



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



18 December 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/53

IMPORTATION OF BOVINE SEMEN FROM JAPAN VIA CANADA DECISION ON QUARANTINE CONDITIONS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides final quarantine requirements for the importation of bovine semen from Japan via Canada (Attachment A). The conditions come into effect on 18 December 2002.

Animal Biosecurity proposed draft quarantine requirements for the importation of bovine semen from Japan via Canada in ABPM 2002/34 of 11 July 2002. Three stakeholders responded and their comments together with Animal Biosecurity's responses are at Attachment B. The attached final conditions are unchanged from the draft requirements circulated in July 2002.

Next steps

These conditions come into effect today, 18 December 2002.

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 (details below). Inquiries should be directed to the contact officer.

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 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.

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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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ATTACHMENT A

18 December 2002

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF BOVINE SEMEN FROM CANADA OF JAPANESE ORIGIN

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 In these conditions *bovine semen* refers to semen from domestic cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*), bison (*Bison bison*) and breeds derived from these species.
- 1.2 Each consignment of semen must be accompanied by a valid *Permit To Import Quarantine Material into Australia* obtained, prior to the export of the semen, from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office 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 Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The Animal Health Certificate must contain the sanitary information specified in Section 2 of this document and be stamped on each page with an official stamp.

- 1.4 The requirements in Section 2 of this document are the minimum requirements for importation into Australia.
- 1.5 The consignment must be shipped to the Australian importer care of AQIS.
- 1.6 Conditions of importation may be varied or reviewed at any time at the discretion of AQIS.

2 CERTIFICATION

The Animal Health Certificate must attest that:

- 2.1 The semen met the Canadian requirements for the importation of bovine semen from Japan.
- 2.2 Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR).

An aliquot of not less than 0.5 ml of processed semen from each donor, pooled from at least two collections included in this consignment if there is

more than one collection, was tested, with negative results, for bovine herpesvirus-1 (BHV-1) by cell culture inoculation after 2 or 3 passages or by the nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]) at a CFIA approved laboratory.

- 2.3 The semen was stored separately or only with semen of equivalent health status or which qualified for export to Australia.
- 2.4 Under the supervision of an *Official Veterinarian* of Canada, the semen straws for shipment to Australia were identified and placed into new, unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container for export. The container was sealed and the number or mark on the seal recorded on the certificate prior to export.

3 IMPORTERS'/AGENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 It is the prerogative of the importer to arrange for any other health certification or testing of donors (eg, for inherited diseases or genetic defects, or for movement of animals or genetic material into certain zones in Australia).
- 3.2 The importer or agent must nominate a person who will be accessible to AQIS officers and who will accept that responsibility for ensuring that all import requirements are met.

4 POST ARRIVAL

- 4.1 The consignment will be held by AQIS until a Quarantine Officer has checked the certification and conducted an audit of the contents of the shipping container.
- 4.2 If a consignment arrives in Australia without the correct certification, with the seals on the transport containers broken 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.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

ATTACHMENT B

Stakeholder comment	Animal Biosecurity response
<p>1 Bovine semen should only be allowed to enter Australia if the donor bull has been tested and shown to be free from Johne's disease.</p>	<p>The Johne's disease pathogen, <i>Mycobacterium paratuberculosis</i>, has only been detected in the semen of clinically affected animals. There is no test for Johne's disease that will show that an individual animal is free. All tests are less than 50% sensitive and often less than 30% sensitive.</p> <p>The Japanese authorities have implemented a program to eradicate Johne's disease. This program includes herd testing and the slaughter of test positive animals. Consequently it is considered that the risk that a clinically affected donor would be standing at a Semen Collection Centre in Japan is negligible.</p>
<p>2 What guarantees have been offered by Canadian authorities to adequately supervise such imports from Japan and subsequent storage/export to Australia?</p>	<p>The Canadian authorities have agreed to provide certification that the semen imported from Japan meets Canadian import requirements and that the semen for subsequent export to Australia meets additional Australian requirements as detailed in the import requirements.</p>
<p>3 Proposed protocol is supported as long as Japan remains free from vesicular stomatitis.</p>	<p>The Canadian requirements do not include certification for freedom from vesicular stomatitis as this disease has never been reported outside the Americas and has not been shown to be transmitted by artificial insemination.</p>