



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

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BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2008/16

**BIOSECURITY POLICY DETERMINATION –
IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANT SEMEN**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) informs stakeholders that Australia's Director of Quarantine has determined a policy for the importation of elephant semen from Singapore, the United States of America (USA) and Member States of the European Union (EU). Importation of elephant semen can be permitted, subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified for the importation of elephant semen from Singapore, the USA and Member States of the European Union (attached). The policy will be taken into account by decision makers when considering import applications for elephant semen in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* and *Quarantine Proclamation 1988* as amended.

Proposed quarantine conditions for the importation of elephant semen from Singapore, the USA and Member States of the EU, and the draft report of a review of the quarantine risks that underpinned the proposed measures, were circulated to stakeholders for comment on 5 February 2008 (BAA 2008/02). Stakeholder comments did not raise any significant technical issues that warranted changes to the proposed quarantine conditions. A copy of stakeholder comments is on Biosecurity Australia's website (www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au).

The veterinary departments of the three importing zoos – Taronga, Melbourne and Perth – were consulted during the policy review and development of the proposed conditions, and have confirmed that they had no further comment.

Consequently, the policy review has been finalised with no amendments to the proposed quarantine conditions.

Australia's Director of Quarantine has now determined the policy to permit the entry of elephant semen to Australia. Importation of elephant semen can be permitted subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified in the conditions for the importation of elephant semen from Singapore, the USA and Member States of the European Union (May 2008). These measures are designed to limit quarantine risk to a level which is acceptably low, consistent with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine.

The policy determination and related information have been forwarded to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). AQIS will take the determination and policy advice into account when considering applications for import permits.

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 listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk assessments being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website.

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QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANT SEMEN FROM SINGAPORE, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Conditions of Administration

Importation under these conditions is restricted to semen that has been collected from elephants resident in licensed or registered zoos in Singapore, the United States of America (USA) and Member States of the European Union (EU) for at least two years immediately prior to collection for export to Australia.

Permission to import must be obtained in writing from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prior to the export of the semen. The identification of each donor bull must be provided with the permit application.

Permission to import will also be required from the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA, formerly the Department of the Environment and Water Resources). The semen must be accompanied by a copy of the DEWHA 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, telephone +61 2 6274 1900 or the DEWHA website: www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use.

Other conditions of administration, including details of import permit requirements and transport arrangements, are available from AQIS. Contact details are:

Live Animal Imports
AQIS
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Fax +61 2 6272 3110
E-mail animalimp@aqis.gov.au
Phone +61 2 6272 4454

The full requirements can also be viewed on AQIS's Import Conditions database (ICON) at www.aqis.gov.au.

Documentation

Each consignment of semen will be accompanied by an original international veterinary certificate, in accord with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code) Appendix 4.1.3., signed by an Official Veterinarian* of the country of export. A consignment may consist of semen collected from one or more donors resident in the same zoo at the time of semen collection.

*Note: **Official Veterinarian** means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the Certification Procedures of the Code.

The veterinary certificate

1. The veterinary certificate must:

- be written in English
- meet all requirements of the **Veterinary certification** section of these conditions
- provide the identification for each donor animal (name, microchip number, registration number) and include the name and address of the importer and exporter and the AQIS Import Permit number.

2. An Official Veterinarian of the Government Veterinary Administration must:

- provide a separate veterinary certificate for each consignment from each donor animal
- sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and all documents, eg laboratory reports that form part of the extended health certification with the stamp of the government veterinary administration
- record his/her name, signature and contact details on the veterinary certificate.

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

Proposed Veterinary Certification for the importation of elephant semen

Certification

1. The semen has been collected from a donor or donors that has/have lived continuously in the zoo in which collection took place for at least two years prior to the first collection of semen for this consignment. The zoo has a health monitoring program in place and is under veterinary supervision. The zoo is located in a country recognised by the OIE as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free country.

2. The donor(s) was healthy at the time of collection.

3. Bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) and tuberculosis (*M. tuberculosis*) have not been diagnosed in any elephant in the zoo during the two years immediately prior to the first collection of semen for this consignment. Each elephant in the zoo has been tested for tuberculosis using the Elephant TB STAT-PAK Assay during the twelve months immediately prior to semen collection.

4. Elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) has not been diagnosed in any elephant in the zoo during the two years immediately prior to semen collection.

5. All equipment used to collect, process and store the semen and/or which comes in contact with the donor bull was new or thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and between collections. All biological products of animal origin used in the collection, processing and storage of the semen were obtained from animals free from bovine tuberculosis and bovine brucellosis.

6. Frozen semen has been securely stored in a place and manner approved by the Official Veterinarian until export.