



T95/2829

29 October 2003

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ZOO PERISSODACTYLS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OR CANADA

Scope

These requirements apply to the importation of perissodactyls including rhinoceros, tapirs, zebras, Przewalski's horses and other non-domesticated equidae from the United States of America (USA) or Canada.

General requirements

It is the responsibility of the importer or his or her agent/s to secure all required permits and to ensure all the requirements of the exporting country and Australian Governments (both Commonwealth and State) are met. The latter will include permission from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the agency responsible for the regulation of the introduction and keeping of exotic animals in the State or Territory in which the importing institution or premises is located.

AQIS may require that an Australian Quarantine Officer or *Official Veterinarian* oversee the pre-export quarantine, testing and treatment and/or accompany the animal/s to Australia.

The importer must nominate a person who will be accessible to AQIS at all reasonable times during the export/import process and who will have authority to act on behalf of the importer.

Documentation

The person-in-charge of the animal/s on the aircraft or vessel to Australia must carry a copy of each of the following documents, and make them available to a Quarantine Officer upon arrival.

1) A Permit to Import issued by the AQIS on behalf of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Director). Details are available from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website www.daff.gov.au under Quarantine and export Services – Animals, or e-mail to animalimp@aqis.gov.au, or telephone 02 6272 4454 or fax 02 6272 3110.

2) A permit issued by DEH 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, DEH – Email wildlifetrade@deh.gov.au or the EA website: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>.

3) Individual health records for each animal including details of vaccinations, tests and treatments during the last 2 years or since birth.

4) An *international veterinary certificate*.

The certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and must give details of:

- the identification of each animal including microchip number and site of implantation (rather than ear mark), species, sex and age;
- name and address of exporter and zoo or wildlife park of origin;
- name and address of consignee;
- nature and identification of means of transport.

Certification requirements

The veterinary certificate must be in English and be signed by an *Official Veterinarian** of the country of export who must certify that:

a) The premises of origin is:

- a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park approved for the holding of non-domesticated animals,
- located in a State or Province that has been free from vesicular stomatitis for the past 3 months,
- under veterinary supervision, and implements a suitable health-monitoring program, including microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies.

b) Each animal for export has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 12 months prior to certification or since birth.

c) No case of African horse sickness, Rift Valley fever or Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis has been reported in this country during the past 12 months.

d) No case of dourine, epizootic lymphangitis, equine piroplasmiasis, glanders, heartwater, horse pox or trypanosomiasis (*Trypanosoma evansi*, *T vivax*) has been diagnosed in any animal in the premises of origin during the past 12 months.

e) No case of equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza, equine viral encephalomyelitis or equine ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia risticii*, *E equi*) has been diagnosed in the past 3 months, and no case of bovine tuberculosis during the past 5 years, in any animal at the premises of origin of the same Family as the export animal/s.

f) Each animal that is a Przewalski's horse or zebra or other equid has been vaccinated against West Nile virus (WNV) during the period between 12 months and 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, using an approved inactivated vaccine according to the manufacturer's instructions.

g) Each animal that is a Przewalski's horse or zebra or other equid has been vaccinated twice against equine influenza during the period between 4 months and 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, using a vaccine approved for use in horses.

h) The animal/s was/were isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status for 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period.

i) Each animal has been individually identified with an ISO-compliant microchip (transponder), and the site of implantation and the identification number of each animal is recorded on the *veterinary certificate*.

j) At least 10 days after the commencement of the pre-export isolation period, samples were taken from each animal (other than unweaned animals less than 6 months old) and tested at a government approved laboratory, with negative results, for equine piroplasmiasis (*Babesia equi* and *B. caballi*) by indirect fluorescent antibody test.

k) Each animal was treated for internal and external parasites (including ticks) with effective broad spectrum parasiticides twice during the 30 days prior to export at an interval of at least 14 days, and the dates of treatment, active ingredients and dose rates used for each animal are recorded in the individual health record attached to the *veterinary certificate*.

l) He/she or another *Official Veterinarian* has inspected each animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it to be healthy, free from ticks and other external parasites, and fit to travel.

m) After due enquiry he/she is satisfied that each animal will be shipped in a container that meets the appropriate container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.

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

Transport

The animal/s must be consigned to Australia by a route approved by AQIS. Transshipment requires AQIS' approval. During transport to the port of export, shipment, and transport from the port of importation to the post-arrival quarantine facility, the animal/s must have no contact with animals not of the same consignment. The design of the containers, and all other arrangements for air transport must be in accordance with the IATA's Live Animals Regulations.

Quarantine

In this section, quarantine means the holding of animals in a place and under conditions specified by AQIS pursuant to the *Quarantine Act 1908*.

On arrival in Australia, the animal/s must be transported to a quarantine approved premise (QAP) where it/they will be held for at least 30 days in post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). During PAQ the animal/s is/are to be monitored daily for signs of illness and, if necessary, be examined by a veterinarian familiar with the species. If any animal dies during PAQ, AQIS must be promptly notified and the animal must be autopsied by a registered veterinarian to determine the cause of death. AQIS is to be promptly advised of any disease incident and its outcome.

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 satisfactory completion of PAQ, the animals will, subject to meeting DEH and State/ Territory requirements, be released from quarantine into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory government for the holding of perissodactyls.

Review

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity