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20 January 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/004

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations
Office of the Australian CVO
Animal Health Branch, NOAPH
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo
Australasian Association of Zoological Parks and
Aquaria
EU Delegation, Canberra

CSIRO Division of Animal Health
National Farmers' Federation
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF
Australian Animal Health Council
Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
National Meat Association of Australia

Chief Veterinary Officer, MAF RA, NZ

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: LIVE CROCODILIANS AND THEIR EGGS FROM ALL COUNTRIES

DECISION ON REVISED CONDITIONS

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides the final import risk analysis (IRA) and quarantine requirements for the importation of live crocodilians and their eggs from all countries. The appeal period closes on 21 February 2000.

Under the IRA procedures the Executive Director of AQIS has considered the final IRA paper and agreed to the requirements set out in the conditions (at Attachment A).

AQIS circulated for public comment AQPM 1999/37 which included the draft IRA. The five responses were considered in finalising the IRA and a number of changes were made to the final IRA paper. A summary of comments received and AQIS's responses is at Attachment B.

In addition to changes arising from stakeholder comments, three other amendments were made to address operational issues:

- 1 Rewording of the attestation of the health status of source animals and egg donors to facilitate the checking of health certificate documentation.
- 2 Clarification of the testing and treatment requirements while live animals are in PEQ.
- 3 Further details of packing and transport requirements.

Next Steps

This AQPM advises the final conditions endorsed by the Executive Director of AQIS. Stakeholders may appeal against the process followed for this IRA by writing to:

The Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Appeals should be received by close of business on 21 February 2000. If there are no appeals, the attached conditions will be adopted on 28 February 2000. AQIS will issue a further AQPM advising adoption or, alternatively, that an appeal has been received. All enquires should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth 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 his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of a submission will not be treated as confidential unless it is marked 'confidential' and the material is capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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Stakeholder responses to the draft IRA paper.

Comment - Suggested that proposed conditions would not guarantee freedom from adeno-virus, *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma* or *Trichinella*. Cautioned that crocodile meat could be fed to susceptible hosts in this country. Advised that a requirement for certification that the source population is free from *Trichinella*, as determined by sampling, be included in the quarantine requirements.

Response - Conditions changed to take this into account.

Comment - Several respondents provided additional technical information, eg. on locations at which exotic species are held in Australia.

Response - This information has been incorporated into the IRA.

Comment – Sought clarification of the exposure pathways for imported crocodilians.

Response - The IRA was changed to provide a better explanation of exposure pathways.

Comment – Request for clarification of the fate of exotic crocodilians on release from quarantine.

Response - Conditions clarified.

Comment - A lack of consideration given in the draft IRA to the final location of imported animals. Suggested that this may be a significant factor in assessing levels of quarantine risk.

Response - The consideration of final location as a risk management option is included.

Comment - Query as to whether policy may be revised as new knowledge is published.

Response - The IRA paper acknowledges that it is based on current available knowledge and that the assessment of risks and their management will be revised if significant new information becomes available.

Comment - Recommended that the conditions for the importation of eggs should be amended to ensure that adequate ventilation of eggs occurs during transit.

Response - The conditions were changed to incorporate this recommendation.

Comment - Seeks clarification of “scientific establishment” and requests that provision for approval of a private quarantine facility for eggs and hatchlings is extended to live animals.

Response - The conditions allow for the establishment and operation of AQIS-approved quarantine facilities for eggs and live animals.

Comment - Expresses concern that Government accreditation of disease freedom may be unreliable.

Response - AQPM 199/41 provides guidelines for the approval of countries to export animals to Australia.

Comment - Suggests that greater emphasis could be placed on the most significant diseases in the draft IRA, together with much tighter controls to prevent entry of these diseases.

Response – The proposed risk management measures are based on the risk analysis of all identified hazards.