



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

30 November 2009

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/28

**DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR
HORSES FROM APPROVED COUNTRIES**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) notifies stakeholders of the release of the draft import risk analysis (IRA) report for horses from approved countries.

The draft IRA report assesses 43 pests and diseases associated with the importation of horses, and in accordance with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine, recommends risk management for 25 of these. Risk management measures include country freedom, premises freedom, testing, inspection and treatment, and pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ).

The draft IRA report is being issued for 60 days consultation. Written comments must be provided to Biosecurity Australia by 1 February 2010.

On 30 September 2008, Biosecurity Australia announced the formal commencement of an IRA for the importation of horses from approved countries (BAA 2008/32). The IRA is part of the Government's response to the Commission of Inquiry into the August 2007 equine influenza outbreak in Australia. The IRA is being conducted according to the *IRA Handbook 2007* using a non-regulated pathway.

The IRA covers the importation of horses from countries and regions from which Australia currently permits such importation. These include Canada, certain Member States of the European Union, Hong Kong, Macau, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates and the United States. The IRA also covers horses from Japan. Import conditions for horses from Japan were suspended following the equine influenza outbreak in Japan in 2007.

The IRA assesses 43 pests and diseases and recommends risk management measures for the following 25: African horse sickness, anthrax, Borna disease, contagious equine metritis, dourine, Eastern equine encephalomyelitis, epizootic lymphangitis, equid herpesvirus-1 (abortigenic and neurological strains), equine encephalosis, equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza, equine piroplasmiasis, equine viral arteritis, glanders, horse pox, Japanese encephalitis, Lyme disease, New World screwworm, Old World screwworm, rabies, surra, vesicular stomatitis, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile fever and Western equine encephalomyelitis.

Risk management measures include country freedom, premises freedom, diagnostic testing, inspection and treatment for ticks, protection from vectors, PEQ and PAQ. The recommended measures for equine influenza are similar to those in the current interim measures and include country freedom without vaccination, or premises freedom, vaccination, diagnostic testing, PEQ and PAQ.

Stakeholders have until 1 February 2010 (60 days plus extra days for the Christmas/New year holiday break) to provide written comments on the draft IRA report. The draft IRA report is available from the Biosecurity Australia website, www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. Printed copies are available, if required. Comments on the draft IRA report must be submitted to:

Animal Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
E-mail: animal@biosecurity.gov.au

Stakeholder comments will be carefully considered and a final report will be prepared. The final report and recommendations will be provided to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine to make a quarantine policy determination. Stakeholders should note that under the non-regulated process being followed for this IRA there will be no appeal opportunity on the final IRA report.

C o n f i d e n t i a l i t y

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Biosecurity Australia Advices will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter.

The Commonwealth of Australia reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of their identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will only be treated as confidential if they are marked 'confidential' and can be classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.



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