



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

13 March 2009

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/05**

**POLICY REVIEW: IMPORTATION OF HATCHING (FERTILE) DUCK EGGS  
FROM APPROVED COUNTRIES**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) provides stakeholders with proposed revised quarantine measures for the importation of hatching (fertile) duck eggs from approved countries. Comments would be appreciated by 20 April 2009.

Quarantine requirements for the importation of hatching duck eggs from approved countries were established in May 1999 and subsequently amended in June 2000 and August 2006. When the last amendment was made Biosecurity Australia advised stakeholders (Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2006/25) that the Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group had requested the post arrival quarantine (PAQ) period for domestic ducks be shortened from 12 to 9 weeks.

The Stakeholder Group comprises users of the Torrens Island Quarantine Station and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). The PAQ period for hatching eggs of hens and turkeys was reduced in August 2004 from 12 to 9 weeks.

Biosecurity Australia has re-examined measures for diseases of quarantine concern, potentially associated with hatching duck eggs from approved countries and concludes that reducing the PAQ period from 12 to 9 weeks will continue to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP). Testing of the PAQ flock at six weeks post-hatch, rather than the current nine weeks, is proposed. This will allow a shorter PAQ period. The review also proposes that:

- vaccination of donor flocks against duck hepatitis virus type I be permitted
- vaccination of donor flocks against Newcastle disease continues to be permitted but restricted to the use of inactivated vaccines
- reference to *Salmonella Pullorum* and *Salmonella Gallinarum* and the requirement for serological testing for these agents be removed from the import requirements as ducks are relatively resistant to infection and are not known reservoirs of these agents. Bacteriological testing for *Salmonella* spp. is still required post-arrival
- reference to *Salmonella Arizona* and the specific test requirements for this agent be removed from the import requirements as this disease agent is present in Australia and is not considered to have an adverse impact
- reference to *Reimerella anatipestifer* be removed from the import requirements as this agent is not egg-transmitted and is present in Australia
- testing for *Salmonella Enteritidis* be revised, removing the requirement to test culled ducklings and faeces post-arrival. All other testing requirements remain; that is, pre-export testing of the source flock and post-arrival serology and bacteriological culture for *Salmonella* spp. of pipped embryos, hatchery waste and ducklings that die in PAQ will continue

- testing in PAQ for multi-drug resistant *Salmonella* Typhimurium DT104 be introduced. This will be undertaken as part of the post-arrival bacteriological culture for *Salmonella* spp. of hatchery waste, pipped embryos and ducklings that die in PAQ.

The review is based on relevant scientific literature, including information in the *Final Generic Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report for Chicken Meat*. It takes into account recent advice from AQIS and PAQ managers.

The *Importation of Hatching (Fertile) Duck Eggs from Approved Countries – Draft Policy Review* report is at Attachment A and includes proposed quarantine measures.

### **Consultation**

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Comments on the draft review and proposed new measures should be submitted by 20 April 2009 to Biosecurity Australia at the following address:

Animal Biosecurity  
Biosecurity Australia  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

E-mail: [animal@biosecurity.gov.au](mailto:animal@biosecurity.gov.au)

An electronic version of submissions would be appreciated. Biosecurity Australia will consider all stakeholder comments as it finalises the policy review.

Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available from our website [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au).

### **Confidentiality**

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to BAAs will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter.

The Commonwealth of Australia 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 a submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of their identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of a submission will only be treated as confidential if they are marked 'confidential' and can be classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.



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