



AFFA02/4766

DRAFT

April 2003

INTERIM CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATES

Scope

These conditions apply to the importation of non-human primates from approved premises under veterinary supervision. They do not apply to non-human primates from the wild or other sources where they were not subjected to permanent veterinary supervision. Consideration may be given to applications to import primates from such sources in exceptional circumstances and on a case-by-case basis. Permission will not be given for the importation of non-human primates for the purpose of being kept as pets. Permission may not be given for importation from countries not previously approved for the export of animals to Australia.

Documentation, transport and quarantine requirements for marmosets and tamarins

Documentation

- 1) The animals must be accompanied by a copy of a Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) on behalf of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Director). Further information can be obtained from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website www.affa.gov.au under Quarantine and Inspection Services.
- 2) The animals must be accompanied by a copy of an Environment Australia (EA) permit and appropriate CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) documentation from the exporting country. Details are available from the Director, Sustainable Wildlife Industries Section, EA - Email wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au or the EA website: <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>.
- 3) The animals must be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate* signed by an *Official Veterinarian** of the country of export. The certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and provide details of the identification of each animal (species, age, sex, microchip number), the origin of the animals (exporter and premises of origin), and the destination of the animals.
The *Official Veterinarian* must attest that the premises of origin:
 - a) is a Government registered or licensed zoological gardens, wildlife park or scientific institution approved for the holding of non-human primates;

*An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Section 1.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code* (the OIE Code).

- b) is under permanent veterinary supervision, and where a suitable health-monitoring programme is followed, including appropriate investigation into causes of significant illness and death;
- c) is located in a country in which no case of yellow fever has been reported in the 12 months prior to shipment; and
- d) in which no case of tuberculosis (disease due to infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *M bovis*) has occurred in nonhuman primates or their handlers in the five years prior to shipment;

and that the animals:

- a) have been continuously resident in the premises of origin for the two years prior to shipment or since birth;
- b) have been kept in buildings and enclosures in which no case of rabies, hepatitis B, measles, simian immunodeficiency syndrome or simian haemorrhagic fever has occurred in the six months prior to shipment;
- c) have been kept in isolation from other nonhuman primates not of the same health status for at least 30 days immediately prior to export and, during this time, have remained free from signs of communicable disease;
- d) have been individually identified (the means of identification should be stated in the certificate); and
- e) have been examined within 48 hours prior to shipment and found to be healthy, free from clinical signs of contagious disease, and fit for transport.

Individual health records including vaccinations, tests and treatments performed during the last two years or since the birth of each animal must be attached to the veterinary certificate.

Transport

The animals must be transported to Australia by air. There must be no other animals on board the aircraft except with the written approval of the Director. The animals must travel by a route approved by the Director. The design of the containers, and all other arrangements for transport must be in accordance with the Live Animals Regulations of the International Air Transport Association. Container requirements 31-34 apply to the transport of non-human primates.

Quarantine

On arrival in Australia, the animals must be transported directly to a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) where they will be held for at least 30 days in Post-Arrival Quarantine (PAQ).

During quarantine:

- 1) all animals must be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subjected to a clinical examination, and AQIS is to be advised;
- 2) all animals dying for any reason must be subjected to complete post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death, and AQIS is to be advised.
- 3) the animals must be subjected to a test for tuberculosis approved by AQIS.

It is recommended that, during quarantine, the animals be subjected to the following diagnostic tests and treatments and any other tests and/or treatments deemed necessary by the importing institution:

- a) culture of fresh faeces or rectal swabs for pathogenic enteric bacteria including *Salmonella*, *Shigella* and *Yersinia* daily for 3 days in the first 5 days after arrival;
- b) testing and treatment for parasites as appropriate to the species of animal and the targeted parasite/s at the start of quarantine and again toward the end of the quarantine.

To protect staff exposed to the imported animals, or to their body fluids, faeces and tissues, Managers of QAPs should comply with the guidelines listed in Article 2.10.1.7 of the OIE Code (Appendix 1) or take equivalent measures. The guidelines are recommended for the protection of staff in all institutions holding nonhuman primates.

Quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the Director until any adverse events during the quarantine period are fully investigated and resolved, and no evidence of transmission of infectious agents within the quarantine group exists.

At the completion of post-arrival quarantine, the animals will 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.

Documentation, transport and quarantine requirements for other non-human primates

Documentation

- 1) The animals must be accompanied by a copy of a Permit to Import issued by AQIS on behalf of the Director.
- 2) The animals must be accompanied by a copy of an EA permit and appropriate CITES documentation.
- 3) The animals must be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate* signed by an *Official Veterinarian* of the country of export. The certificate should be in the format of an OIE Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and provide details of the identification of each animal (species, age, sex, microchip number), the origin of the animals (exporter and premises of origin), and the destination of the animals.

The *Official Veterinarian* must attest that the premises of origin:

- a) is a Government registered or licensed zoological gardens, wildlife park or scientific institution approved for the holding of non-human primates;
- b) is under permanent veterinary supervision, and where a suitable health-monitoring programme is followed, including appropriate investigation into causes of significant illness and death;
- c) is located in a country in which no case of yellow fever has been reported in the 12 months prior to export;

- d) in which no case of tuberculosis (disease due to infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* or *M bovis*) has occurred in nonhuman primates or their handlers in the five years prior to shipment;

and that the animals:

- a) have been continuously resident in the premises of origin for the two years prior to shipment or since birth;
- b) have been kept in buildings and enclosures in which no case of rabies, hepatitis B, measles, simian immunodeficiency syndrome, simian haemorrhagic fever or disease due to Marburg or Ebola virus has occurred in the six months prior to shipment;
- c) have been kept in isolation from other nonhuman primates not of the same healthy status for at least 30 days immediately prior to export and, during this time, have remained free from signs of communicable disease;
- d) have been individually identified (the means of identification should be stated in the certificate);
- e) were subjected to testing for tuberculosis with negative results, using a Mantoux test or other test approved by the *Veterinary Administration*, during the 30 days prior to shipment;
- f) were subjected to a diagnostic test for herpes B virus during the 30 days prior to shipment, unless known positive to a previous test, and their current status documented (macaques only);
- g) were subjected to serological tests for hepatitis B virus (tests for anti-hepatitis B core antigen and for hepatitis B surface antigen) during the 30 days prior to shipment and their current status documented (gibbons and great apes only); and
- h) have been examined within 48 hours prior to shipment and found to be healthy, free from clinical signs of contagious disease, and fit for transport.

Individual health records including vaccinations, tests and treatments performed during the last two years or since the birth of each animal must be attached to the veterinary certificate.

Transport

The animals must be transported to Australia by air. There must be no other animals on board the aircraft except with the written approval of the Director. The animals must travel by a route approved by the Director. The design of the containers, and all other arrangements for transport must be in accordance with the Live Animals Regulations of the International Air Transport Association. Container requirements 31-34 apply to the transport of non-human primates.

Quarantine

On arrival in Australia the animals must be transported directly to a QAP where they will be held for at least 30 days in PAQ.

During quarantine:

- 1) all animals must be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be subjected to a clinical examination, and AQIS is to be advised;

- 2) all animals dying for any reason must be subjected to complete post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death, and AQIS is to be advised;
- 3) the animals must be subjected to a test for tuberculosis approved by AQIS.

It is recommended that, during quarantine, the animals be subjected to the following diagnostic tests and treatments and any other tests and/or treatments deemed necessary by the importing institution:

- a) culture of fresh faeces or rectal swabs for pathogenic enteric bacteria including *Salmonella*, *Shigella* and *Yersinia* daily for 3 days in the first 5 days after arrival;
- b) testing and treatment as appropriate to the species of the animal and the targeted parasite/s at the start of quarantine and again toward the end of the quarantine.

To protect staff exposed to the imported animals, or to their body fluids, faeces and tissues, Managers of QAPs should comply with the guidelines listed in Article 2.10.1.7 of the OIE Code (Appendix 1) or take equivalent measures. The guidelines are recommended for the protection of staff in all institutions holding nonhuman primates. All imported macaques should be treated as potentially infected with herpes B virus irrespective of test results, and be managed accordingly.

Quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the Director until any adverse events during the quarantine period are fully investigated and resolved, and no evidence of transmission of infectious agents within the quarantine group exists.

At the completion of post-arrival quarantine, the animals will 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.

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