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REVISED QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM NEW CALEDONIA

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 In these conditions the collective title *cattle* applies to domestic cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*), farmed American bison (*Bison bison*), farmed buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and animals derived from these species.
- 1.2 Each consignment of cattle must be accompanied by a valid *Permit To Import Quarantine Material into Australia* obtained from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import.

The cattle must be shipped to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.

- 1.3 Each consignment must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by an *Official Veterinarian*. An *Official Veterinarian* is a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian as authorised by the Government of New Caledonia to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.2. of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code (*Code*). The certificate must be in English and a language understood by the certifying Official Veterinarian and must be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

The Animal Health Certificate must conform to the *Code Model Certificate No 2* and contain detail of the certifications listed in Section 2 of this document.

- 1.4 Section 2 sets out the minimum requirements for importation into Australia. Various zones in Australia may differ in animal health status and State/Territory veterinary authorities may require testing or certification additional to these requirements before the animals may enter a particular zone or move from one zone to another within Australia.
- 1.5 In the event of a consignment arriving in Australia without the correct certification, or in any other way not having met these requirements, the consignment may be retained in quarantine, returned to the country of origin or destroyed without recompense.
- 1.6 The cattle must undergo pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in premises approved by the Government of New Caledonia for a minimum period of 21 days. The animals must undergo post arrival quarantine (PAQ) in Australia, at an approved quarantine station, for a minimum period of 14 days.

During PEQ the animals must be isolated from all other animals not of tested equivalent health status, and tested and treated in accordance with the requirements in Section 2.

- 1.7 All relevant *Code* Articles are at Attachment 1.
- 1.8 AQIS may vary or review conditions of importation at any time.

2 CERTIFICATION

Each consignment of cattle must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by an *Official Veterinarian*. The Animal Health Certificate must conform to the *Code* Model Certificate No 2. and must attest, under IV. Sanitary Information, that:-

- 2.1 New Caledonia is recognised by the OIE as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free country where vaccination is not practised, and meets the *Code* Article definitions for country freedom from rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever and bovine brucellosis.
- 2.2 New Caledonia is a *BSE free country* in which:
 - . A risk analysis as described in Article 3.2.13.1. point 1) has been conducted and has shown that all potential risk factors for BSE have been addressed by the implementation of appropriate measures, and
 - . there has been no *case* of BSE, and either
 - the criteria in Article 3.2.13.1. points 2) to 5) have been met,
 - or
 - BSE is compulsorily notifiable and the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants has been enforced for at least 8 years.
- 2.3 The cattle and their parents have lived only in countries or zones which meet the above definition of a *BSE free country* given in 2.2 (above).
- 2.4 The cattle were continually resident and free from quarantine restrictions in New Caledonia for 180 days immediately prior to export.
- 2.5 Immediately prior to export the cattle underwent PEQ for a minimum period of 21 days during which they were isolated from all other ruminants not of tested equivalent health status.
- 2.6 None of the cattle were greater than 180 days pregnant at export and, if inseminated or implanted during PEQ, were either inseminated with semen, or implanted with embryos collected and correctly certified for export to Australia, or naturally mated to a bull of equivalent health status.
- 2.7 All blood, tissue and semen tests for disease were carried out at a laboratory approved by the Government of New Caledonia to perform the test required for that disease. Dates of collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests were recorded on the Animal Health Certificate.

2.8 Bovine tuberculosis

Immediately prior to entering PEQ the cattle resided in a herd, that has been *officially free** from bovine tuberculosis for at least 2 years and, located in *part of the territory of New Caledonia*** which is *officially free**** from bovine tuberculosis.

* an *officially free herd* is one which complies with OIE International Animal Health Code Article (*Code*) 3.2.3.1.

** *part of the territory of a country* is defined in the *Code* as a *geographical or administrative entity possessing an authorised administrative veterinary organisation capable of taking and controlling the appropriate measures.*

*** *part of the territory of a country* is *officially free* from bovine tuberculosis if it complies with that section of *Code* Article 3.2.3.1.

2.9 Tuberculin test

The cattle for export gave a negative result to an approved single intradermal tuberculin test (using 0.1ml of Purified Protein Derivative [PPD] Tuberculin containing 3mg PPD per ml) immediately prior to PEQ but not less than 90 days following any previous tuberculin test.

[*Note: The tuberculin must be injected intradermally into the caudal fold or the neck. The injection site is examined 72 hours after injection when a positive test is indicated by any swelling, thickening or oedema of the site.*]

2.10 Johne's (paratuberculosis)

The cattle for export:

- . showed no clinical sign of paratuberculosis on the day of shipment, and
- . were not vaccinated for paratuberculosis, and either
came from herds not known or suspected of being infected with paratuberculosis and from which at least 30 animals 3 years of age and older gave a negative result to an absorbed ELISA (or equivalent monitoring process) within the 14 months prior to export
or
if over 2 years of age, came from herds not known or suspected of being infected with paratuberculosis and during the 30 days prior to shipment gave a negative result to an absorbed ELISA.

2.11 During PEQ the cattle for export gave a negative result to one of the following tests for bovine pestivirus:

- either
an antigen-capture ELISA on peripheral blood leucocytes,
or
an approved virus isolation test on blood or serum.

2.12 Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL) testing

Each animal for export

EITHER

originated from a herd which meets the OIE requirements for an EBL free herd

OR

if over 8 months of age, gave a negative result to either an ELISA or an AGID test for EBL antibodies during PEQ

OR

was tested for EBL virus by

either

an approved virus isolation test from a blood sample collected during the 7 days immediately prior to, or during PEQ, with negative results

or

the inoculation of sentinel sheep which remained serologically negative for 8 weeks.

[Note: virus detection by sheep inoculation must only be used after the technique has received written approval by AQIS]

2.13 Bovine herpesvirus 1 (BHV1) testing

The cattle for export were tested for bovine herpesvirus 1 (infectious bovine rhinotracheitis) on 2 occasions using the virus neutralisation test (VNT) [incubation of virus/serum for 24 hours at 37 deg C in accordance with the protocol for a VN test described in Chapter 3.2.5. of the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines], at an interval of not less than 21 days. The second test used serum collected within the 14 days immediately prior to export. Both tests were negative at a serum dilution of 1:2 or less.

2.14 During PEQ the cattle were treated with:

- a broad spectrum anthelmintic;
- a broad spectrum external parasiticide in the recommended manner to remove all ticks, lice and mange mites.

2.15 The cattle were at least 180 days old at export.

2.16 Inspections

The cattle were inspected by an *Official Veterinarian* during the first 7 days of PEQ and were found to be free from signs of infectious and contagious diseases.

The cattle were examined by an *Official Veterinarian* within 24 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and were found to be free from signs of infectious or contagious disease, free of evidence of external parasites and fit to travel.

2.17 During transport to the port of export the animals remained isolated from animals not of the same consignment.

2.18 The vehicles and crates or boxes for the transport of the animals to the port of export were cleaned and disinfected with a suitable disinfectant prior to the loading of the animals.

3. TRANSPORT

- 3.1 The cattle must be consigned directly to Australia.
- 3.2 An Australian or New Zealand quarantine veterinarian may be required to accompany the shipment to Australia at the importer's expense. AQIS must receive adequate notice of the intention to import so that arrangements can be made.
- 3.3 The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with OIE Code recommendations and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted; treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

4 IMPORTERS/AGENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the importer or importer's agent to arrange for the provision of any health certification or testing additional to that required by AQIS (eg for inherited diseases or genetic defects, or as required by State/Territory veterinary authorities).
- 4.2 The importer or agent must nominate a person who can be contacted by AQIS officers and who will be responsible for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
- 4.3 The importer will be charged for services provided by the Australian Government. The Australian Government will not compensate the importer or agent for any losses incurred while the animals intended for importation are under AQIS control
- 4.4 For any importation of bison (*Bison bison*) or buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*), or animals derived from them, permission must also be obtained from Environment Australia to meet the requirements of the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982*. Further information may be obtained from:

The Director
Wildlife Protection
Environment Australia
GPO Box 787
<http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/>
Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6274 2291
Fax 02 6274 1921
email wps@ea.gov.au
website:
plants/wildlife/intro.htm

5 POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 The imported cattle must undergo a post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) on premises approved by AQIS under the supervision of an Australian *Official Veterinarian*, for a minimum period of 14 days.
- 5.2 During PAQ the cattle may be subjected to any other testing or treatment prescribed by the Director at the importer's expense.

- 5.3 If any animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, that animal and any or all other cattle in the PAQ premises may be detained in quarantine for further testing and/or observation or exported at the importer's expense, or destroyed without recompense.

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Article 3.2.13.1. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is a progressive nervous disease of adult cattle. BSE has a long incubation period measured in years, and arose from the consumption of contaminated ruminant protein.

The BSE status of a country or zone can only be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) risk analysis identifying all potential factors for BSE occurrence and their historic perspective, in particular:
 - a) consumption by cattle of meat-and-bone meal of ruminant origin;
 - b) importation of meat-and-bone meal potentially contaminated with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) or feedstuffs containing it;
 - c) importation of animals or embryos/ova potentially infected with a TSE;
 - d) epidemiological situation concerning all animal TSE in the country or zone;
 - e) extent of knowledge of the population structure of cattle, sheep and goats in the country or zone;
 - f) the origin of animal waste, the parameters of the rendering processes and the methods of animal feed production;
- 2) on-going education programme for veterinarians, farmers, and workers involved in transportation, marketing and slaughter of cattle to encourage reporting of all cases of neurological disease in adult cattle;
- 3) compulsory notification and investigation of all cattle showing clinical signs compatible with BSE;
- 4) a BSE surveillance and monitoring system with emphasis on risks identified in point 1) above, in conformity with the guidelines in Appendix 4.5.1.; records of the number and results of investigations should be maintained for at least seven years;
- 5) examination in an approved laboratory of brain or other tissues collected within the framework of the aforementioned surveillance system.

Article 3.2.1.1. BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Country or part of the territory of a country free from bovine brucellosis

To qualify as free from bovine brucellosis, a country or part of the territory of a country shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) bovine brucellosis or any suspicion thereof is compulsorily notifiable in the country;
- 2) the entire cattle population of a country or part of the territory of a country is under official veterinary control and it has been ascertained that the rate of brucellosis infection does not exceed 0.2% of the cattle herds in the country or area under consideration;
- 3) the serological tests for bovine brucellosis are periodically conducted in each herd, with or without the ring test;
- 4) no animal has been vaccinated against bovine brucellosis for at least the past three years;
- 5) all reactors are slaughtered;
- 6) animals introduced into a free country or part of the territory of a country shall only come from *herd officially free* from bovine brucellosis or from *herds free* from bovine brucellosis. This condition may be waived for animals which have not been vaccinated and which, prior to entry into the herd, were isolated and were subjected to the serological tests for bovine brucellosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of 30 days between each test. These tests are not considered valid in female animals which have calved during the past 14 days.

In a country where all herds of cattle have qualified as officially free from bovine brucellosis and where no reactor has been found for the past five years, the system for further control may be decided by the country concerned.

Article 3.2.3.1 BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Country or part of the territory of a country officially free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as officially free from bovine tuberculosis, a country or part of the territory of a country shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) bovine tuberculosis is compulsorily notifiable in the country;
- 2) 99.8% of the herds in the considered geographical area have been officially free from bovine tuberculosis for at least the past three years as disclosed by periodic testing of all cattle in the area to determine the absence of bovine tuberculosis (periodic testing of all cattle is not required in an area where a surveillance programme as described in paragraph 4) below, reveals that at least 99.9% of the cattle have been in officially tuberculosis-free herds for at least 6 years);
- 3) cattle introduced into a country or part of the territory of a country officially free from bovine tuberculosis must be accompanied by a certificate from an Official Veterinarian attesting their compliance with Article 3.2.3.9 or the criteria set out in this Article;
- 4) a country or part of the territory of a country officially free from bovine tuberculosis must have a Veterinary Administration which should be able to trace and test the herd of origin of any reactor to a tuberculin test disclosed after removal from the considered territory. Also animals which at a *post-mortem* examination carried out by a veterinarian in an *abattoir* or elsewhere disclosed gross pathological lesions of tuberculosis which where necessary can be confirmed by established methods of microscopical-biological or cultural examination. In addition, such a country or part of the territory of a country officially free from bovine tuberculosis must have in place a surveillance programme to ensure the discovery of bovine tuberculosis should the disease be present in the country or part of the territory of a country, through slaughter monitoring and/or tuberculin testing.

Herd officially free from bovine tuberculosis

To qualify as officially free from bovine tuberculosis, a herd of cattle shall satisfy the following requirements:

- a) the herd is in a country or part of the territory of a country officially free from bovine tuberculosis; or
- b) all cattle in the herd:
 - 1) show no clinical sign of bovine tuberculosis;
 - 2) over six weeks of age, have shown a negative result to at least two official tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of six months, the first test being at six months following the eradication of bovine tuberculosis from the herd;
 - 3) showed a negative result to an annual tuberculin test to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis;
- c) cattle introduced into the herd:
 - 1) have been certified by an Official Veterinarian as having shown a negative result to the tuberculin test during the 30 days prior to entry into the herd; and /or
 - 2) were kept in a herd officially free from bovine tuberculosis.