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16 March 1999

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1999/21

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations
National Office of Animal, Plant Health
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo

Australian Pork Corporation
Executive director Pig research and Development
Corporation

EU Delegation, Canberra

CSIRO Division of Animal Health
National Farmers' Federation
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF
Australian Animal Health Council
Australian Veterinary Association
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
National Meat Association of Australia
Chief Veterinary Officer, MAF RA, NZ

Pork Council of Australia
Alan King, Australasian Pig Institute, University of
Queensland, Gatton

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PIG MEAT

PROGRESS REPORT

In May 1998 notification was provided to stakeholders via Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum 1998/45 of the commencement of the generic import risk analysis for the importation of pig meat. Further notifications (AQPM 1998/89 and 1999/06) provided advice on process issues and members of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP).

The first meeting of the RAP was held in Canberra on 25 February 1999. The Panel is chaired by Dr Sarah Kahn (Animal Quarantine Policy Branch, AQIS) and includes Professor Colin Wilks (Victorian Institute of Animal Science), Dr Ross Cutler (consultant), Dr Kevin Doyle (Australian Veterinary Association) and Dr Robyn Martin (Animal Quarantine Policy Branch, AQIS).

The Panel considered a number of issues including the following:

- . access requests for the importation of pig meat and pig meat products, including Member States of the European Union, USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico, Republic of South Africa, Hungary and Korea
- . technical papers on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and post weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS)
- . the health status of the Australian pig herd

- . hazard identification, including disease agents considered to be of quarantine concern that may be transmissible via meat and meat products.

The Panel agreed that two technical working groups (TWGs) should be convened to support the Panel in its consideration of the quarantine risks potentially associated with the diseases PRRS and PMWS. The Panel selected members of the TWGs based on their scientific expertise.

The TWG on PRRS will be chaired by Dr Geoff Gard from National Office of Animal and Plant Health and includes Dr Chris Baldock (epidemiologist, consultant), Dr Tony Forman (virologist, consultant), Professor Colin Wilks (Victorian Institute of Animal Science), Dr Ross Cutler (consultant), Dr Kevin Doyle (Australian Veterinary Association) and Dr Robyn Martin (AQIS).

The TWG on PMWS will be chaired by Dr Robyn Martin (AQIS) and includes Dr Chris Baldock (consultant), Dr Tony Forman (consultant), Dr Russell Rogers (Department of Primary Industries, Queensland) and Dr Geoff Gard (National Office of Animal and Plant Health). Members of this group have previously participated in the Technical Working Group on PMWS.

Details of the work program were agreed as follows:

- . issuance of a progress report (i.e. this Policy Memorandum)
- . release of a technical issues paper by end of June 1999 (a period of 60 days to be provided) for public comment
- . meetings/teleconferences of the RAP to consider comments on the technical issues paper and to discuss the draft IRA report
- . release of the draft IRA report towards the end of 1999 (a period of 60 days to be provided) for public comment
- . final RAP meeting in March 2000 with a view to providing a final report for consideration by the Executive Director of AQIS in April 2000.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

SARAH KAHN
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Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

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STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK TO AQIS

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

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

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

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

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

(fold).....
.....

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

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

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

Name:
Company/Organisation:

(fold).....
.....

No postage stamp required
if posted in Australia

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