



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

21 November 2005

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/18\***

**AMENDMENT TO QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
NON-DOMESTIC FELIDAE**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of additional quarantine requirements for non-domestic felidae relating to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Biosecurity Australia has tightened the quarantine requirements for the importation of non-domestic felidae (members of the cat family other than the domestic cat *Felis catus*) into Australia with the additional certification requirements for HPAI. Specifically these include that the premises of origin has been free from HPAI in felids for 3 months prior to export (see Certification, clause 6), and during the 30 days' pre-export quarantine the animals were not fed meat of avian origin (see clause 10). The amended requirements are attached to this memorandum.

The 2003-05 outbreak of HPAI strain H5N1 in East and South-East Asia demonstrated cross-species transmission to humans. There was also a suspicion that members of the Felidae family were susceptible. In 2004, experimental infection of cats was demonstrated, followed by a report of virus isolation from naturally infected tigers and leopards. The report, published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (now available on the internet), presents findings that H5N1 was isolated from a tiger (*Panthera tigris*) and a leopard (*P. pardus*), and provides substantial evidence that this virus was the likely cause of death.

In addition, 45 tigers held in captivity in Thailand died or were destroyed as a result of avian influenza in October 2004. It is likely the initial outbreak was a result of feeding infected chicken carcasses to the tigers, though the question of whether tiger to tiger transmission has occurred is unresolved.

The new requirement relating to HPAI will be kept under review as more information becomes available on transmission of virus between species and between individuals of non-avian species.

**Next Steps**

These requirements will come into effect immediately.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future, communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Information on Import Risk Analyses (IRAs) and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia> .

## Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Biosecurity Australia Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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## References;

Kuiken T, Rimmelzwaan G, van Amerongen G *et al.* (2004) Avian H5N1 influenza in cats. *Science* **306**:241. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/reprint/306/5694/241>

Keawcharoen J, Oraveerakul K, Kuiken T, *et al.* (2004) Avian influenza H5N1 in tigers and leopards. *Emerg Infect Dis* **10** (12) <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol10no12/04-0759.htm>

Reports to the OIE [http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A\\_AI-Asia.htm](http://www.oie.int/download/AVIAN%20INFLUENZA/A_AI-Asia.htm)

\* Please note Biosecurity Australia has introduced a single system of 'Biosecurity Australia Policy Memoranda' covering animal and plant issues. These replace previous Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda and Plant Biosecurity Policy Memoranda.