



AFFA02/4766

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## INTERIM CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF NONHUMAN PRIMATES

### Scope

These conditions apply to the importation of nonhuman primates from approved premises under veterinary supervision. They do not apply to nonhuman primates from the wild or other sources where they were not under permanent veterinary supervision. Permission will not be given for the importation of nonhuman primates for the purpose of being kept as pets. Permission may not be given for importation from countries not previously approved for the export of animals to Australia.

### Documentation

- 1) The animals must be accompanied by a copy of a Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) on behalf of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Director). Further information can be obtained from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au) under Quarantine and Inspection Services.
- 2) The animals 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, EA - Email [wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au](mailto:wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au) or the EA website: <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use> .
- 3) The animals 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 provide 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 or wildlife park 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 the animals:

- a) come from a Government registered or licensed zoological gardens, wildlife park or scientific institution (the premises of origin) approved for the holding of nonhuman primates,

- b) come from a premises that is under permanent veterinary supervision, and where a suitable health monitoring program is followed, including appropriate investigation into causes of significant illness and death,
- c) come from a premises that is located in a country in which no case of yellow fever has been reported in the 12 months prior to shipment,
- d) have been continuously resident in the premises of origin for the two years prior to shipment or since birth,
- e) come from a premises in which no case of tuberculosis (disease due to infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *M bovis*) has occurred in nonhuman primates during the five years prior to shipment, and no case has occurred in their handlers in that time,
- f) have been tested for tuberculosis, with negative results in every animal, by an intradermal tuberculin test using 0.1ml of mammalian old tuberculin **or** 0.1ml of bovine PPD tuberculin containing at least 50,000IU/ml **or** by a comparative tuberculin test using 0.1ml of bovine PPD tuberculin containing at least 20,000 IU/ml in one site, and 0.1ml of avian PPD tuberculin containing at least 20,000U/ml in another site, during the 12 months prior to shipment **and/or** by gamma interferon assay (Primagam or, in the USA, the Mycobacterium tuberculosis Gamma Interferon Test for Non-Human Primates),

Note: All animals in the group must be negative to testing for tuberculosis. If any animal is positive, none of the animals is eligible for import. Unweaned animals accompanying eligible dams are exempt from testing.

- g) have been kept in buildings and enclosures in which no case of rabies, hepatitis B, measles, simian immunodeficiency syndrome or simian haemorrhagic fever has occurred in the six months prior to shipment,
- h) have been kept in isolation from other nonhuman primates not of the same health status for at least 30 days immediately prior to export and, during this time, have remained free from signs of communicable disease,
- i) have been treated with appropriate broad spectrum parasiticides for internal and external parasites within 30 days immediately prior to export and the details of treatments are included in the health records appended to the veterinary certificate,
- j) have been individually identified by radio frequency identification (RFID) with an ISO-compliant FDX-B transponder, and the site of implantation of the transponder and the number of each animal is recorded on the veterinary certificate,
- k) have been individually examined within 48 hours prior to shipment and found to be healthy, free from clinical signs of contagious disease, and fit for transport, and
- l) will be shipped in a container that meets the appropriate container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.

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

- 4) Individual health records including details of vaccinations, tests and treatments performed during the last two years or since the birth of each animal, must be attached to the veterinary certificate. Details of testing for tuberculosis must be included.

## **Transport**

The animals must be transported directly to Australia by air. 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*.

On arrival in Australia, the animals must be transported directly to a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) where they will be held for at least 30 days in post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). While in PAQ all animals must be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subjected to a clinical examination. AQIS is to be promptly advised of any disease incident and its outcome. If any animal dies during PAQ, AQIS must be promptly notified, the animal must be subjected to a post-mortem examination by a registered veterinarian to determine the cause of death, and the results reported to AQIS.

Quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the Director until any adverse events during the quarantine period are fully investigated and resolved, and no evidence of transmission of infectious agents within the quarantine group exists.

At the satisfactory completion of PAQ, the animals will be released under quarantine surveillance into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory Government for the holding of the species imported, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements. While in quarantine or under quarantine surveillance, the animal/s may be subjected to tests and/or treatments specified by AQIS at the importer's expense. If any animal fails a test or shows evidence of an exotic disease, it may be detained in quarantine, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed.

Each animal must be tested for tuberculosis using intradermal tuberculin testing and/or gamma interferon assay (Primagam) as approved by AQIS. The animals must be kept in buildings or enclosures that preclude direct contact with other nonhuman primates or ungulates until they have been tested for tuberculosis with negative results.

Imported nonhuman primates will remain under quarantine surveillance until an import risk analysis (IRA), currently being conducted by Biosecurity Australia, has been completed and new quarantine requirements promulgated. The quarantine status of animals imported under these requirements will then be reviewed.

## **Review**

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director.

DAVID BANKS  
General Manager  
Animal Biosecurity

## ADDENDUM

### Recommendations for the keeping of imported nonhuman primates

It is **recommended** that the importing institution require testing and/or treatment prior to export for disease of concern not specified in the quarantine requirements for import including:

- a) testing (of gibbons and great apes) for hepatitis B virus (tests for anti-hepatitis B core antigen and for hepatitis B surface antigen);
- b) culture of fresh faeces or rectal swabs for pathogenic enteric bacteria including *Salmonella*, *Shigella* and *Yersinia*;
- c) testing and treatment for parasites as appropriate to the species of animal and the targeted parasite/s.

It is further recommended that these tests and treatments be repeated during post-arrival quarantine, together with any other tests and/or treatments deemed necessary by the importing institution.

To protect staff exposed to the imported animals, or to their body fluids, faeces and tissues, Managers of QAPs and of zoos, scientific institutions and other premises holding nonhuman primates should comply with the guidelines listed in Article 2.10.1.7 of the OIE Code (**Appendix 1**) or take equivalent measures. The guidelines are recommended for the protection of staff in all institutions holding nonhuman primates. **All imported macaques should be treated as potentially infected with herpes B virus irrespective of test results, and be managed accordingly.**

## **Appendix 1**

### Article 2.10.1.7.

#### **Precautionary measures to be followed by staff exposed to non-human primates or to their body fluids, faeces and tissues**

The presence in most non-human primates of some zoonotic agents is almost unavoidable, even after release from quarantine. The relevant Authorities should, therefore, encourage the management of institutions whose staff are exposed to non-human primates or their body fluids, faeces or tissues (including when performing necropsies) to comply with the following guidelines:

- 1) to provide staff with training in the proper handling of primates, their body fluids, faeces and tissues, with respect to zoonoses containment and personal safety;
- 2) to inform their staff that certain species should be considered lifetime as having lifelong infections with some zoonotic agents, e.g. macaques with Herpes B virus;
- 3) to ensure that the staff follows personal hygiene practices, including the use of protective clothing, and the prohibition of eating, drinking and smoking in potentially infective areas;
- 4) to implement a screening programme for personnel health, including monitoring for tuberculosis, pathogenic enteric bacteria and endoparasites and other agents that are deemed necessary;
- 5) to implement an immunisation programme as appropriate, including e.g. tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, rabies, hepatitis A and B, and other diseases endemic in the area of origin of the non-human primates;
- 6) to develop guidelines for the prevention and treatment of zoonoses that may be transmitted by bites and scratches, e.g. rabies and herpes viruses;
- 7) to issue to their staff a card which states that they work with non-human primates or with their body fluids, faeces or tissues, and which may be presented to the medical profession in case of illness;
- 8) to dispose of carcasses, body fluids, faeces and tissues in a manner which is not detrimental to public health.