



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine  
and Inspection Service**

# **A NATIONAL DISCUSSION: EQUINE BIOSECURITY**

## **Current Import Arrangements**

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Presentation to National Industry/ Government Equine Influenza Forum  
25 September 2008

## Changes Post EI Outbreak

- A number of changes across the quarantine continuum- pre-export, border, post-arrival
- Some changes implemented immediately, others more recent and represent the Government's response to the Equine Influenza Inquiry
- Senior officer 'primarily responsible and accountable for the importation of horses into Australia'- Rec 1

# Government Response to EI Inquiry

- Commissioner made 38 recommendations to strengthen quarantine measures- all agreed by the Government
  - Inspector General of Horse Imports (Interim)
  - Pre-export requirements
  - Facilities at Airports and Quarantine Stations
  - Operating Procedures, Work Instructions for AQIS and non-AQIS personnel
  - Import Risk Analysis and other reviews
  - Recovery of Quarantine Expenses
- Project plan available at [www.aqis.gov.au](http://www.aqis.gov.au) (look at About AQIS, Equine Influenza Inquiry)

# Pre-export

Revised interim quarantine measures and updates post EI Inquiry:

- PEQ
  - PEQ facility inspections- criteria, reports, audits
  - AQIS approval of PEQ facilities
  - Vaccination changes- strains specified; timing 2-6 months and 14-21 days prior to entering PEQ
  - Showering into PEQ facilities
  - Blood samples while in PEQ
  - Nasopharyngeal swabs for absence of EI (2 in PEQ, 3 in PAQ)
- Prior to departure
  - Certification documentation provided at port of loading
  - Sufficient evidence to AQIS prior to loading
- BA to review activities and events before import
- Interim Inspector General to provide advice
- Import Risk Analysis to be conducted by BA

# Airports and Quarantine Stations Facilities

- Expert Group to provide advice to AQIS on facilities at airports and quarantine stations regarding biosecurity containment, animal welfare and OH&S
- Upgraded facilities at the airports and quarantine stations including showers, fencing
- Increased staffing and strengthened security arrangements at quarantine stations
- BA and Interim Inspector General to provide advice

# Operating Procedures

- Updated operating procedures for AQIS and non-AQIS personnel
  - WIs, training, verification
- Clearer roles and responsibilities
- Biosecurity Australia to inspect and review operating procedures
- Interim Inspector General to inspect and audit operations and procedures from PEQ through to completion of PAQ

# Industry Consultation

- Noted specifically in several recommendations, implied in others
- Horse Industry Consultative Committee formed
  - membership includes horse industry, importers, AVA, airports, other areas of DAFF
- WIs for non-AQIS personnel
- TORs, minutes and other information available at [www.aqis.gov.au](http://www.aqis.gov.au) (look at About AQIS, Equine Influenza Inquiry)

More changes in the future once reviews finalised



Thank you