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Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY –  
AUSTRALIA**

## DRAFT

AFFA02/4214

May 2003

### QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANTS FROM SINGAPORE

#### Scope

These conditions apply to the importation of Asian elephants (*Elaphas maximus*) or African elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) from approved premises in Singapore.

#### General requirements

It is the responsibility of the importer or his or her agent/s to secure all required permits and to ensure all the requirements of the exporting country and Australia (both Commonwealth and State) are met.

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) may require that an Australian Quarantine Officer or *Official Veterinarian* oversee the pre-export quarantine, testing and treatment and/or accompany the animal/s to Australia.

The importer must nominate a person who will be accessible to AQIS at all reasonable times during the export/import process and who will have the authority and responsibility to act on behalf of the importer.

#### Documentation, transport and quarantine requirements

##### Documentation

The person in charge of accompanying the elephants on the aircraft or vessel to Australia must carry a copy of each of the following documents and make them available to a Quarantine Officer on arrival.

- 1) A Permit to Import issued by AQIS on behalf of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Director). Permit application details are available from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website [www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au) → Quarantine and Export Services → Animals, or by Email to [animalimp@aqis.gov.au](mailto:animalimp@aqis.gov.au).
- 2) An Environment Australia (EA) permit and appropriate CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) documentation from the exporting country. Details are available from the Director, Sustainable Wildlife Industries Section, EA – Email to [wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au](mailto:wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au) or from the EA website: <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>.
- 3) An *international veterinary certificate* signed by an *Official Veterinarian\** of the country of export. The certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office

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International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and provide details of the identification of each animal (species, age, sex, microchip number), the origin of the animals (exporter and premises of origin), and the destination of the animals. The certificate must be in English. The certificate must be stamped on each page with an official stamp. A document, signed by the owner or veterinary supervisor of the premises of origin, describing the health-monitoring programme implemented in the premises, must be appended to the veterinary certificate.

In the veterinary certificate the *Official Veterinarian* must attest that:

- i) Each animal has been resident in Singapore continuously since birth, or for the six months immediately prior to export, in a licensed or registered zoo or wildlife park or government approved facility for holding elephants (the premises of origin).
- ii) Singapore is recognised by the OIE as a foot and mouth disease (FMD) free country where vaccination is not practised.
- iii) During the 2 years prior to export:
  - . tuberculosis has not been diagnosed in any elephants, or other hoof stock (elephants, perissodactyls or artiodactyls), or in elephant handlers at the premises of origin, and
  - . any deaths of elephants on those premises have been investigated.
- iv) During the twelve months prior to export, no case of surra or infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* has been diagnosed in any animals, and there have been no known cases of endotheliotropic elephant herpesvirus (EEHV-1) infection, at the premises of origin.
- v) Each animal was held in pre-export quarantine (PEQ), in isolation from other hoof stock not of the same health status, for at least 120 days prior to export. During the 30 days prior to export each animal remained free from signs of infectious or contagious disease including pox-like skin lesions and had no contact with any animal showing signs of an infectious or contagious disease.
- vi) During PEQ, all animals in the group were subjected to sampling for tuberculosis testing, by the collection of wash samples from the trunk, on three separate mornings within a one week period [as described in the 'Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants 2003']#. The samples were transported in an appropriate manner to ....., an AQIS approved laboratory, and tested by culture for pathogenic strains of mycobacteria (*Mycobacteria tuberculosis*, *M bovis*, *M africanum* and *M microti*). Every sample gave a negative result in each case.

# The Guidelines, compiled by the National Tuberculosis Working Group for Zoo and Wildlife Species in the USA, are available at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website: [www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/ElephTBGuidelines2003.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/ElephTBGuidelines2003.html) or at [www.elephantcare.org](http://www.elephantcare.org) . The **Culture Collection Procedure**, from those Guidelines, and a description of the trunk wash technique (Appendix 3 to the Guidelines), are at Attachment 1.

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- vii) During PEQ and at least 30 days before export, blood samples were collected from each animal on three occasions no less than two days apart, and sent to an approved laboratory, where they were tested for *Trypanosoma evansi*, with negative results in all animals, by either a micro-anion exchange centrifugation test, or a rodent inoculation test.

Also, on one occasion, an antibody enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (AB ELISA) for antibodies to *Trypanosoma evansi*, and a card agglutination test (CATT) was conducted at an approved laboratory on a sample from each animal, with results that indicated all animals were free from infection, ie any reactions in the AB ELISA were low titre and all were negative in the CATT.

- viii) During the 30 days prior to export:

. faecal egg examinations were undertaken on three faecal samples collected on separate mornings within a one-week period and all samples were negative for *Fasciola* eggs;

**OR**

. each animal was treated with triclabendazole (7-9 mg/kg to a maximum dose of 7.2 g/animal) or oxcyclozanide (7.5 mg/kg to a maximum dose of 6.8 g/animal).

- ix) During the 30 days prior to export, each animal was subjected to treatments for parasites as follows:

- (i) treatment with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic at the recommended dose rates utilising active ingredients, specifically ....., effective against nematodes and cestodes, and
- (ii) treatment with an external parasiticide effective against ticks, specifically ....., on two occasions 14 days apart.

- x) During the 48 hours prior to export, each animal was examined and found to be healthy, free of external parasites and fit to travel.

- xi) The vehicles in which the animals were transported to the port of export, the containers in which they will be exported and the compartments of the aircraft or vessel in which they will travel were all cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant prior to loading of the animals. Containers constructed of timber were permanently immunised against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading as required by AQIS.

- xii) The containers in which the animals are being transported to Australia comply with International Air Transport Association (IATA) Regulations (if the animals are being transported by air). Arrangements for the transport of the animals are satisfactory for their security and welfare.

\*An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Section 1.2. of the OIE *International Animal Health Code* (the Code).

## **Transport**

There must be no other animals on board the aircraft or vessel except with the written approval of the Director. The animals must travel by a direct route to Australia. The design of the containers, and all other arrangements for transport must be in accordance with the Live Animals Regulations of the International Air Transport Association.

## **Quarantine**

On arrival in Australia the animals must be transported directly to a Quarantine Approved Premises (QAP) where they will be held for at least 30 days in Post-Arrival Quarantine (PAQ).

During PAQ:

- 1) all animals must be monitored daily for signs of illness; sick animals are to be subjected to a clinical examination, and AQIS is to be advised of the findings;
- 2) all animals dying for any reason must be subjected to complete post-mortem examination to determine the cause of death, and AQIS is to be advised;
- 3) the animals may be subjected to diagnostic tests and/or treatments at the discretion of the Director.

Quarantine may be extended at the discretion of the Director until any adverse events during the quarantine period are fully investigated and resolved, and no evidence of transmission of infectious agents within the quarantine group exists.

At the completion of PAQ, the animals will, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements, be released from quarantine into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory government for the holding of elephants.

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