



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



12 February 2001

QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CAMELIDS FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)

(Originally promulgated 3 December 1993, amended 2 January, 1998)

1 GENERAL

1.1 These conditions apply only to the South American camelids - *Lama glama* (llama), *Lama pacos* (alpaca) and *Lama guanaco* (guanaco).

1.2 A valid *Permit to Import Quarantine Material into Australia*, valid for a single consignment only, must:

- . be obtained from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import prior to pre-export quarantine of the camelids, and
- . accompany the consignment.

1.3 An *Animal Health Certificate* must:

- . accompany each consignment of camelids (copies are not acceptable),
- . contain all information equivalent to that required by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Health Code (*Code*) Model Certificate No 2 and, under the heading **Sanitary information**, contain the certifications specified in Section 2 of these requirements,
- . be signed by the *certifying veterinarians*, that is,
 - the *Approved Veterinarian* accredited by the USDA under part 161 of Chapter 1, title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and
 - the *Official Veterinarian* who is a veterinary official of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and
- . be in English, and be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

1.4 Permission to import camelids must also be obtained from Environment Australia to meet the requirements of the *Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982*. Further information may be obtained from:

The Director
Wildlife Protection
Environment Australia
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6274 2291
Fax 02 6274 1921
email: wps@ea.gov.au
website: <http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/plants/wildlife/intro.htm>

Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

- 1.5 The exporter must ship the consignment to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.
- 1.6 Minimum requirements, including pre-export quarantine requirements, for importation into Australia are set out in Section 2 below. Various zones in Australia may differ in animal health status and State/Territory. The owner or importer must check whether State/Territory veterinary authorities require testing or certification additional to these requirements before the camelids may enter a particular zone or move from one zone to another within Australia.
- 1.7 In the event of any animal arriving in Australia without the correct certification, AQIS may detain the animal and any in-contact animals in extended quarantine, return them to the country of origin or destroy them without recompense. The animals must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in Australia at an approved quarantine station for at least 14 days.
- 1.8 Biosecurity Australia and/or AQIS may vary or review quarantine requirements at any time.

2. CERTIFICATION

The Animal Health Certificate contains all information equivalent to that required by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Health Code (*Code*) Model Certificate No 2 and attests, under *Sanitary information* that:

- 2.1 The USA is recognised by the OIE as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free country where vaccination is not practised (OIE *Code* Article 2.1.1.2.), and meets the relevant OIE *Code* Article definitions for country freedom from rinderpest and Rift Valley fever.
- 2.2 During the 12 months prior to export, infection due to *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra) was not reported in the USA.
- 2.3 Immediately prior to pre-export quarantine (PEQ) the camelids were free from quarantine restrictions and living in either the USA or Canada.
- 2.4 All blood and tissue tests for disease were carried out at a laboratory approved by USDA to perform the test required for that disease. Dates of collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests were recorded on the Animal Health Certificate. Where diagnostic tests are not specified, only those tests recognised by USDA/APHIS for the disease being tested were used.
- 2.5 The camelids were individually identified by either microchips, which conform to ISO standards, or ear tags.
- 2.6 Pre-export quarantine (PEQ)

The camelids underwent PEQ in premises approved by the USDA and located in a State recognised by the USDA as a *bluetongue low-incidence State* for a period as determined by

bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease health requirements and during the period through 15 October to 31 May.

During PEQ the camelids were isolated from other farm animals not of equivalent health status.

2.7 Bovine brucellosis

The camelids:

EITHER

- originated from a herd in a *Class Free State or area*;
- originated from establishments where no case of bovine brucellosis occurred during the past 5 years, and
- gave a negative result to a complement fixation test (CFT) for bovine brucellosis within 21 days of export;

OR

- originated from a herd in a *Class A State or area*;
- originated from establishments where no case of bovine brucellosis occurred during the past 5 years, and
- gave negative results to the complement fixation test (CFT) for bovine brucellosis on each of two occasions, 30 days apart, the second within 21 days of export.

2.8 Bovine tuberculosis

The camelids:

EITHER

- originated from an *accredited free State or zone*;
- originated from establishments where no case of bovine tuberculosis occurred during the past 5 years, and
- were tested for bovine tuberculosis by an approved single intradermal tuberculin test at the axillary site (using 0.1ml of USDA tuberculin PPD), with negative results (being either no swelling or a swelling not greater than 2mm at the site of injection 72 hours after injection), within 14 days of entering PEQ but more than 90 days after any previous tuberculin test.

OR

- originated from a *modified accredited State or zone*;
- originated from establishments where no case of bovine tuberculosis occurred during the past 5 years, and
- were tested for bovine tuberculosis by an approved single intradermal tuberculin test at the axillary site (using 0.1ml of USDA tuberculin PPD), with negative results (being either no swelling or a swelling not greater than 2mm at the site of injection 72 hours after injection), twice, the first being within 1 year of export and the second being within 14 days of entering PEQ but more than 90 days after the previous tuberculin test.

[Note: Reactors to the test, and all in-contact animals, were rejected for export.]

2.9 Vesicular stomatitis

During PEQ vesicular stomatitis was not reported within 15 kilometres of the PEQ premises.

2.10 Johne's disease (paratuberculosis)

The camelids:

- came from herds that are not known or suspected of being infected with Johne's disease,
- were not vaccinated against Johne's disease, and
- within 6 months of entering PEQ, gave a negative result to a faecal culture (conventional or radiometric) for *Mycobacterium avium* subsp *paratuberculosis*,

2.11 Bluetongue (BT)

The camelids

EITHER

underwent PEQ for at least 60 days immediately prior to shipment;

OR

underwent PEQ for at least 30 days immediately prior to shipment, during which they gave negative results to:

either

a competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or an agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test for detecting antibodies to the BT virus group on serum samples collected at least 21 days after the start of PEQ;

or

a virus isolation by culture in embryonated chicken eggs or a nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]) on blood samples drawn at least 7 days after entering PEQ.

2.12 Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD)

The camelids:

EITHER

underwent PEQ for at least 60 days immediately prior to shipment;

OR

underwent PEQ for at least 30 days immediately prior to shipment, during which they gave negative results to:

either

an agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test or the virus neutralisation test (VNT) for detecting antibodies to the EHD virus group, on serum samples collected at least 21 days after the start of PEQ;

or

a virus isolation by culture in embryonated chicken eggs or a nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]) on blood samples drawn at least 7 days after entering PEQ.

2.13 Bovine pestivirus

Blood samples, drawn from the camelids within 21 days of entering PEQ or during PEQ, gave negative results to one of the following tests for bovine pestivirus:

- an antigen-capture ELISA on peripheral blood leucocytes, or
- a virus isolation test on blood or serum, or
- a nucleic acid detection test (PCR) on peripheral blood leucocytes.

[Note: PCR testing must only be used after the technique has received specific written approval from the USDA.]

2.14 At the time of export, the female camelids were not detectably pregnant by external palpation.

2.15 The camelids were more than 4 months old at the time of export.

2.16 During PEQ, all camelids were:

- shorn clean, including head and feet;
- injected with ivermectin injectable at 0.2 mg/kg subcutaneously; and
- treated once weekly three times for ear mites with 5 ml of 0.5 g/L ivermectin (not the injectable formulation) in normal saline instilled into each ear.

2.17 Inspections

The camelids were examined by an *Official Veterinarian*

- during the first 7 days of PEQ and were found to be free from signs of infectious or contagious diseases, and
- within 24 hours prior to leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and were found to be healthy, free from signs of infectious or contagious diseases, free of evidence of external parasites and fit to travel.

2.18 On completing PEQ, the camelids:

- were transported on cleaned and disinfected vehicles (including any crates or boxes) to the port of export;
- were transported by the most direct and practical route, and
- had no direct or indirect contact with any other farm animals not of equivalent health status as the animals being exported to Australia during loading, unloading and transportation.

3. TRANSPORT

3.1 The camelids must be consigned to Australia by a route approved by AQIS.

3.2 The camelids must not be accompanied in transit by other animals unless with prior approval of AQIS.

Any transshipment requires prior AQIS approval. (Transits and transshipments usually require the approval of authorities in the country or countries of transit or transshipment.)

- 3.3 The use of hay or straw as bedding is not permitted. Only treated wood shavings, sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product may be used.
- 3.4 An Australian or New Zealand quarantine veterinarian may be required to accompany the shipment at the importer's expense. AQIS must receive adequate notice of the intention to import so that arrangements can be made.
- 3.5 The design of the containers, the recommended species requirements, the preparation for transport and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel, removable equipment, penning and containers must be in accordance with OIE Code recommendations and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

4. ENTRY AND POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The imported camelids must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ), for a minimum period of 14 days, on premises approved by AQIS.
- 4.2 During PAQ the camelids may be subjected to any testing or treatment prescribed by AQIS at the importer's expense.
- 4.3 If an animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, that animal and any or all other camelids in the PAQ premises may be detained in extended quarantine for further testing and/or observation, or exported at the importer's expense, or destroyed without recompense.
- 4.4 The consignment must comply with PAQ requirements before the consignment is released by AQIS.

5. IMPORTER'S / AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The importer or agent coordinating the importation must be Australian based and must nominate a person who will be accessible to AQIS officers in the event of problems or emergencies and who will accept that responsibility for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
- 5.2 The owner or importer must meet all costs incurred in performance of quarantine on each consignment of camelids. The importer will be charged for services provided by the Australian Government. If any animals die or are destroyed during any period of control, the Government will not pay compensation.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the importer or importer's agent to arrange for any other health certification or testing of the animals that may be required by other agencies (eg by Breed Societies for inherited diseases or genetic defects or by State Governments for movement of animals into certain zones in Australia).
- 5.4 Any requests for dispensation from these requirements must be submitted through APHIS. Such applications must include the reasons and contain all relevant information necessary

for the application to be evaluated. AQIS will only consider requests for dispensation received through APHIS with their recommendation. Dispensations will be issued in exceptional circumstances by AQIS when it can be demonstrated that the quarantine security of the consignment has not been compromised.

DAVID BANKS
A/g General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

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