



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



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## DRAFT

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### QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF PINNIPEDS

#### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 These conditions apply to the importation of all members of the Order Pinnipedia. They do not apply to members of the Order Cetacea. An import risk analysis (IRA) for cetaceans is planned but a commencement date has not been set.
- 1.2 A copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) must accompany the animals. Details are available from the AFFA (Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry – Australia) website [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au) → Quarantine and Export Services → Animals – or by Email to [animalimp@aqis.gov.au](mailto:animalimp@aqis.gov.au).
- 1.3 Permission to import pinnipeds must also be obtained from Environment Australia (EA). Further information is available from The Director, Wildlife Permits and Enforcement Section Email [wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au](mailto:wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au) or the website [www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use](http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use).
- 1.4 The exporting country must have approval from AQIS to export live animals to Australia.
- 1.5 An *international veterinary certificate* signed an *Official Veterinarian\** must accompany the animals. The certificate is to be stamped on each page with an Official stamp. There must be a separate certificate for each consignment.  
  
*\*Official Veterinarian* means a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country (of export) to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.2. of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code.
- 1.6 The veterinary certificate should be in the format of an OIE Code Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals. It must provide details of the certifying authority, identification of each animal, premises of origin of the animals, consignor and consignee, destination and means of transport. The certificate must be in English.
- 1.7 Animals must be tested according to the requirements laid down in 2.5 below. All laboratory tests must be conducted in a laboratory approved by the Veterinary Administration of the country of export.

- 1.7.1 It is a recommendation, but not a stipulation, that the pinnipeds be subjected to the tests in 2.5.1 and 2.5.2 below, immediately before or at the commencement of the pre-export quarantine (PEQ).
- 1.7.2 Additional testing as required by the importing zoo is a matter for the importing and exporting institutions to agree.

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- 1.8 The captive facility in which the animal(s) is to perform PEQ must meet AQIS standards and be approved by the *Veterinary Administration* of the exporting country, or AQIS. An example of the standard required is at Attachment 1.
- 1.9 AQIS may require that an Australian Quarantine Officer oversee the PEQ and/or accompany the shipment to Australia at the importer's expense.
- 1.10 Costs associated with the selection, testing, transport, quarantine (including any extension to the quarantine period for whatever reason) and any Australian Government veterinary supervision of the animals during each quarantine period and during transport to Australia will not be met by the Australian Government.
- 1.11 These requirements may be varied or reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Australian Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (herein called the Director).

## 2. INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

The *Official Veterinarian* must certify that:

- 2.1 The pinnipeds have been resident in a captive institution for a period of not less than 12 months or since birth.
- 2.2 The exporting institution has not received pinnipeds brought in from the wild during the previous two years.
- 2.3 Deaths and illness in marine mammals in the exporting facility are routinely investigated by a qualified veterinarian, and there has been no evidence of any of the following diseases for the stated period:

Phocine distemper	12 months
San Miguel sea lion virus	2 years
Influenza A in pinnipeds	3 months
Phocid herpesvirus	12 months
Seal pox	12 months
Tuberculosis in pinnipeds	6 years, and

to the best of his/her knowledge, and after due enquiry, the animals for export have not been closely handled by a person infected with tuberculosis during the same period.

[For the purpose of these quarantine requirements, freedom from disease will mean no evidence, whether the evidence is clinical disease, autopsy findings or results of tests conducted.]

- 2.4 The animals were held, for a minimum period of 120 days immediately prior to export, in approved PEQ premises. During this period, all animals in the premises remained free from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease.
- 2.5 Within 21 days of the scheduled date of export, each animal was tested for:
  - 2.5.1 phocine distemper by a serum neutralisation test with a negative result, and
  - 2.5.2 phocid herpesvirus by a serum neutralisation test with a negative result.

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- 2.6 Each animal was treated with a broad spectrum external parasiticide containing ..... (active ingredients) effective against lice and acarids within 96 hours of the expected time of embarkation.
- 2.7 Each animal was treated with internal parasiticides containing ..... (active ingredients), effective against nematodes and .....(active ingredients), effective against cestodes, within 96 hours of the expected time of embarkation.
- 2.8 Each animal was examined by an *Official Veterinarian* within 48 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and was free from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites and appeared fit to travel.
- 2.9 The vehicles for the transport of the animals to the port of export were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. The containers used for transporting the animals were new or were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading. Containers constructed of timber were permanently immunised against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading as required by AQIS.
- 2.10 During transport to the port of export and during loading, the animals were not exposed to animals not eligible for export to Australia.
- 2.11 The compartment of the aircraft or vessel to be occupied by the animals and all removable equipment was cleaned and disinfected prior to loading.

**Note:** Items 2.1 to 2.9 inclusive should be certified by the *Official Veterinarian* responsible for supervision of the PEQ. Items 2.10 and 2.11 may be certified by the same *Official Veterinarian* if he /she accompanies the animals to the port of export or another *Official Veterinarian* at the port of export.

### 3. TRANSPORT

- 3.1 The animals must be consigned to Australia by a route approved by the Director. They may be accompanied by other animals only with the approval of the Director. Any transshipment requires the approval of the Director. Stops on route may need approval from relevant authorities in the country or countries of transit or transshipment.
- 3.2 The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport, and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE Code and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

### 4. ENTRY AND POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Each imported animal must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a quarantine approved premises for a minimum period of 30 days. The premises must conform to standards described in Attachment 2.
- 4.2 Any animals sharing the PAQ premises with the pinnipeds during PAQ must remain in the premises until the pinnipeds are released from PAQ. No pinnipeds destined for return to the wild may share the PAQ premises whilst an imported pinniped is performing PAQ.
- 4.3 Any crates, bedding remaining on the aircraft at arrival, or accompanying the animal to PAQ must be sterilised, destroyed or otherwise dealt with as directed by a quarantine officer at the ports of unloading.

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- 4.4 As soon as possible after arrival, each animal must be inspected by an *Official Veterinarian* for signs of disease. Additional inspections whilst the animal is in PAQ will be at the discretion of the Director.
- 4.5 After completion of PAQ, each animal imported under these conditions may be released from quarantine or released under quarantine surveillance into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory Government for the holding of the species imported, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.
- 4.6 During PAQ and while the imported animals remain under quarantine surveillance, they, and any in-contact animals, may be subjected to any testing or treatment prescribed by the Director, at the owner's expense.
- 4.7 If any animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, that animal and any or all other animals in the PAQ premises may, at the Director's discretion, be detained in quarantine for further testing and/ or observation, or exported at the importer's expense, or destroyed without recompense. The death of any animal in PAQ must be reported to AQIS as soon as possible.
- 4.8 Pinnipeds sharing the same PAQ facility may not be released from quarantine until the most recently arrived animal is due for release, and no animals have shown signs of exotic disease during this time.
- 4.9 The importer will be charged for services provided by the Australian Government. If any animals die or are destroyed during any period of control, the Australian Government will not pay compensation.

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## Attachment 1

### STANDARD OF PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE FACILITY FOR PINNIPEDS FOR EXPORT TO AUSTRALIA

Premises to be used for pre-export quarantine (PEQ) of pinnipeds to Australia must comply with the following operational and structural standards.

- . The PEQ facility was serviced by a water supply that was not in direct communication with any other animal facility. The water was clean and not pumped directly from a natural watercourse that is frequented by wild pinnipeds.
- . Entry into the PEQ facility must be prohibited to all unauthorised persons, and visitor entries recorded.
- . The PEQ facility was under a different roof from facilities used by other pinnipeds.
- . The PEQ facility, whilst in use, was either serviced by personnel who did not handle other pinnipeds; or, by staff who followed strict rules of disinfection prior to entry of the pinniped pen.
- . All feeding and other utensils for animals in the PEQ facility were for their use alone, and not used for other animals.

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## Attachment 2

### STANDARD OF POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE FACILITY FOR PINNIPEDS EXPORTED TO AUSTRALIA.

Premises to be used for post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) of pinnipeds imported into Australia must comply with the following operational and structural standards.

- . The PAQ facility must be sufficiently far removed from other pinnipeds to prevent transfer of infectious agents in expired air, i.e. a distance that would prevent droplet infection. For practical purposes this means under a different roof from facilities used by other pinnipeds.
- . Entry into the PAQ must be prohibited to all unauthorised persons, and visitor entries recorded.
- . The PAQ facility must be serviced by a water supply that is not in direct communication with any other animal facility. The water used by the quarantined pinniped must not be pumped directly to a natural watercourse without prior sterilisation. Alternatively the water may go directly into a municipal sewerage system.
  - Full records must be kept of maintenance of sterilising equipment and must be available to AQIS staff on request.
- . The PAQ facility, whilst in use, must be either serviced by personnel who do not handle other pinnipeds or Suidae, or serviced only by staff who follow strict rules of disinfection prior to leaving the pinniped pen. This would include a change of exterior clothing and boots and thorough washing of hands on entry and leaving the facility.
- . Records of the health of all pinnipeds in the facility must be kept, including all treatments and tests, and must be available to AQIS staff on request. Any pinniped that dies must be autopsied as soon as possible and the autopsy report and laboratory reports made available to AQIS. The death of any pinniped must be notified to AQIS as soon as possible.
- . All feeding and other utensils for animals in the PAQ facility must be for their use alone, and not used for other animals.
- . Pinnipeds sharing the same facility will all perform quarantine until the most recently arrived is eligible for release.