



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

24 February 2004

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/02

IMPORTATION OF HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC HENS AND TURKEYS

DISCUSSION PAPER ON REDUCING THE POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE PERIOD

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a discussion paper concerning a proposal to reduce the post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) period for imported hatching eggs of domestic hens and turkeys. We would welcome stakeholder comments on the paper by 26 March 2004.

In February 2003, Biosecurity Australia received a request from the Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group, to reconsider the length of the PAQ period for chicks hatched from imported eggs. The Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group is made up of users of the quarantine station and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Their request arose from a desire to achieve higher throughputs at the Torrens Island quarantine station in particular, in order to reduce the backlog of applications for space in the facility.

The request stated that reducing the PAQ period from 12 weeks post-hatch to 9 weeks post-hatch would allow an additional consignment to be accommodated, every 2 years.

Biosecurity Australia has prepared the attached discussion paper, which considers the effects of the proposed changes to the PAQ period on 12 diseases of quarantine concern, and makes recommendations to reduce the PAQ period from 12 weeks post-hatch to 9 weeks for domestic hens and turkeys. Biosecurity Australia is currently reviewing the import conditions for hatching eggs of domestic ducks, and expects to release a discussion paper on this subject in the near future.

Next Steps

Biosecurity Australia would welcome comment from stakeholders on the discussion paper. Comments received by cob 26 March 2004 will be taken into account in finalising Biosecurity Australia's response to the proposal to amend the PAQ period.

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.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to ABPMs will be publicly available. Comments 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 the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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