



Ref: 99/3756

23 August 2001

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/22

COLOSTRUM: ADOPTION OF QUARANTINE CONDITIONS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the adoption of quarantine conditions for the importation of colostrum (Attachment A).

Revised conditions for the importation of dairy products were adopted in November 1999 in Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1999/86. The risk management section of the dairy import risk analysis report highlighted the greater risk associated with colostrum (excerpt is at Attachment B). At the time it was decided not to permit the importation of colostrum, other than as a human therapeutic. A review of this position was undertaken in response to a number of requests to import colostrum for sale as a health food and sports' food supplement (i.e. these products are not registered as therapeutics and therefore not currently permitted entry).

AQPM 2000/46 of 18 September 2000 advised stakeholders of the details of this review and sought comments on the variation in policy and draft import conditions. The review confirmed that colostrum represented a higher risk than other dairy products. However, the application of additional risk management measures could allow trade to take place in line with Australia's appropriate level of protection. Where the presence of exotic disease agents in the exporting country required pasteurisation or UHT treatment of the colostrum, manufacturing plants should be inspected by an AQIS officer or an AQIS approved Authority to ensure this process was an integral part of the manufacture of the product.

The consultation period closed on 18 November 2000 and one response was received which dealt with operational matters rather than any policy or scientific issue. As a result of no new technical information being presented the final quarantine requirements have not been changed from those in the draft. However, attention has been paid to the terminology used to ensure that the terms 'colostrum' and 'dairy product' remain distinct. Plant approvals, as set out above, will be for two years in line with similar approvals. It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure compliance with all other legislation covering this product. This was outlined in ABPM 2000/46.

Those countries free of all disease agents that are of quarantine concern with dairy products, unpasteurised product will be permitted and by default, the individual plants would not require inspection and approval.



Next Steps

These conditions will take effect immediately.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise the contact officer if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity 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.

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