



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

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BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/17

DRAFT QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE RETURN OF HORSES FROM HONG KONG AFTER COMPETITION IN OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC EVENTS

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) seeks comment from stakeholders on proposed quarantine conditions for the return of Australian horses from Hong Kong after competing in Olympic and Paralympic events in 2008. Stakeholder comments would be appreciated by 24 August 2007.

The equestrian events for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics are being held in Hong Kong in August and September 2008. As part of Australia's preparations for these events, Biosecurity Australia has developed quarantine conditions for the return of Australian competition horses.

Based on Australia's experience with the Sydney 2000 Olympics, Biosecurity Australia and relevant areas of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have had close contact with the organising authorities on quarantine arrangements for the equestrian events. This has included assisting the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, to develop conditions for the importation of Australian horses into Hong Kong to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic events.

This BAPM provides advice of proposed conditions for the return to Australia of these competition horses to enable comment from interested stakeholders. Australia currently has quarantine conditions for the return of horses from Hong Kong after racing. However, due to the large number of horses competing at the Olympics and Paralympics from a wide range of countries, the quarantine risks are considered to require risk management measures additional to those required for Australian racehorses routinely competing in Hong Kong. Biosecurity Australia has reviewed the quarantine risks, in particular subclinical viral infections that might be circulating in competing horses, and proposes conditions that require:

- . an increase in the pre-export quarantine (PEQ) from 7 days to 14 days at the Hong Kong Jockey Club facilities (where horses for export to Australia currently undergo pre-export quarantine)
- . specifications for pre-export quarantine facilities and their operation
- . isolation from horses other than those competing in Olympic and Paralympic events
- . vaccinations, health checks and veterinary certification.

The full details of the proposed conditions are attached.

Consultation

Biosecurity Australia would welcome stakeholder comments on the proposed conditions by 24 August 2007. Comments will be considered as Biosecurity Australia finalises the policy review. Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Confidentiality

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

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless the submission is marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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