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Import Risk Analysis

Importation of Live Pigeons

Final Report

June 1999

IMPORTATION OF LIVE PIGEONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AQIS has undertaken an import risk analysis (IRA) to review conditions for the importation of live pigeons. The IRA has identified disease and pest risks and management options. AQIS has consulted with stakeholders through Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda (AQPMs) 1997/88, 1997/110 and 1998/63. The last AQPM provided a draft IRA paper for public comment. Stakeholder comments and recommendations arising from the draft IRA paper were incorporated into this document and the final conditions. The main changes to the current conditions include

- . removing approved countries and requirement for birds to be bred in country of export;
- . time and distance criteria for outbreaks of Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI) more closely aligned with the OIE Animal Health Code, and with AUSVETPLAN;
- . modifications to the times in pre-export quarantine and post-arrival quarantine; and
- . the removal of the closed flock requirement.

INTRODUCTION

Late in 1996, AQIS commissioned a review of avian importation requirements for livebirds and hatching eggs of commercial poultry, relating to ND and AI. The report on that review was circulated for comment with AQPM 1997/55, dated 22 May 1997. It provided additional information on which importation protocols for live pigeons from countries with outbreaks of ND and AI may be considered.

The IRA was commenced in October 1997 as a routine analysis.

Comments received on the ND and AI Review were considered in drafting the revised protocol which was circulated as part of the draft import risk analysis (IRA) paper under AQPM 1998/63 dated 27 July 1998. Comments were received from 21 stakeholders and the majority of recommendations were incorporated into this document.

SCOPE OF THE RISK ANALYSIS

The IRA covers the importation of pigeons (*Columba livia*) from all sources.

CURRENT QUARANTINE POLICY AND PRACTICE

Current import conditions, finalised in 1989, provide for importation of live birds from countries where ND had not occurred in the past 6 months. The main concerns with the current policy relate to sourcing pigeons from countries with outbreaks of ND and AI during the period of pre-embarkation quarantine of the live birds.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

The specified diseases of quarantine concern are:

Avian influenza
Newcastle disease
Avian paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) infection
Avian paramyxovirus type 2 and 3 infection
Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella Gallinarum*)
Pullorum disease (*Salmonella Pullorum*)
Salmonella Enteritidis infection
Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale infection
Infectious bursal disease
Equine viral encephalomyelitis
Pigeon herpesvirus encephalomyelitis

These diseases pose a significant disease threat to Australia and are exotic or sporadic and subject to a stamping out policy in Australia; and/or only relatively avirulent/non-pathogenic strains occur here; and/or are potential zoonoses.

There are a group of diseases which are not of quarantine concern, and the import conditions place responsibility for testing for these diseases, if required, with the importer.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Current requirements are considered appropriate to manage the risk of disease introduction, however, the IRA identified changes to the conditions which, while maintaining quarantine security, make the protocol more workable, facilitate trade and remove unnecessary requirements. The main alterations include:

1. The protocol does not nominate individual countries which are approved as sources of pigeons for import into Australia. Instead, the protocol specifies conditions which countries must meet in order to be approved.
2. The protocol removes the requirement that birds for import to Australia must have been bred in the country of export.
3. The protocol removes reference to birds not being vaccinated against Newcastle disease, and requires, instead, that birds must be seronegative.
4. Criteria for the spatial and temporal distance which must separate birds for export to Australia from outbreaks of Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza are revised to more closely coincide with the requirements of the OIE Animal Health Code, and with AUSVETPLAN.
5. The conditions do not change the total time spent in quarantine; the times between pre-export quarantine (PEQ) and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) have been altered: pigeons for import to Australia spend 55 days in PEQ and 35 days in PAQ. This has been done to extend the pre-export quarantine period to allow for the detection of any disease following birds from different sources being brought together, and to allow for the minimum time in PAQ, consistent with meeting all post-arrival testing requirements.

6. Criteria for approval of a pre-export quarantine facility have been removed from the body of the conditions and placed in Appendix 1 to the protocol. There are two additional criteria:
 - a. at any time when the facility contains a consignment of birds for export to Australia, it must be dedicated solely to the purpose of the quarantine of that consignment of birds for a specified period immediately prior to their export to Australia; and
 - b. all buildings containing feed and feed equipment must be adequately bird proofed.
7. The draft revised conditions allow for the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Director) to approve private quarantine facilities for birds to perform post-arrival quarantine, subject to the outcome of a review of privatisation options which is currently being undertaken. Criteria for approval include meeting required guidelines on location and construction of the facility, and Quality Assurance based systems for operation, which must be approved by AQIS. It is considered unlikely that a private quarantine station would be built that meets the requirements for HEPA filtration, so in effect the use of private quarantine stations is likely to be limited to birds from countries free of Newcastle Disease, paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) and Avian Influenza . However, the option is available for private quarantine stations with HEPA filtration, provided they meet the construction guidelines.
8. The conditions specify the diseases which are of quarantine concern and state that the entire consignment of imported birds and any sentinels may be destroyed if it is confirmed that they are infected with any of the specified diseases or, at the discretion of the Director, with any other pathogen.
9. The draft protocol circulated with AQPM 1998/63 proposed changes to the way that chlamydiosis was handled. The proposed changes reflected the fact that 1) *Chlamdia psittaci* is present in Australia, and 2) technical concerns with the routine use of antibiotics on birds in quarantine.
10. A number of stakeholders commented that the Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks associated with the disease were so great that the routine use of antibiotics was justified. This has been agreed, and the final conditions require treatment of birds in PAQ with doxycycline. The purpose of treatment is to suppress shedding of chlamydia, thus addressing the OH&S risk. It is not intended that the antibiotic treatment should eliminate infection in imported birds.
11. The removal of the requirement for the source flock to be closed for six weeks prior to the commencement of the pre-export quarantine period. As the period immediately following the bringing together of birds from various sources is the high risk time for disease transmission, it is preferable that the birds be under official veterinary supervision in the pre-export quarantine facility from the date when they are first brought together.

QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

The above changes are included in the following quarantine conditions. In addition there are changes to the various certification requirements.

Changes to certification.

Owner's / Aviary Manager's Declaration

1. The conditions allow for birds to be identified by microchip in place of a closed leg band.
2. With the removal of the closed flock requirement, the declaration requires that, for a period of six months immediately preceding the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine, all cases of disease or ill thrift occurring in the source flock(s) and any other premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual, have been subjected to veterinary investigation.
4. The draft revised conditions propose that owners/aviary managers be required to declare what vaccines have been administered to the birds, in addition to the declaration that the birds have not been vaccinated for Newcastle disease, paramyxovirus or avian influenza.

Zoo-Sanitary Certificate

The conditions require certification:

1. that highly pathogenic avian influenza has not been diagnosed, during the past six months, on any property within 50 kms of the source flock be removed. Certification of the distance of the source flock from reported outbreaks of disease have been included in the Government Veterinary Officers declaration (Appendix 4). The distances and times have been revised in line with OIE and AUSVETPLAN;
2. of freedom of the source flock from Newcastle Disease and avian paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon);
3. that birds for export have not been vaccinated for Newcastle Disease, avian paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) and avian influenza;
4. that testing for Equine encephalomyelitis virus; and Infectious bursal disease virus, has been undertaken at least 14 days after commencement of pre-export quarantine

There is a requirement that birds dying in pre-export quarantine prior to mandatory testing being carried out be subject to testing for the same range of diseases as live birds, in addition to the requirement for post-mortem examinations. In addition, the conditions require that dead birds showing pathological changes in the lower respiratory tract should be sampled for culture of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*.

The certification for treatment with anthelmintics and external parasiticides is expanded. The revised certificate specifically requests anthelmintics for both nematodes and cestodes. In addition, details of formulation and dose rates are included in the certificates.

The certificate no longer requires certification that

1. infectious laryngotracheitis and avian encephalomyelitis have not been diagnosed on any premises where the birds for export have been located during the past 6 months (on the basis that both of these diseases are present in Australia);
2. testing for *Chlamydia psittac* has been undertaken

The requirement for the Government Veterinary Officer to witness the government approved veterinarian's signature on this certificate was removed.

Government Veterinary Officer Certification

The conditions require:

1. that the disease freedom certification includes reference to avian influenza. The certification was amended to reduce the required time periods for freedom, depending on the distance of the outbreak from the flock of origin. Declarations of country freedom from Newcastle disease and avian influenza are in accordance with Articles 2.1.14.2 and 2.1.15.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code.
2. certified copies of autopsy reports and laboratory reports from all birds dying in pre-export quarantine be provided with the Government Veterinary Certification. Where autopsy and laboratory results indicate the presence of a disease of quarantine concern, autopsy reports and laboratory results must be submitted to the Director prior to shipment of birds;
3. a declaration that dead birds showing pathological changes in the lower respiratory tract have been sampled for culture of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*, with negative results; and
4. a declaration to the effect that "I have read the Zoo-Sanitary Certificate provided in relation to the birds listed in Schedule 1 and have no reason to doubt the truth of that certification."

Post-arrival Quarantine Certification.

In order to allow for the possible future use of private post-arrival quarantine facilities, this has been divided into two certificates: the first to be supplied by the manager of the approved post-arrival quarantine facility, and the second by the Australian Government Veterinary Officer supervising the post-arrival quarantine of the birds.

The conditions require:

1. that the time in post-arrival quarantine should be a minimum of 35 days (reduced from 45 days to days), provided that all quarantine requirements have been met;
2. certification of the ratio of sentinel chickens to quarantine birds, and the allowable minimum number of sentinels.

4. certification in relation to disease investigation was expanded and made more prescriptive. In addition, dead birds showing pathological changes in the lower respiratory tract should be sampled for culture of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*;
5. testing and treatment requirements are closer to the time of entry into post-arrival quarantine (to facilitate the reduced requirement from 45 days to 35 days in post-arrival quarantine);
6. the requirement for faecal culture for *Salmonella* serotypes no longer be required. This is considered to be superfluous, given the testing requirements for sentinel birds;
7. serological testing of sentinel birds was expanded to include *Salmonella* Enteritidis and paramyxovirus type 1; and
8. inclusion of certification for treatment of the birds in post-arrival quarantine for nematodes, cestodes and external parasites.

AQIS is to consider the issue of privately owned, post entry animal quarantine stations for livebirds and hatching eggs of commercial poultry in the near future. This study will be conducted in full consultation with industry and the community. It is anticipated that proposals for private quarantine facilities may be negotiated within the next 12 months. The conditions have been prepared to allow for this possibility, should it eventuate. However, this should not be taken as pre-empting the decision of the study.



July 1999

CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE BIRDS (PIGEONS)

1. DOCUMENTATION

a. Permission to import live birds must be obtained in writing from the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia) (herein called the Director) prior to the birds entering pre-export quarantine. Permit applications can be obtained from, and completed forms are to be submitted to, the Senior Veterinary Officer, Animal Programs, Canberra. A full description of each bird must be provided, together with details of the nominated approved post-arrival quarantine facility intended to be used for the consignment.

b. All birds must be accompanied by a "Permit to Import and the appropriate Zoo Sanitary Certificates (Appendices 2, 3 and 4) which must not be modified without the written permission of the Director. For a particular consignment, there may be more than one "Owner's/Aviary Manager's Declaration" (Appendix 2) depending on the source of the birds making up the consignment. However, only one "Zoo-sanitary Certificate" (Appendix 3) and "Government Veterinary Officer Certification" (Appendix 4) should be required for each consignment. These documents must be provided to the Australian Quarantine Officer at the port of entry.

2. ELIGIBILITY

a. Species

This protocol refers to rock, common and fancy pigeons (*Columba livia*).

b. Approved countries

Importation is only permitted from countries approved by the Director of Quarantine. To be considered for approval, countries need to demonstrate an effective veterinary service, have in place appropriate surveillance programs for avian diseases and practice a policy of active eradication by stamping out of all outbreaks of virulent Newcastle disease and avian influenza. AQIS may also consider the pathogenicity of strains of Newcastle disease and avian influenza known to be present in a prospective exporting country, in determining the quarantine conditions to be applied.

c. Residency status.

Birds for export to Australia must have been captive bred, and must have been resident in the source flock either since hatching, or during the six month period immediately prior to entry to the pre-export quarantine facility.

d. Disease status

i) To be considered for importation into an approved Australian quarantine station, the birds must be from an approved country in which clinical Newcastle disease and avian influenza have not been reported in poultry, game and wild birds within 10 kms of any of the source flocks for the consignment, or of the approved pre-export quarantine facility; NOR on any other premises owned, managed or operated by the same company, group or individual, within 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine.

ii) Birds for import must not have been raced or exhibited during the 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine.

e. Vaccination

Only birds which are sero-negative for Newcastle disease (including paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon)) and avian influenza will be accepted for import.

3. PRE -EXPORT QUARANTINE

a. All pigeons for export to Australia from approved countries must undergo a minimum period of 55 days pre-export quarantine at an approved facility.

b. The pre-export quarantine facility must be approved by the Director and by the veterinary authorities of the exporting country. The criteria for the approval of pre-export quarantine facilities are detailed in Appendix 1.

c. During the pre-export quarantine period (which must be the 55 day period immediately prior to export to Australia), the birds for export must be tested and treated in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 3 and must not come into contact with any bird not of tested equivalent health status. Any failure of tests or any detection of disease during the pre-export quarantine may cause any or all of the birds in the consignment to be detained in quarantine for further testing or may cause cancellation of the entire consignment. In particular, any bird in the consignment that shows clinical signs of infection with chlamydiosis, and subsequently returns a positive result to an approved test for *Chlamydia psittaci*, shall be immediately removed from the consignment.

4. POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE

a. All pigeons for export to Australia from approved countries must undergo a minimum period of 35 days post-arrival quarantine at an Australian Government Quarantine Station or an approved post-arrival quarantine facility.

- b. The post arrival quarantine facilities must be approved by the Director. Detailed requirements for approval of post arrival quarantine facilities are available from AQIS on request.
- c. The importer or the agent coordinating the importation must ensure that the feed provided for the pigeons for export during the quarantine period is not contaminated by other birds. No feed or feed components may be imported into Australia without separate authorisation. If the birds perform post arrival quarantine at the Spotswood Animal Quarantine Station the feed provided for the pigeons during the quarantine period, should be pelleted. The importer or the agent coordinating the importation must recognise the risk of the introduction of any diseases endemic in Australia to the pigeons in quarantine, if the feed is not pelleted.
- d. All pigeons, (with the exception of those imported from an approved country officially free from Newcastle disease and avian influenza in accordance with Articles 2.1.14.2. and 2.1.15.2 of the OIE International Animal Health Code, and which do not permit vaccination against either of these diseases), must be imported into a HEPA filtered post-arrival quarantine facility. The facility must be so constructed as to ensure that the imported pigeons and any sentinel birds are entirely contained within a negative pressure ventilation system that is fully HEPA filtered for the full duration of the quarantine period.
- e. After arrival in Australia, the imported pigeons will be held in quarantine for a minimum period of 35 days, at either the Spotswood Animal Quarantine Station or a Private Quarantine Facility approved by the Director, and will only be released subject to satisfactory results of the program of testing prescribed in Appendix 6, and any other testing or treatment as may be prescribed by the Director.
- f. The Director may approve a private post-arrival quarantine facility based on criteria set out in AQIS's guidelines on the location and construction of such a facility. The use of the facility for the quarantine of live birds shall be subject to Quality Assurance-based systems approved by AQIS. Approval will be dependent on the importer agreeing to comply with policies, procedures and specifications set out in an Approved Quarantine Directive Manual.
- g. A sentinel flock of Australian SPF chickens must be in close contact with the imported birds during the post-arrival quarantine period, at a rate of one sentinel chicken per 50 pigeons, with a minimum number of 4 chickens. The sentinel chickens are to be 3 to 4 weeks old at the commencement of PAQ.
- h. During the quarantine period at an approved post-arrival quarantine facility, each bird must be tested and treated in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 6.
- j. All post-arrival quarantine facilities must be run on an all-in-all-out basis.

5. DISEASES OF QUARANTINE CONCERN

In these requirements, the word 'disease' means a disease as listed below Avian influenza

Newcastle disease
Paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) infection
Paramyxovirus type 2 and 3 infection
Equine viral encephalomyelitis
Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella Gallinarum*)
Pullorum disease (*Salmonella Pullorum*)
Salmonella Enteritidis infection
Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale infection
Infectious bursal disease
Pigeon herpesvirus encephalomyelitis

6. TRANSPORT

- a. Within the exporting country, all transport of the pigeons for export must be undertaken in cleaned and disinfected containers and vehicles by the most direct practical route. During transport, the pigeons must be kept isolated from all birds not of tested equivalent health status.
- b. The pigeons may be consigned to Australia by air only by a route approved by the Director. They may be accompanied in transit by other birds only with the approval of the Director. Any trans-shipment requires the prior approval of the Director.
- c. The pigeons must be transported to Australia in new IATA approved transport containers. Details of approved containers may be obtained from the Director and the IATA Live Animals Regulations.

7. IMPORTER'S/AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The importer or the agent coordinating the importation must be Australian based and must nominate a person who will be accessible to Departmental officers if any problems or emergencies arise.
- b. The agent and the aircraft operator are responsible for the safe transportation of the pigeons.
- c. The diseases included in the attached certificates (Appendices 2-6) are of quarantine concern. It is the prerogative of the importer to arrange for any other health certification or testing of the pigeons for export eg avian encephalomyelitis, Marek's disease, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* infection, *Mycoplasma synoviae* infection or avian papovavirus infection.
- d. All costs associated with the selection, testing, transport, quarantine and veterinary supervision of the pigeons during the importation program must be met by the importer/agent.
- e. If any pigeons are slaughtered during any period of quarantine control, compensation will not be paid by the Government.

f. The importer may need to obtain import permission from authorities other than the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, e.g. Environment Australia and State/Territory conservation agencies.

8. ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOLLOWING THE DETECTION OF A DISEASE

If any investigation or specified test indicates the presence of a disease (as defined in paragraph 5 above) in the quarantine birds (including sentinel chickens), the Director shall be notified and the birds shall remain in quarantine. At the discretion of the Director and in consultation with the laboratory carrying out the investigations or tests, further investigations and additional testing may be carried out to ascertain the cause of the positive result. At the discretion of the Director, the entire consignment of imported birds, and any sentinel birds may be destroyed if it is confirmed that they are infected with any of the diseases specified in 5 above or with any other pathogen. Any decision by the Director shall be made in consultation with the Australian States, industry and scientific organisations.

9. DEFINITIONS

Source Flock: The flock in which the birds for export to Australia are resident immediately prior to entry into pre-export quarantine.

Government Veterinary Officer: A full-time veterinary officer of the Government of the exporting country.

Government Approved Veterinarian: Either a Government Veterinary Officer or a specially appointed veterinarian, as authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country.

10. REVIEW

Conditions of importation may be reviewed if there are any changes in the import policy or the bird disease status of any approved exporting countries or at any time at the discretion of the Director.

DAVID BANKS

A/g Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Conditions for Approval of Pre-export Quarantine Facilities for Live Pigeons

Appendix 2 Owner's/ Aviary Manager's Declaration.

Appendix 3 Zoo Sanitary Certificate.

Appendix 4 Government Veterinary Officer Certification.

Appendix 5 Declaration by Manager of Approved Post-arrival Quarantine Facility.

Appendix 6 Post-arrival Quarantine Certification.

Appendix 7 Approved Testing Protocols

**CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ)
FACILITIES FOR LIVE PIGEONS**

The pre-export quarantine facility must be approved by the Director, and by the Veterinary Authority of the country of export. The criteria for the approval of pre-export quarantine facilities are:

- i) at any time when the facility contains a consignment of birds for export to Australia, it must be dedicated solely to the purpose of the quarantine of that consignment of birds for the specified period immediately prior to their export to Australia.
- ii) the centre is a discrete, secure unit physically isolated from any premises containing birds; the centre should be constructed in such a way that there is no possibility of contact between birds in quarantine and other birds or animals or bird or animal products.
- iii) the centre is run on an all-in all-out basis, excepting that birds showing clinical signs of chlamydiosis may be removed in accordance with paragraph 3.c. of the Australian Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons). Before each consignment enters the premises, the premises must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- iv) all buildings containing feed and feeding equipment, flooring and or bedding materials, or any other equipment which may come into contact with the birds, are adequately bird-proofed and vermin-proofed.
- v) all water supplies to the facility are secure against contamination by wild birds.
- vi) equipment used is either new or has been sterilised or disinfected prior to use.
- vii) staff at the centre during a quarantine period should have no contact with other birds.
- viii) all matters relating to the health, disease testing and quarantine of the birds will be under the control and supervision of a Government Veterinary Officer or Government Approved Veterinarian who will provide the prescribed Zoo Sanitary certification.

OWNER'S/AVIARY MANAGER'S DECLARATION

I.....(please print name), being the owner or the manager, of the birds described in this document, declare that:

1. Each bird to which this declaration applies has been clearly identified with a microchip or a permanent closed leg band and a full description of the bird is attached (Schedule 1).

2. Each bird has been captive bred, and has been continuously resident in the source flock either since hatching, or during the six month period immediately prior to entry to the pre-export quarantine facility. During this six month period the flock has been housed in the aviary/loft located at:

.....
.....
.....

3. No birds selected for export have been raced, or exhibited, during the 21 days immediately prior to the birds entering pre-export quarantine.

4. No birds selected for export were treated with antibiotics during the six week period immediately prior to the birds entering pre-export quarantine. Details of any other medications/ treatments administered during this period are attached.

5. To the best of my knowledge and belief,

EITHER

a. All cases of disease or ill thrift occurring in the source flock(s) and any other premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual, during the six week period immediately preceding the entry of the birds into the approved pre-export quarantine facility, have been subjected to veterinary investigation. A list of diagnoses and treatments applied is attached to this certificate (Schedule 2). *

OR

b. No cases of disease or ill thrift have occurred in the source flock(s), or any other premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual, during the six week period immediately preceding the entry of the birds into the approved pre-export quarantine facility. *

* Delete if not applicable

6. No birds for export (Schedule 1) have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease, pigeon paramyxovirus type 1 or avian influenza. Vaccination carried out against other diseases is as follows:

Disease	Date(s) of Vaccination	Type of Vaccine

Signature.....Date.....
 Owner/Manager

Name.....

Address.....

I have explained the contents of this Declaration to the Owner/Manager. I have witnessed the above signature, and after due enquiry, I have no reason to doubt the truth of this declaration.

Signature.....Date.....
 Government Approved Veterinarian

Name.....

Address.....

NOTE: All pages, including the attached Schedules, are to be endorsed with the Official Stamp.

ZOO-SANITARY CERTIFICATE

I.....(please print name), being a Government Approved Veterinarian*, certify in relation to the birds listed in the Schedule attached to the accompanying Owner's/Manager's Declaration that:

[* A Government Approved Veterinarian is either a civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian, as authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country.]

1. DISEASE FREEDOM DECLARATION.

a. After due enquiry, I am satisfied that clinical Newcastle disease, paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon) infection and avian influenza have not been diagnosed either in any of the source flocks, or on any premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual as any of the source flocks, or on the pre-export quarantine facility, or within 10 kms of any of these properties, within 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine.

b. After due enquiry, I am satisfied that all cases of disease or ill thrift occurring in the source flock(s) and any other premises managed, owned or operated by the same company, group or individual, during the six week period immediately preceding the entry of the birds into the approved pre-export quarantine facility, have been subjected to veterinary investigation. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy or completeness of the list of diagnoses and treatments applied, as attached to the Owner's/Aviary Manager's Declaration relevant to this consignment.

c. EITHER

i) No bird in the pre-export quarantine facility showed any clinical sign of infection with chlamydiosis during the pre-export quarantine period.

OR:

ii) A bird or birds in the pre-export quarantine facility showed clinical signs of infection with chlamydiosis during the pre-export quarantine period. Such birds were tested for the presence of *Chlamydia psittaci* by direct isolation by egg inoculation or approved cell culture techniques and/or ELISA antigen capture technique, of cloacal swabs. Birds showing positive results for the presence of *C psittaci* were removed from the consignment.

2. PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ)

a. Before the birds entered the pre-export quarantine facility, which has been approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine [Australia] and the Veterinary Authority of(country of export), the facility was cleaned and disinfected to comply with standards required to eliminate Newcastle disease virus.

b. A Government Approved Veterinarian examined each bird for export within 48 hours prior to its entering the pre-export quarantine facility. All birds were found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites.

c. The birds listed in the schedule attached to the Owner's/Aviary Manager's Declaration have been maintained for a period of at least 55 days in the pre-export quarantine facility. During this period, there have been no birds in the facility other than the birds assembled for this consignment, and the facility met at all times the conditions for approval specified in Appendix 1 of the Australian "Conditions for the Import of Live Birds (Pigeons)."

d. During this period, each bird for export was observed regularly by me for evidence of disease and, where abnormalities were observed, a full investigation was carried out and copies of all reports have been provided to the Government Veterinary Officer with responsibility for this shipment. Post mortem examinations were carried out on all dead birds and did not indicate the presence of avian paramyxovirus, avian influenza or pigeon herpesvirus encephalomyelitis infection. Where post mortem examination indicated pathological changes in the lower respiratory tract, specimens of exudate from the trachea, lung and airsac were cultured for the presence of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* using the method specified in Appendix 7, with negative results.

e. I examined all birds for export within 24 hours prior to their leaving the pre-export quarantine facility and found them to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites and fit to travel.

3. TESTING AND TREATMENT

a. At least 28 days after the commencement of the quarantine period cloacal swabs were collected from each bird. Cloacal swabs from groups of no more than 5 birds were pooled and tested for freedom from the following pathogens with negative results in each case:

i) haemagglutinating agents by direct inoculation of the allantoic cavity of 9-11 day-old chick embryos with faecal swabs. The agents must be specifically identified and influenza virus type A, Newcastle disease virus, and paramyxovirus type 1, type 2 and type 3 be absent.*

[* Delete if Government Veterinary Officer certifies that the country of export is free of avian influenza virus type A Newcastle disease, and paramyxovirus type 1, type 2 and type 3.]

ii) *Salmonella* Gallinarum and *Salmonella* Pullorum. (by faecal culture)

iii) Other salmonella serotypes as specified in Appendix 7 of the "Australian Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons)" or by the Director.

[Note: All tests were carried out at the.....laboratory which is either a Government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Government of the exporting country for this specific purpose and approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia).]

b. At least 28 days after the commencement of the quarantine period blood samples were collected from each bird for export, and tested for freedom from the following pathogens, using OIE-approved tests or tests approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia), as listed in Appendix 7 of the Australian "Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons)." The results of all tests were negative. The following tests were used:

- Avian influenza virus*.....
- Equine encephalomyelitis virus*
- Infectious Bursal Disease virus*
- Paramyxovirus type 1 **

*Delete if Government Veterinary Officer certifies that the country of origin is free of the specified pathogen.

** Delete if Government Veterinary Officer certifies that the country of origin is free of strains of PMV 1 which are classified as mesogenic or velogenic

Sufficient blood was collected from each bird for export for the performance of the required tests. Anti-coagulant was not added. The blood was allowed to clot and the serum removed.

[Note: Samples of blood may, if necessary, be incubated at 37 degrees C for 2 hours to aid clotting and sera clarified by centrifugation. Sera may be sterilised by filtration and may be frozen. Preservatives may not be added. Unless specified in a particular test, serum may not be diluted nor may samples of serum from different birds be pooled.]

All tests were carried out at the..... laboratory which is either a Government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Government of the exporting country for this specific purpose and approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia).

c. During the pre-export quarantine period, each pigeon was subjected to the following treatments:

i) a broad spectrum anthelmintic effective against nematodes, specifically containing the active ingredientat a dose rate ofmg/kg, and a broad spectrum anthelmintic effective against cestodes, specifically containing the active ingredientat a dose rate of mg/kg, were administered twice at an interval of 21 days, with the final treatment being within 3-7 days prior to the scheduled date of export.

ii) an external parasiticide effective against ticks, lice and mites, specifically containing the active ingredientat a strength of.....mg/kg, was applied twice as a powder/wash, as recommended by the manufacturer, at an interval of 10 days, with the final treatment being within 3 -7 days prior to the scheduled date of export.

d. no antibiotics were administered to any pigeon during the PEQ without permission in writing of the Director, Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia). Details of this and any treatments administered during PEQ are attached.

4. TRANSPORT

a. The containers for the transport of the birds (which are of a type approved by IATA and the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, Australia) were cleaned and disinfected to my satisfaction, prior to the caging of the birds for transport.

b. The birds were moved by the most direct practical route and were not at any time in contact with birds not tested to an equivalent health status.

c. The compartments of the aircraft/vessel to be occupied by the birds and the compartments' removable fittings were cleaned and disinfected with a prescribed disinfectant to my satisfaction prior to the loading of the birds.

Signature.....Date.....
Government Approved Veterinarian

Name.....

Address.....
.....

[NOTE: All pages, including any attached Schedules, are to be endorsed with the Official Stamp.]

GOVERNMENT VETERINARY OFFICER CERTIFICATION

I.....(please print name), being a full time Government Veterinary Officer, certify in relation to the birds listed in Schedule 1 to the Owner's/Aviary Manager's Declaration relating to this consignment that:

1. DISEASE FREEDOM DECLARATION.

EITHER:

a. i) * Clinical Newcastle disease/avian influenza have not been reported within 10 kilometres of any of the source flocks for the consignment, or of the approved pre-export quarantine facility, at any time within 21 days prior to the entry of the birds into pre-export quarantine;

OR

a. ii.) *(country of export) is free from strains of paramyxovirus type 1 which are classified as mesogenic or velogenic.

* Delete if not applicable

b. **Equine encephalomyelitis does not occur in(country of export).

c. **Infectious bursal disease does not occur in commercial poultry in.....(country of export)

**Delete if not applicable

2. PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ)

a. Where autopsy/ laboratory reports from birds dying in pre-export quarantine indicate the presence of a disease of quarantine concern as listed in Paragraph 5 of the Australian Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons), copies of those reports were submitted to the Director, Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia) prior to shipment of the birds. Copies of all autopsy/laboratory reports, whether involving diseases of quarantine concern or not, are attached to this Certificate.

b. The birds for export were inspected by me within 48 hours (preferably 24 hours) prior to leaving the pre-export quarantine facility and were found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and external parasites, and fit to travel.

3. ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATION

I have read the Zoo-Sanitary Certificate provided in relation to the birds listed in the attached Schedules and I have no reason to doubt the truth of that certification.

Signature.....Date.....
Government Veterinary Officer

Name.....

Address.....
.....

[Note: All pages, including any attached Schedules, are to be endorsed with the Official Stamp.]

**DECLARATION BY MANAGER OF APPROVED POST-ARRIVAL
QUARANTINE FACILITY**

I,(please print name),being the
manager of the approved post arrival quarantine facility located at
.....
.....
.....certify in relation to birds imported under Import Permit
Numberthat:

1. During the quarantine period, all appropriate security measures with respect to the quarantine facility, to associated staff and to all materials entering or leaving the premises were taken. To my knowledge, at no stage during the quarantine period was there a breakdown in quarantine security.

2. Each bird in the quarantine facility was observed daily for evidence of disease and, where abnormalities were observed, the abnormalities were immediately reported to the Australian Government Veterinary Officer supervising the post arrival quarantine of the birds.

Signature
Owner/Manager

Date:

Name

Address
.....
.....

POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE (PAQ) CERTIFICATION

I,(please print name), being a full time Government Veterinary Officer, certify in relation to birds imported under Import Permit Number.....that:

1. QUARANTINE PREMISES'

- a. I have no reason to doubt the truth of the "Declaration by Manager of Approved Post-arrival Quarantine Facility" (Appendix 5 to the Australian "Conditions for the Import of Live Birds (Pigeons).")
- b. Prior to the introduction of the imported birds into the post-arrival quarantine facility, the premises had been cleaned and disinfected to my satisfaction.
- c. The birds in the attached schedule have been maintained for a period of at least 35 days in the post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) facility.
- d. A sentinel flock of Australian SPI chickens were in close contact with the imported birds during the post-arrival quarantine period, at a rate of one sentinel chicken per 50 pigeons, with a minimum number of 4 chickens. The sentinel chickens were 3 to 4 weeks old at the commencement of PAQ.
- e. Where abnormalities in any bird, including sentinels, were reported to me by the manager of the approved post arrival quarantine facility, a full veterinary investigation was carried out and a report is attached. If a diagnosis was unable to be established on the basis of clinical examination and testing, the bird was euthanased and submitted for laboratory examination. Post mortem examinations were carried out on all dead birds and did not indicate the presence of avian paramyxovirus, avian influenza virus or pigeon herpesvirus encephalomyelitis infection. Where post mortem examination indicated pathological changes in the lower respiratory tract, specimens of exudate from the trachea, lung and airsac were cultured for the presence of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* using the method specified in Appendix 7, with negative results in all cases. Birds, including sentinels, which died during PAQ prior to the testing specified in Clause 2a. below being conducted, were tested for freedom from the specified pathogens, using the methods specified in Clause 2a., with negative results in each case.

2. TESTING AND TREATMENT

- a. Not more than 7 days after the commencement of the PAQ period cloacal swabs were collected from each imported bird. Cloacal swabs from groups of no more than 5 birds were pooled and tested for freedom from the following pathogens with negative results in each case:
 - i.) haemagglutinating agents by direct inoculation of the allantoic cavity of 9-11 day-old chick embryos with cloacal swabs. The agents must be specifically identified and

influenza virus type A, Newcastle disease virus, paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon), type 2 and type 3 be absent.

[Note: All tests were carried out at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory or at a laboratory which is either a government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Director, Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia), and the results of all tests are attached.]

b. Not more than 7 days after the commencement of PAQ, serum was collected from each imported pigeon and tested for evidence of infection with the following pathogens with negative results in each case;

Paramyxovirus type 1
Influenza virus type A

c. At 1, 7 and 14 days after commencement of PAQ, each bird in the sentinel flock was inoculated orally with 5 mls of a clarified suspension prepared following the directions in Part B of Appendix 7, from the faeces of the imported birds.

d. At least 21 days after the commencement of PAQ, serum was collected from each bird in the sentinel flock and tested for evidence of infection with the following pathogens with negative results in each case;

Paramyxovirus type 1
Influenza virus type A
Salmonella Pullorum
Salmonella Gallinarum
Salmonella Enteritidis

Sufficient blood was collected from each sentinel for the performance of the required tests. Anti-coagulant was not added. The blood was allowed to clot and the serum removed.

[Note: Samples of blood may, if necessary, be incubated at 37 degrees C for 2 hours to aid clotting and sera clarified by centrifugation. Sera may be sterilised by filtration and may be frozen. Preservatives may not be added. Unless specified in a particular test, serum may not be diluted nor may samples of serum from different birds be pooled.]

The tests were OIE-approved tests or tests approved by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia), (see Appendix 7 of the Australian "Conditions for the Importation of Live Birds (Pigeons).") The results of all tests were negative. The following tests were used:

Paramyxovirus type 1
Influenza virus type A
Salmonella Pullorum
Salmonella Gallinarum
Salmonella Enteritidis

[Note: All tests were carried out at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory or at a laboratory which is either a government laboratory or a laboratory approved by the Director, Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia), and the results of all tests are attached.]

c. During this period, each pigeon was subjected to the following treatments:

i) a broad spectrum anthelmintic effective against nematodes, specifically containing the active ingredient at a dose rate of mg/kg, and a broad spectrum anthelmintic effective against cestodes, specifically containing the active ingredient at a dose rate of mg/kg, were administered twice at an interval of 21 days with the final treatment being within 3-7 days prior to release from PAQ.

ii) an external parasiticide effective against, ticks, lice and mites, specifically containing the active ingredient at a strength of mg/kg, was applied twice as a powder/wash as recommended by the manufacturer, at an interval of 10 days with the final treatment being within 3-7 days prior to release from PAQ.

iii) treatment for chlamydiosis, specifically doxycycline at a dose rate of in feed or water during PAQ.

3. RELEASE

Each bird was examined within 24 hours prior to being released and was found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease and qualifies to be released from Quarantine.

Signature.....Date.....
Government Veterinary Officer

Name.....

Address.....
.....

[Note: All pages are to be endorsed with the Official Stamp.]

APPROVED TESTING PROTOCOLS

(A) Tests For The Importation Of Pigeons Into Australia

PATHOGEN	APPROVED TESTS	AUTHORITY FOR TEST METHOD
Influenza virus type A	ELISA	AAHL
	AGID Egg inoculation	OIE, SCAHLS OIE, SCAHLS
Newcastle disease virus	HIT	AAHL, OIE, SCAHLS
	Egg inoculation	OIE, SCAHLS
Paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon)	HIT	OIE
Paramyxovirus type 2 and 3	HIT	OIE
<i>Salmonella Pullorum, S Gallinarum, S Enteritidis</i>	RSAT	AARL, OIE
	STAT	SCAHLS
Arizona spp, S Pullorum, S Gallinarum, S Enteritidis, S. Hadar, other salmonella serotypes	Microbiological	AAHL
Equine Viral Encephalomyelitis	PRNT, HIT	OIE
Infectious Bursal disease	AGID, VN	OIE
<i>Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale</i>	Microbiological*	

AGID	agar gel immunodiffusion test
ELISA	enzyme-linked immunosorbent
HIT	haemagglutination inhibition test
PRNT	plaque reduction neutralisation test
RSAT	rapid slide agglutination test
STAT	serum tube agglutination test

OIE	Office International Des Epizooties
AAHL	Australian Animal Health Laboratory
SCAHLS	Subcommittee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards, Australia

* Microbiological testing for the presence of *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* is to be by the inoculation of specimens of exudate from the trachea, lung and airsac onto common non-

selective blood or chocolate agar, and incubation for at least 48 hours under microaerobic conditions.

(B) Procedures for preparation of clarified faecal suspension.

Faecal samples are to be collected from all cages and mixed to a 40% suspension with buffered saline solution, followed by centrifugation at no more than 2000g.