



T99/2827

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INTERIM QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF REPTILES

Scope

These requirements apply to the importation of members of the Class Reptilia other than crocodilians. Crocodilians may be imported under the Quarantine Conditions for the Importation of Live Captive Crocodilians. Biosecurity Australia is conducting an import risk analysis (IRA) on reptiles of the Sub-Order Serpentes, and plans to undertake IRAs on Chelonians (Testudines) and Saurians (lizards) in due course. These interim requirements apply pending completion of those IRAs or earlier review.

Documentation

- 1) A copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) must accompany each consignment of reptiles. Further information may be obtained from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website www.affa.gov.au under Quarantine and export Services – Animals, or by Email to animalimp@aqis.gov.au. A fee will be charged for the Permit.
- 2) The animal/s must be accompanied by a copy of an Environment Australia (EA) permit and appropriate CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) documentation from the exporting country. Details are available from the Director, Sustainable Wildlife Industries Section, EA - Email wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au or the EA website: <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>.
- 3) The animal/s must be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate*. The certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and must give details of:
 - the identification of each animal including microchip number and site of implantation (rather than ear mark), species, sex and age;
 - name and address of exporter and zoo, wildlife park or premises of origin;
 - name and address of consignee;
 - nature and identification of means of transport.

The veterinary certificate must be in English and be signed by an *Official Veterinarian** of the country of export who must certify that:

- a) the premises of origin is a government registered or licensed zoo, wildlife park, or a government approved institution or facility, for the holding of reptiles;

- b) each animal for export has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 90 days prior to certification or since birth;
- c) the premises of origin is under permanent veterinary supervision, and a suitable health monitoring programme, including microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies, is implemented;
- d) as far as can be determined, no case of aeromonas septicaemia, inclusion body disease of boids, paramyxovirus infection, salmonellosis, septicæmic cutaneous ulcerative disease (SCUD), tuberculosis, ulcerative shell disease (USD) or ulcerative stomatitis has been diagnosed at the premises of origin, in any member of the species of reptile to which this certificate applies, during the past 12 months;
- e) the animal/s was/were held in isolation from other animals not of the same health and residency status for 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period;
- f) each animal has been individually identified with an ISO-compliant FDX-B microchip (transponder), and the site of implantation and the identification number of each animal is recorded on the *veterinary certificate*;
- g) each animal was treated for external parasites with an effective broad spectrum parasiticide suitable for use on reptiles during the 96 hours prior to export and the dates of treatment, active ingredients and dose rates used for each animal are recorded in the individual health records attached to the *veterinary certificate*;
- h) he/ she or another *Official Veterinarian*, or a veterinarian recognised by the *Official Veterinarian* as having expertise in the diagnosis of disease in reptiles, has inspected each animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it to be healthy and fit to travel;
- i) after due enquiry he /she is satisfied that each animal will be shipped in a container that meets the appropriate container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations [General Container Requirements for Reptiles, Amphibians and Shellfish, and Container Requirements 41 - 47 as appropriate].

Note*: An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the exporting country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.2. of the OIE International Animal Health Code.

- 4) Individual health records including details of vaccinations, tests and treatments during the last two years or since the birth of each animal are to be attached to the *veterinary certificate*.

Transport

The animal/s must be consigned directly to Australia. During transport to the port of export, during shipment, and during transport from the port of importation to the post-arrival quarantine facility, the animal/s must have no contact with animals not of the same consignment.

Quarantine

In this section, quarantine means the holding of animals in a place and under conditions specified by AQIS pursuant to the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

Each animal must undergo at least 90 days post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a quarantine approved premises (QAP) and be inspected by an AQIS Veterinarian and found free from signs of infectious disease before release from quarantine. During PAQ the animal/s are to be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subjected to a clinical examination. All animals dying are to be subjected to a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death and AQIS is to be advised.

At the completion of PAQ, the animals will be released under quarantine surveillance, into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory Government for holding the imported species, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.

While in PAQ or under quarantine surveillance the animal/s may be subjected to such tests and/or treatments as are specified by AQIS at the importer's expense. If any animal fails any test or shows evidence of an exotic disease during PAQ, it may be detained in quarantine, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed.

Animals imported under these interim conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until two years after importation. If they are free from suspicion of a quarantinable disease, they will then be released unconditionally from quarantine.

Other requirements

Permission to introduce and keep exotic reptiles will also be required from the Agency responsible for the regulation of the introduction and keeping of exotic animals in the State or Territory in which the importing institution or premises is located.

Review

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia).

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