

PROPOSED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE REPTILES FROM ALL COUNTRIES

4 June 2004

These requirements apply to members of the Class Reptilia other than crocodylians. Separate conditions exist for the import of crocodylians and their eggs.

Conditions of Administration

1. An Import Permit is required and must be applied for **prior** to importation. Permit [applications](#) must be sent with payment of \$A260 to Live Animal Imports – Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Canberra, for assessment.

Live Animal Imports

AQIS

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2. A Quarantine Entry must be lodged for each consignment. The inspecting AQIS officer must be advised of the entry number prior to inspection.

3. It is the importer's responsibility to identify and to ensure compliance with all requirements of any other regulatory and advisory bodies prior to and after importation. It is the importer's responsibility to arrange for any additional testing for genetic and endemic infectious diseases, or for movement of animals or genetic material into certain animal health zones within Australia.

4. The animal(s) must be accompanied by a copy of the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Heritage (DEH) permit and appropriate Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) documentation from the exporting country. Details are available from the Director, Sustainable Wildlife Industries, phone +61 2 6274 1111 or email wildlifetrade@deh.gov.au or the DEH website: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>

5. During transport to the port of export, shipment, and 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.

6. The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted; treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

7. The importer, as listed on the Import Permit, or nominated agent, must be accessible to AQIS officers and accept responsibility for ensuring that all import conditions are met including the AQIS inspection.

8. Consignments must be addressed and sent to AQIS at the port of arrival.

9. The importer or agent must make an appointment for AQIS inspection of animal(s) and documentation. The importer or agent may be required to be present at this inspection. The consignment will be held by AQIS until completion of inspection. Fees are payable to AQIS for all services.

10. Consignments that do not meet the AQIS import conditions will remain in quarantine control, be re-exported or destroyed without recompense.

Format of the veterinary certificate

1. A veterinary certificate that conforms to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Code) [Model International Veterinary Certificates](#) must accompany each consignment and must:

- be written in English, and a language understood by the Official Veterinarian of the country of export;
- meet all requirements of the “veterinary certification” section of these conditions;
- provide the identification for each animal, including description, species, sex and age and microchip number and site of implantation (if applicable);
- include the name and address of the exporter and zoo or wildlife park of origin;
- include the name and address of the consignee;
- include the nature and identification of the means of transport.

2. An Official Veterinarian* must sign, date and stamp (with the stamp of the government veterinary administration) each page of the veterinary certificate and all documents eg laboratory reports which form part of the extended health certification. The Official Veterinarian’s name, title and contact details must also appear.

3. AQIS will accept copies of documents where each page bears the original signature, date and stamp of the Official Veterinarian.

* A veterinary official of the government veterinary administration.

Proposed Veterinary Certification for the importation of reptiles from all countries

Certification

1. The premises of origin is a zoo, aquarium or other institution, approved, licensed or registered by the government Veterinary Administration to hold reptiles.

2. Each animal for export has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 90 days prior to certification or since birth.

3. The premise of origin is under government veterinary supervision, where the health of the animal(s) is monitored so that incursions of disease are identified, and control and/or eradication measures can be applied. A health-monitoring program should include microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies.

4. No case of mycoplasmosis, inclusion body disease of boids, or disease due to herpesvirus, ranavirus or paramyxovirus has been diagnosed in reptiles, of the same family as the reptiles being exported, at the premises of origin during the 12 months prior to certification.

5. The animal(s) was held in isolation from other animals not of the same health and residency status, for 90 days prior to the date of export, and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period.

6. Each animal was treated on two occasions, at least 14 days apart and during the 30 days prior to export, with internal parasiticides suitable for use on reptiles and effective against helminths (nematodes, cestodes, trematodes), pentastomes and protozoans suitable for use on reptiles, and the dates of treatment, active ingredients and dose rate used for each species are recorded in an attachment.

7. An 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 free of external parasites, healthy and fit to travel.

8. 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.

Note*: An Official Veterinarian is a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country to perform animal health certification in conformity with the OIE International Animal Health Code.

9. 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.

Post Arrival Quarantine (PAQ) requirements

1. Quarantine means the holding of animals in a place and under conditions specified by AQIS pursuant to the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

2. Each animal must undergo a minimum of 90 days post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a quarantine approved premises (QAP) and be inspected by a veterinarian and found free from signs of infectious disease before release from quarantine. During PAQ the animal(s) is to be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subject to a clinical examination. All animals dying are to be subject to a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death and AQIS is to be advised within 48 hours.

3. 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.

4. While in PAQ or under quarantine surveillance the animal(s) may be subjected to tests and/or treatments specified by AQIS at the importer's expense.

5. Animals imported under these interim conditions will be held under quarantine surveillance until two years after importation. After this period, if they are free from suspicion of a quarantinable disease, they will then be released unconditionally from quarantine. Conditions of quarantine surveillance include notification by the owner to AQIS of any signs of sickness, death or intended transfer of imported animal to another facility.