



Stakeholder response summary

Importation of zoo hippopotamuses and their semen from approved countries

Question and Comments	Department response
<p>A stakeholder requested inclusion of additional tuberculosis testing options, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the addition of the DPP VetTB assay as another departmental approved serological test for <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex (MTBC) diagnosis in hippos• the inclusion of interferon-gamma release assays (IGRA) as an alternative method of assessing cell-mediated immunity in hippos to tuberculin skin tests (TSTs), due to problematic interpretation of TSTs in pachyderms (thick-skinned mammals).	<p>We agree to include the DPP VetTB assay as an approved serological test option for MTBC diagnosis in hippos and have modified the conditions accordingly.</p> <p>We acknowledge issues of interpretation of TSTs in pachyderm species and difficulties with interpretation. However, we are not aware of any evidence regarding use of the interferon gamma release assays in hippos to support the inclusion of an IGRA as an alternative to TSTs.</p> <p>It is important to note that options for equivalence still stand and if evidence can be provided to support the use of an IGRA or other tuberculosis testing in hippos, we will be able to assess this on a case-by-case basis or modify future conditions accordingly.</p>
<p>A stakeholder requested clarification as to the nature of the water treatment that would be required (where water is pumped directly from a natural water course) to meet the departments requirements for water supplies for pre-export quarantine. Stakeholders also requested allowances be made for a case-by case assessment of these requirements.</p>	<p>Further clarity has been included about this requirement. However, as several water treatment methods or combinations of treatments may achieve the same outcome, prescriptive requirements are not included and water treatment will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p>

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<p>A stakeholder requested clarification of the definition of a 'collection', noting this may be interpreted by some as including all animals within the physical boundaries of an entire zoo premises.</p>	<p>We added a note to define the use of the word 'collection', in the specific context the definition of a closed herd in the policy, as all the animals that share same physical enclosure on the premises as the animal/s for export or from which semen is collected for export.</p>
<p>A stakeholder requested that we consider <i>Salmonella</i> spp., <i>Clostridium chauvoei</i> and <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> as potential hazards for the importation of live zoo hippos and their semen.</p>	<p>These hazards were considered in drafting of the report but excluded from the hazard ID table on the basis of their ubiquitous nature and/or endemism of some types in Australia. The hazards identified by the stakeholder have been listed in the hazard table in the final report to clearly document that they were considered.</p>
