



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



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**QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
CROCODILIAN EGGS**

**1. GENERAL**

- 1.1 These conditions apply to the importation of hatching eggs of all members of the order Crocodylia, ie. crocodiles, alligators, gharials and caimans.
- 1.2 Each consignment of eggs 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](http://www.affa.gov.au) → Quarantine and Export Services → Animals, or by Email to [animalimp@aqis.gov.au](mailto:animalimp@aqis.gov.au). A processing fee will be charged for the permit.
- 1.3 Permission to import crocodylian eggs 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](mailto:wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au).
- 1.4 Each consignment of eggs 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 day-old birds and hatching eggs (Appendix 4.1.7. to the Code), replacing all reference to 'birds or hatching eggs' with 'crocodylian eggs'. 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 Eggs intended for importation may only be obtained from animals held continuously for at least 12 months prior to egg collection in 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 Australian Government veterinary supervision of the animals during each quarantine period and during transport to Australia will not be met by the

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Australian Government.

- 1.8 Live crocodilians and crocodilian 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. CERTIFICATION

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

- 2.1 Eggs were obtained from animals held continuously for at least 12 months prior to egg collection in a Government registered or licensed farm, wildlife park, zoo, scientific establishment or other Government approved establishment for holding reptiles (specify the identification number and premise of origin of each egg-layer).
- 2.2 There has been no clinical or other evidence of infection with adenovirus-like agent (viral hepatitis and enteritis) or *Mycoplasma* sp in the source population during the 12 months immediately prior to the collection of eggs for export to Australia.
- 2.3 The source animals were free of clinical signs of disease for 60 days prior to the laying and collection of eggs for export to Australia.
- 2.4 The eggs in this consignment were
  - (i) clean when collected
  - (ii) indelibly marked so that batches of eggs from individual egg-layers may be clearly identified
  - (iii) packed in clean, inert material in new cartons or containers, approved for transport to Australia
  - (iv) stored in containers to prevent leakage in the event of breakage during transport
  - (v) only mixed with batches of other crocodilian eggs collected for export to Australia
  - (vi) stored since the end of the collection period until export in an approved secure place.
- 2.5 The vehicles for the transport of the eggs to the port of export were cleaned, disinfected and disinfested (wooden materials) prior to loading. The egg packing material, eg. vermiculite, must be new or sterilised prior to use. The containers used for transporting the eggs were new or were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. Containers constructed of timber were treated against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading as required by AQIS.

Note Items 2.1 to 2.5 inclusive should be certified by the *Official Veterinarian*.

## 3. TRANSPORT

- 3.1 The eggs must be consigned directly to Australia either by air or sea by a route approved by AQIS. They may not be accompanied by other eggs or 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.

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- 3.2 The design of the containers, the preparation for transport and the disinfection and disinsection (if wooden) of the interior of the containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.
- 3.3 In the event of a consignment arriving in Australia in a leaking container, or with inadequate certification, the consignment may not be permitted entry into Australia, may be retained in quarantine, returned to the country of origin or destroyed without recompense.

#### **4. ENTRY AND POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS**

- 4.1 Imported eggs will be taken directly to a quarantine approved premises at a zoo, scientific establishment or other institution for post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). The animals hatched from these eggs will remain in PAQ for 6 months if from Africa or 90 days from all other regions.
- 4.2 After completion of PAQ, each hatchling from eggs imported under these conditions will be released from quarantine or released under quarantine surveillance in a premises approved by the State or Territory government for holding the species imported subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.
- 4.3 During PAQ and while the imported animals and eggs remain under quarantine surveillance, they, and any in-contact animals or eggs, may be subjected to any testing or treatment prescribed by the Director, at the importer's expense.
- 4.4 If any eggs or animals fail 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 or eggs may be re-exported at the importers expense or destroyed without recompense.
- 4.5 All services provided by the AQIS will be at the importers 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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