



10 December 1998

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1998/97

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations
Office of the Australian CVO
Animal Diseases/Incidents Section, LPD, DPIE
Animal and Plant Health Branch, BRS
Australian Egg Industry Association
Australian Ostrich Association
Australian Chicken Growers Council Ltd
Australian Chicken Meat Federation

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
National Poultry Association
Australian Poultry Industries' Association

Veterinary Attache, Embassy of the USA
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo

Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Thailand
EU Delegation, Canberra
Chief Veterinary Officer, MAF RA, NZ

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: UNCOOKED CHICKEN MEAT

COMMENCEMENT AND CONSULTATION ON APPROACH

This AQPM advises the commencement of an import risk analysis (IRA) to review quarantine policy on the importation of uncooked chicken meat and seeks public comment on AQIS's proposed approach.

AQIS intends to conduct a quarantine import risk analysis (IRA) which will consider the importation of uncooked chicken meat from any source, ie a generic IRA. The IRA will include assessment of all potential disease agents, that may be introduced to Australia via the importation of chicken meat, and risk management options, which may include cooking and other meat processing techniques. Generic import conditions which may be developed would be applied to countries seeking access, as appropriate to their avian health status.

Current quarantine conditions

Under current policy, the importation of uncooked chicken meat from any source is not permitted.

International obligations

As a World Trade Organisation Member, Australia must consider access requests in a timely manner. Access requests have been received from the US (1989), Thailand (1989) and Denmark (1990). International obligations also demand that the development and application of quarantine policy, and AQIS' decisions on access requests are based on sound science. Quarantine restrictions should clearly reflect the magnitude of risks presented by a particular access proposal, and the

quarantine measures imposed should be no stricter than necessary to achieve the level of protection (in terms of animal health) acceptable to Australia.

Proposed approach to the IRA

The IRA will follow the principles and practices enunciated in the Government Response on “Australian Quarantine - A Shared Responsibility”, published in August 1997. This government policy document explains that the IRA can follow a ‘routine’ or ‘non-routine’ pathway. A ‘routine’ analysis is conducted by AQIS in-house, while a ‘non-routine’ analysis is conducted by a risk analysis panel (RAP) comprising scientific experts from AQIS and other organisations who have expertise in quarantine risk analysis and the disease agents relevant to the particular IRA. Both approaches are conducted in a manner which is consistent with relevant international standards, including those published by the world animal health organisation known as the OIE. While both the routine and the non-routine approach involve consultation and communication with the public and with affected industries, the non-routine IRA provides for greater external involvement in the scientific assessment of disease risks and the identification of risk management options. AQIS will conduct routine IRAs unless a non-routine approach is necessary. A decision to use the non-routine approach would depend on the nature of the IRA, particularly the scientific complexity of the issues under consideration and the seriousness of health risks potentially associated with the proposed importation.

The Animal Quarantine Policy Branch of AQIS proposes to take a non-routine approach to the IRA of uncooked chicken meat.

Your comments are invited

We welcome your advice on the proposed non-routine approach to this IRA. Following receipt of public comment, I will confirm the approach to be taken. It would be helpful if you would provide names and details of relevant expertise for those scientists whom AQIS might involve in the IRA.

Your response by 15 January 1999 would be appreciated.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise AQIS if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Enquiries 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 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.

SARAH KAHN
Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

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| Contact Officer: | Warren Vant |
| Telephone no: | 02 6272 4436 |
| Facsimile no: | 02 6272 3399 |
| E-mail: | warren.vant@aqis.gov.au |

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK TO AQIS

AQIS's new import risk analysis process and associated consultative arrangements are well into their first year of implementation. We would appreciate your feedback on those arrangements and would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to fill in this survey and mail it to AQIS.

The form is self addressed and does not need a stamp if posted in Australia. Simply fold at the dotted lines and staple so that the "reply paid" face is on the outside.

1. Are you receiving all the information on animal quarantine policy that you wish to see?
(please circle) Yes No

Comment:
.....
.....

2. Is the information you receive from AQIS generally clear, complete and accurate?
(please circle) Yes No
(fold).....

Comment:
.....
.....

3. How could AQIS improve arrangements for providing information on animal quarantine policy to clients?

Comment:
.....
.....

Name:
Company/Organisation:

(fold).....

No postage stamp required
if posted in Australia

REPLY PAID 1323
Animal Secretariat
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection
Service
PO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601