



November 2003

PROPOSED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AMPHIBIANS OR THEIR EGGS FOR LABORATORY PURPOSES

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 their eggs for laboratory purposes.

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> , and
- 3) a certificate providing details of:
 - the description of each animal including species, sex, and age, or for eggs the description of each egg layer;
 - name and address of exporter and premises of origin;
 - name and address of consignee;
 - nature and identification of means of transport.

The certificate must be in English and signed by a *certifying official** of the country of export who must certify that:

For both live amphibians or amphibian eggs:

- a) the premise of origin is a government approved facility for the holding of amphibians;
- b) 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:

- c) he/ she or a veterinarian or person recognised 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;
- d) each animal 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].

For amphibian eggs:

- e) the animals from which the eggs were sourced were free of clinical signs of disease prior to the laying and collection of eggs for export to Australia;
- f) the batches of eggs were stored and containers marked so that individual egg layers may be identified;
- g) the eggs were not stored with batches of other eggs except those collected for export to Australia;
- h) the eggs were stored since collection until export in an approved secure place;
- i) he / she or a veterinarian or person recognised 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;
- j) the eggs will be shipped in a container that meets requirements specified by IATA.

* A *certifying official* means a person authorised by the *Competent Authority* to sign *health certificates for amphibians*.

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, 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, all litter including any absorbent materials in the containers must be destroyed and the containers disinfected or destroyed in accordance with the 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 Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP). Each animal, egg and animal hatched from eggs must remain in quarantine at the QAP and must not be removed from these premises. 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.

On completion of any work, all animals and their progeny (including direct and indirect derivatives of both), which are of no further use must be euthanased and disposed of by incineration, autoclaving or other method approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia) (the Director).

Review

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

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Animal Biosecurity