

Equine Influenza Inquiry Government Response	Equine Influenza Response Project Deliverables
<p>Recommendation 1 That the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry designate, without delay, a Senior Executive Service officer to be primarily responsible and accountable for the importation of horses into Australia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed Officer Responsible for Horse Imports (2P-3)
<p>Recommendations 2-5 The Government will move to appoint, on an administrative basis, an 'interim inspector'. The role of the interim inspector will be to check, by inspection and audit, (PEQ) premises, import conditions covering the period until horses arrive at an airport in Australia and from when horses arrive at an airport in Australia until the completion of post-arrival quarantine (PAQ). The interim inspector will provide a report to the Minister and advice to the Executive Director of AQIS, the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia.</p> <p>The Government will also ask the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review to consider how an Inspector General of Horse Importation position can best be designed and implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed Interim Inspector General of Horse Importation (2P-1) - Approved Pre-export Quarantine Facilities (4FA-6) - Interim Inspector General of Horse Importation Report to the Minister (3RR-5) - Appointed Inspector General of Horse Importation (2P-2) - Updated Quarantine Act 1908 and subordinate legislation (1FR-1)
<p>Recommendation 6 The officer responsible for horse importation will develop and implement a process for the approval by AQIS of PEQ facilities, drawing upon the advice of the interim inspector to determine whether PEQ premises currently approved by the exporting country should be approved by AQIS. Import conditions for horses amended to include a requirement that pre-export quarantine premises must be approved by AQIS.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved Pre-export Quarantine Facilities (4FA-6) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3) - Pre Export Quarantine Review Report (3RR-1)
<p>Recommendation 7 Biosecurity Australia will inspect and review the activities and events that occur from the time horses enter PEQ until the time they arrive at an airport in Australia, in order to identify any biosecurity risks and recommend any necessary changes to import conditions or other requirements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre Export Quarantine Review Report (3RR-1) - Approved Pre-export Quarantine Facilities (4FA-6)
<p>Recommendation 8 AQIS will amend the import conditions for horses to impose a condition on the importer that a blood sample is taken while a horse is in PEQ. The conditions will include a requirement that the importer must arrange for part of the sample to be retained in the country of export and another part of the sample to be transported to Australia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3)
<p>Recommendation 9 Biosecurity Australia will review the interim measures relating to the testing of horses for equine influenza as soon as possible to ensure that this testing time is as close as practicable to the end of the pre-export quarantine period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3)

<p>Recommendation 10 The current conditions for the importation of horses provide that all operations and procedures must be documented and that AQIS may audit approved PEQ premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Approved Pre-export Quarantine Facilities (4FA-6)
<p>Recommendation 11 Biosecurity Australia will review the current interim quarantine measures for the importation of horses and include advice annually on the vaccine or vaccines that may or may not be used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3)
<p>Recommendation 12 AQIS will revise the conditions to include the requirement that a blood sample is taken while a horse is in PEQ. The conditions will also make it clear that evidence of all of these matters must be made available by the importer for inspection by the Official Veterinarian at the port of loading.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3)
<p>Recommendation 13 The import conditions for horses will be amended to require the importer to make available to AQIS sufficient evidence for AQIS to verify that there exists such certification as is required by its import conditions up to the time the horse arrives at the airport of departure and that the horse complies with those conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3)
<p>Recommendations 14 and 15 Experts in biosecurity containment and animal health and safety will be engaged to inspect and assess the adequacy of the facilities for unloading and transferring of horses at Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport. The experts will also provide urgent advice on the construction of facilities at Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert Group Established (2P-4) - Post Arrival Quarantine Review Report (3RR-3) - Interim and Final Airport Facility Upgrade – Kingsford Smith (4FA-1) - Interim and Final Airport Facility Upgrade – Tullamarine (4FA-2)
<p>Recommendation 16 Appropriate facilities to enable those who might have had contact with imported horses at both Sydney (Kingsford Smith) and Tullamarine Airports to shower and change will be provided as soon as possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim and Final Airport Facility Upgrade – Kingsford Smith (4FA-1) - Interim and Final Airport Facility Upgrade – Tullamarine (4FA-2)

<p>Recommendation 17 Should there be any ports of arrival (other than Sydney or Melbourne) approved in future for the landing by air of live horses from places other than New Zealand, similar facilities will be made available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other Airport and Port Arrangements (1FR-5)
<p>Recommendation 18 The Government will continue to control and operate PAQ stations for horses, noting that the Commissioner concludes in his report that exceptions could be made in special cases, such as the Sandown quarantine facility for horses.¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewed Leases for Quarantine Station Facilities (4FA-5)
<p>Recommendation 19 In the absence of other satisfactory government controlled and operated post-arrival quarantine stations becoming available before the options to renew the leases of Eastern Creek and Spotswood Quarantine Stations expire, those options will be exercised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renewed Leases for Quarantine Station Facilities (4FA-5)
<p>Recommendation 20 AQIS will appoint experts in biosecurity and animal health and safety to review the facilities at Eastern Creek and Spotswood Quarantine Stations. AQIS will implement the matters specifically listed by the Commissioner in his recommendation, such as closed-circuit television, secure storage for drugs and equipment and isolation stalls for sick horse</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert Group Established (2P-4) - Consultative Arrangements Established (2P-6) - Post Arrival Quarantine Review Report (3RR-3) - Interim and Final Quarantine Station Facility Upgrade – Spotswood (4FA-3) - Interim and Final Quarantine Station Facility Upgrade – Eastern Creek (4FA-4)
<p>Recommendation 21 The level of staffing for the Eastern Creek and Spotswood Quarantine Stations has been reviewed and upgraded since the outbreak of equine influenza in August 2007. Staffing levels will be kept under close review to ensure they are sufficient to carry out properly all activities and measures required by the current Standard Operating Procedures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed and Trained AQIS Personnel (2P-7)
<p>Recommendation 22 The budgets applying to reception and quarantine of imported horses in Australia will be determined so as to be sufficient to fund the operations of the Quarantine Stations in accordance with these recommendations and any further procedures and requirements that are put in place from time to time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Horse Importation Budget (1FR-2)
<p>Recommendation 23 Biosecurity Australia will conduct, within six months, an inspection and review of the process of horse importation from the time horses arrive in Australia until the completion of their post-arrival quarantine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post Arrival Quarantine Review Report (3RR-3)

<p>in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identify all relevant biosecurity risks; ▪ review the Standard Operating Procedures for clearance and quarantine of horses, as issued on 5 December 2007; and ▪ recommend any changes that should be made to those Standard Operating Procedures, after taking account of my other recommendations and comments in this report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 24 The Standard Operating Procedures will be amended to require that there be a person with overall responsibility for the various clearance procedures and biosecurity tasks to be performed in the course of unloading horses at an airport and transferring them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 25 The Standard Operating Procedures will be amended to require the manager of a quarantine station to be responsible for ensuring that a written report on compliance with procedures is prepared and reviewed daily and that any non-compliance and corrective action are recorded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 26 The Standard Operating Procedures will be amended to require the duties of any people responsible for maintaining 24 hour security at a quarantine station (whether they be AQIS officers or private contractors) to be recorded in writing. The Standard Operating Procedures will also require that those people receive training in relation to biosecurity risks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4) - Appointed and Trained AQIS Personnel (2P-7) - Trained and informed Non-DAFF Personnel (2P-8)
<p>Recommendation 27 The Standard Operating Procedures will be amended to require, as a condition of entry for all non-AQIS personnel to a quarantine station, that each person report any suspected breach (by that or any other person) of quarantine procedures in the quarantine station.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4) - Trained and informed Non-DAFF Personnel (2P-8)
<p>Recommendation 28 Biosecurity Australia will review, at least once every two years, the Standard Operating Procedures to ensure that they adequately identify and manage the risk of entry and spread of equine influenza associated with the importation of horses into Australia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 29 The Standard Operating Procedures and Work Instructions for clearance of imported horses will be reviewed by AQIS to address the matters outlined in Recommendation 29. They will also be updated regularly to take account of any recommendations made by: the interim inspector and ultimately the Inspector General of Horse Importation; Biosecurity Australia; or any other biosecurity experts commissioned to provide advice on the procedures and practices for horse quarantine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)

<p>Recommendation 30 The officer responsible for the importation of horses will ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ up-to-date copies of Standard Operating Procedures and Work Instructions are available both in soft-copy form on the AQIS intranet site and in hard-copy form at any premises where tasks associated with horse importation are ordinarily performed; ▪ AQIS personnel involved in the importation of horses are trained in all relevant aspects of procedures relating to the importation of horses; and ▪ AQIS personnel taking up duties involving tasks related to horse importation and not having performed such tasks for more than 12 months undergo proper training in the relevant procedures before commencing their duties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appointed and Trained AQIS Personnel (2P-7)
<p>Recommendation 31 The officer responsible for the importation of horses will, within three months, prepare a report to the Executive Director of AQIS that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ identifies (by category) all non-AQIS personnel involved in the importation of horses, including PAQ, from countries other than New Zealand; ▪ identifies the requirements in respect of biosecurity that AQIS has of those people; ▪ identifies the source of those requirements—for example, by import conditions, agreement or understanding, whether formal or informal, with AQIS, and compliance agreement under s. 66B of the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i>; ▪ assesses whether compliance with those requirements can be and is adequately being enforced; and ▪ recommends measures to rectify any shortcomings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officer Responsible for Horse Imports Report to the ED AQIS (3RR-8)
<p>Recommendation 32 The import conditions and Standard Operating Procedures will be amended, as appropriate, to include a requirement that the swabs are subject to a ‘rapid’ immuno-assay test to detect influenza A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3) - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 33 The import conditions for horses will be amended to include a requirement that each horse be tested for equine influenza as close as practicable before the end of the quarantine period and that a negative result for that test be available before the horse may be released from quarantine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interim Quarantine Measures Review Report (3RR-2) - Updated Import Conditions (1FR-3) - Updated AQIS Instructional Material (1FR-4)
<p>Recommendation 34 Biosecurity Australia will undertake, in accordance with the Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2007, a comprehensive import risk analysis relating to the importation of horses from the countries and regions from which Australia currently permits such importation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report (3RR-4)
<p>Recommendation 35 Biosecurity Australia will review that formal import risk analysis at least once every two years to take into account any relevant developments in scientific knowledge or quarantine measures – specifically testing methods, vaccines, vaccination procedures and other matters that affect biosecurity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import Risk Analysis Team Leader Appointed (2P-5) - Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report (3RR-4)

<p>Recommendation 36 The Department will review the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i> in order to identify amendments necessary to ensure that the Act clearly and adequately confers all relevant powers to ensure the biosecurity of horse importation and quarantine. This review will be undertaken in close coordination with the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Quarantine Act 1908 and subordinate legislation (1FR-1)
<p>Recommendation 37 AQIS has commenced and will finalise as soon as possible a review of the fees charged in relation to the importation and quarantining of horses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Quarantine Act 1908 and subordinate legislation (1FR-1) - Horse Import Fee Review Report (3RR-7) - Updated Horse Importation Budget (1FR-2)
<p>Recommendation 38 Until the fee review is finalised, and provided there is a legislative basis to do so, the fee charged by the government controlled and operated quarantine stations for thoroughbred stallions temporarily imported into Australia will not be less than \$165.00 plus GST a day and the fee for all other horses will not be less than \$65.00 plus GST a day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Quarantine Act 1908 and subordinate legislation (1FR-1)