificate for birds (Appendix 4.1.6. to the Code), replacing all reference to 'birds' with 'crocodylians'. It must provide details of the certifying authority, identification of each animal, premises of origin of the animals, consignor and consignee, destination and means of transport.
- 1.6 Animals may only be imported if they have been held continuously for at least 12 months on a Government registered or licensed farm, wildlife park, zoo, scientific establishment or other Government approved establishment for holding reptiles.
- 1.7 Costs associated with the selection, testing, transport, quarantine (including any extension to the quarantine period for whatever reason) and any government veterinary supervision of the animals during each quarantine period and during transport to Australia will not be met by AQIS.

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- 1.8 Live crocodylians and crocodylian eggs are required to remain in quarantine or under quarantine surveillance pursuant to sections 46A and 52 of the *Quarantine Act* 1908.
- 1.9 These requirements may be varied or reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Australian Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (herein called the Director).

2. INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

The *Official Veterinarian* must attest under **IV Sanitary information** that:

- 2.1 There has been no clinical or other evidence of infection with adenovirus-like agent (viral hepatitis and enteritis), crocodylian poxvirus, *Mycoplasma* sp., *Chlamydia* sp., *Trichinella* sp. or *Paratrachosoma* sp. in the source population during the 12 months prior to export.
- 2.2 The animals were held immediately prior to export in pre-export quarantine (PEQ) for a minimum period of 60 days and during this time were isolated from all other animals not of equivalent or better health status. During PEQ animals were held in premises that have been approved by an *Official Veterinarian* for holding animals for export to Australia.
- 2.3 During PEQ each animal remained healthy and free from clinical signs of infectious disease.
- 2.4 During PEQ blood samples were taken from each animal on at least three occasions no less than 14 days apart and examined according to the methodology indicated in brackets with negative results for the parasite in each case.
 - (i) haemogregarines (microscopic examination of Giemsa stained blood smears)
 - (ii) filarids (microscopic examination of thick blood smears)
- 2.5 During PEQ faecal samples were taken from each animal on at least two occasions no less than 14 days apart and examined according to the methodology indicated in brackets with negative results for the parasite in each case.
 - (i) *E. invadens* (faecal flotation). Animals infected with *E. invadens*. may be treated with Metronidazole at 125 mg/kg repeated twice at 72 and 96 hrs (or other treatment of equivalent or better efficacy) and re-tested.
 - (ii) *Dujardinascaris* sp. (faecal flotation). Animals infected with *Dujardinascaris* sp. may be treated with Mebendazole at 25 mg/kg by mouth on 2 occasions 2 weeks apart (or other treatment of equivalent or better efficacy) and re-tested.
 - (iii) Pentastomes (faecal examination).
- 2.6 Each animal was examined by, or under the direct supervision of, an *Official Veterinarian* within 24 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and was free from clinical evidence of infectious disease and external parasites and appeared fit to travel.
- 2.7 The vehicles for the transport of the animals to the port of export were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. The containers used for transporting the animals were new or were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading and met the requirements in Section 4.4. of the OIE Code and Container requirement 42 in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations. Containers constructed of timber were treated against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading as required by AQIS.

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- 2.8 The compartment of the aircraft or vessel to be occupied by the animals and all removable equipment and containers were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.
- 2.9 At the time of loading each animal appeared healthy and fit to travel and any chemical or physical restraint were in accordance with appropriate animal welfare guidelines.

3. TRANSPORT

- 3.1 The animals must be consigned directly to Australia either by air or sea by a route approved by AQIS. They may not be accompanied by other animals without the approval of AQIS. Transit or transshipment on route will need prior approval from AQIS and relevant authorities in the country or countries of transit or transshipment.
- 3.2 The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel and containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code (Section 4.4) and IATA Live Animal Regulations (Container requirement 42) and animal welfare considerations unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.
- 3.3 The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted; the use of stretchers is recommended. Alternatively, treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

4. ENTRY AND POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

- 4.1 The imported animals will be taken directly to a quarantine approved premises, at a zoo, scientific or other institution for post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). The animals will remain in PAQ for 6 months if from Africa and 90 days from all other regions.
- 4.2 As soon as possible after arrival, when acclimated, and within 5 days post-arrival, animals will be clinically examined by a government veterinarian. Thereafter, all animals must be carefully observed for evidence of behavioural problems and signs of disease. Any abnormalities must be reported immediately to AQIS.
- 4.3 After completion of PAQ, each animal imported under these conditions will be released from quarantine or released under quarantine surveillance in a premises approved by the State or Territory for holding the species imported, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.
- 4.4 During PAQ and while the imported animals remain under quarantine surveillance, they, and any in-contact animals, may be subjected to any testing or treatment prescribed by the Director, at the importer's expense.
- 4.5 If any animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, that animal and any or all other animals in the PAQ premises may, at the Director's discretion, be detained in quarantine and be subjected to any testing, treatment, observation or destruction ordered by AQIS at the importer's expense. Animals may be re-exported at the importers expense or destroyed without recompense.

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- 4.6 All services provided by the AQIS will be at the importer's expense. If animals die or are destroyed during transit or during any period of control, compensation will not be paid by AQIS.

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