

# **Charter for the Role of Interim Inspector-General of Horse Importation**

## **Mission and Scope**

The office of the Interim Inspector General of Horse Importation (Interim Inspector General) has been established as a principal component of the Australian Government's implementation of the recommendations in the Commission of Inquiry into the outbreak of equine influenza in August 2007.

The mission of the Interim Inspector General is to ensure that the highest standards of biosecurity are being applied in the importation of horses to Australia through independent inspection and audit of import operations and procedures.

The scope of the role covers the importation processes beginning with the entry of horses to pre-export quarantine overseas, transportation to Australia and until completion of post-arrival quarantine requirements in Australia.

The Interim Inspector General's role does not involve importation policy or operational decision making.

## **Accountability**

The Interim Inspector General reports to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The Interim Inspector General is accountable to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) on matters of governance relating to the discharge of the role.

## **Independence**

The Interim Inspector General is provided with office support through the Quarantine and Biosecurity Policy Unit of the department.

The Interim Inspector General is independent from the organisational and functional arrangements of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and Biosecurity Australia.

## **Authority**

The Interim Inspector General will work on a co-operative basis with competent authorities, companies and individuals involved in horse importation. It is expected that this co-operation will be facilitated through reasonable requests for the provision of information and facilitation of access to records and facilities.

The Interim Inspector General's work program is guided by the report of the Equine Influenza Inquiry and to the Australian Government's response to that Inquiry.

## **Responsibility**

The primary role of the Interim Inspector General is to check, by inspection and audit that:

- operations and procedures at each approved pre-export quarantine premises are documented and being implemented effectively
- import conditions covering the period until the horses arrive at an airport in Australia are being met
- operations and procedures applying from when horses arrive at an airport in Australia until the end of the post-arrival quarantine process are documented and being implemented and complied with.

Audits are undertaken in the form of systems audits of import procedures and practices.

## **Reporting and Communications**

The Interim Inspector General reports to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, including a report in writing at least once every twelve months.

The Interim Inspector General will consult with and provide advice to the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia, Executive Director of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and the Officer Responsible for Horse Importation.

## **Standards of Practice**

In conducting his responsibilities the Interim Inspector General will:

- apply professional, scientific and technical skills and experience in the conduct of the role
- act with honesty and integrity
- act with care and diligence
- while performing functions overseas, behave in a way that upholds the good reputation of Australia
- respect commercial confidentiality of information obtained in the course of its duties.

*December 2008*