3 October 2003

CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE BIRDS (PIGEONS)

(adopted 16 July 1999, amended 26 June 2000, October 2003)

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, Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), Canberra. A full description of each bird must be provided, together with details of the nominated approved post-arrival quarantine facility 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. To be considered for approval, countries need to demonstrate an effective veterinary service, have in place appropriate surveillance programs for avian diseases and practise 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, immediately prior to export to Australia.

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, 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 chlamydophilosis, and subsequently returns a positive result to an approved test for *Chlamydophila 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 a post-arrival quarantine facility approved by the Director.

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 in Victoria 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 Office International des Epizooties (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 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 an approved quarantine facility, and will only be released subject to satisfactory results of the program of testing and treatment required 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 Specific Pathogen Free (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 post-arrival quarantine.

h. 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
West Nile virus

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 transport containers according to International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.

7. IMPORTER'S/AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

a. The importer or the agent coordinating the importation must be based in Australian 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 AQIS, eg 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 quarantined 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

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

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

APPENDIX 1

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL OF PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE 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:

1. 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.

2. the centre is a discrete, vector-proof 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.

3. the centre is run on an all-in-all-out basis, excepting that birds showing clinical signs of chlamydophilosis 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.

4. 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.

5. all water supplies to the facility are secure against contamination by wild birds.

6. equipment used is either new or has been sterilised or disinfected prior to use.

7. staff at the centre during a quarantine period should have no contact with other birds.

8. 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.

APPENDIX 2

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.

APPENDIX 3

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 chlamydophilosis during the pre-export quarantine period.

OR:

ii) A bird or birds in the pre-export quarantine facility showed clinical signs of infection with chlamydophilosis during the pre-export quarantine period. Such birds were tested for the presence of *Chlamydophila 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

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 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)", were:

(i) tested for freedom from the following pathogens. 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 and
- the country of origin does not permit vaccination against PMV1/NDV.

*(ii) tested for West Nile virus using the ……... test.

- All the tests were negative for West Nile virus. **

OR

- One or more birds returned a positive test for West Nile virus. At least 42 days into quarantine, all other birds that tested negative were re-bled and re-tested for West Nile virus, and no positive birds were detected. **

** Delete one

* Delete if Government Veterinary Officer certifies that the country of origin is free of West Nile virus.

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) 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 first treatment being within 24 hours after the commencement of the quarantine period.

ii) 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 the scheduled date of export.

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

APPENDIX 4

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.

a. EITHER:

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

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 viral encephalomyelitis does not occur in .....…….(country of export).**

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

d. West Nile virus does not occur in …….(country of export). **

** Delete if not applicable

2. PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE

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.]

APPENDIX 5

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 Number …….. that:

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 …… Date:
Owner/Manager

Name ……

Address ……

……

……

APPENDIX 6

POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE 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 facility.

d. A sentinel flock of Australian Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) 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 post-arrival quarantine.

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 post-arrival quarantine 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 post-arrival quarantine 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 post arrival quarantine, 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 post-arrival quarantine, 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 post arrival quarantine, 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) 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 first treatment being within 24 hours after the commencement of the quarantine period.

ii) 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 post-arrival quarantine.

iii) treatment for chlamydophilosis, specifically doxycycline at a dose rate of … …….. in feed or water during post-arrival quarantine.

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.]

APPENDIX 7

APPROVED TESTING PROTOCOLS

(A) **Tests for the Importation of Pigeons into Australia**

PATHOGEN	APPROVED TESTS	AUTHORITY FOR TEST METHOD
Influenza virus type A	ELISA AGID Egg inoculation	AAHL OIE, SCAHLS OIE, SCAHLS
Newcastle disease virus	HIT Egg inoculation	AAHL, OIE, SCAHLS OIE, SCAHLS
Paramyxovirus type 1 (pigeon)	HIT	OIE
Paramyxovirus type 2 and 3	HIT	OIE
Salmonella Pullorum, *S* Gallinarum, Enteritidis	RSAT STAT	AARL, OIE 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
Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale	Microbiological*	
West Nile virus	ELISA, PRNT	

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.