



November 2003

PROPOSED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AMPHIBIANS OR THEIR EGGS INTO ZOOLOGICAL FACILITIES

Scope

These requirements apply to the importation of members of the Class Amphibia including frogs, toads, caecilians, newts and salamanders of all reproductive stages (including tadpoles, larvae, adults) and eggs.

Documentation

Each consignment of amphibians, or amphibian eggs, must be accompanied by:

- 1) a copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS),
- 2) a copy of an Environment Australia (EA) permit and if the species is CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) listed, appropriate CITES documentation from the exporting country is also required. 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) a brief description of the health monitoring program implemented in the premises of origin, signed by the owner or veterinary supervisor, and
- 4) 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 description, species, sex, age, and registration number or for eggs the identification number of each egg layer;
 - name and address of exporter and registered or licensed or approved premises of origin;
 - name and address of consignee;
 - nature and identification of means of transport.

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

For both live amphibians or amphibian eggs:

- a) the premise of origin is a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park or a government-approved facility for the holding of amphibians;
- b) each animal, or each animal from which the eggs were obtained, has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 6 months prior to certification, or since birth;
- c) the premise of origin is under veterinary supervision, and a suitable amphibian health-monitoring programme, including appropriate investigations into causes of significant illness and death;
- d) as far as can be determined, no case of ranavirus infection (including frog virus 3, Redwood Park virus, Regina ranavirus), or ranid herpesviruses has been diagnosed at the premises of origin during the 12 months prior to certification;

AND

For live amphibians:

- e) the animals were isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status for 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and they and all in-contact animals were free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period;
- f) each amphibian was treated on two occasions, at least 14 days apart and during the 30 days prior to export, with an effective internal parasiticide suitable for use on amphibians, namely (active ingredient);
- g) he / she or another *Official Veterinarian*, or a veterinarian recognised by the *Official Veterinarian* as having expertise in the diagnosis of disease in amphibians, has inspected each animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it to be free of external parasites, healthy and fit to travel;
- h) the animals will be shipped in a container that meets the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations [General Container Requirements for Reptiles and Amphibians, and Aquatics, and appropriate specific Container Requirements].

* 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 Section 1.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code (the Code).

For amphibian eggs:

- i) the animals from which the eggs were sourced were free of clinical signs of disease for 30 days prior to the laying and collection of eggs for export to Australia;
- j) the batches of eggs were stored and containers marked so that individual egg layers may be identified;
- k) the eggs were not stored with batches of other eggs except those collected for export to Australia;

- l) the eggs were stored since collection until export in an approved secure place;
- m) he / she or another *Official Veterinarian*, or a veterinarian recognised by the *Official Veterinarian* as having expertise in the diagnosis of disease in amphibians, has inspected each batch of eggs within 72 hours prior to export and found them to be clean and healthy;
- n) the eggs will be shipped in a container that meets requirements specified by IATA.

Transport

The animal/s or eggs must be transported directly to Australia by an approved route. During transport to the port of export, during shipment, and during transport from the port of importation to the quarantine approved premise (QAP), the animal/s or eggs must have no contact with animals or eggs not of the same consignment.

Security precautions must be maintained during shipment and handling to prevent:

- the escape of any animal, or any part or product of an animal from which another animal could be produced;
- the escape or dissemination of any pathogens or pests of humans, animals or plants.

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, litter including any absorbent materials in the containers must be destroyed and the containers disinfected or destroyed in accordance with instructions from AQIS. All overseas water must be disinfected to AQIS standards prior to disposal.

On arrival in Australia, the animal/s must be transported directly to a QAP where they will be held for at least 30 days in post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). The approved premises must have work practices and adequate security to prevent the escape of live animals, or any part or product of an animal from which another animal could be produced.

During PAQ the animal/s are to 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 of Animal and Plant Quarantine (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 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 a 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 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 amphibians 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.

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