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QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CAMELIDS FROM PERU

1 GENERAL

- 1.1 In this document the collective term *camelids* refers to alpacas (*Lama pacos*) and llamas (*Lama glama*).
- 1.2 Each consignment of camelids must be accompanied by a valid *Permit To Import Quarantine Material* from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import. The camelids must be shipped to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.
- 1.3 Each consignment of camelids must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by an *Official Veterinarian*. An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agrarai (SENASA) to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.2. of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code (*Code*). The Certificate must be in English, and a language understood by the *Official Veterinarian*, and be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.
- 1.4 The Animal Health Certificate must conform with *Code Model Certificate No 2* and contain the certifications specified in Section 2.
- 1.5 Section 2 sets out the minimum requirements for importation into Australia. Various zones in Australia may differ in animal health status and State/Territory veterinary authorities may require testing or certification additional to these requirements before the animals may enter a particular zone or move from one zone to another within Australia.
- 1.6 The camelids must undergo pre-export quarantine (PEQ) in premises approved by SENASA and AQIS and, after leaving Peru, a period of quarantine at either an off-shore facility, or an on-shore quarantine station approved by AQIS for camelids from South America. During these periods the camelids must be isolated from all livestock not of equivalent health status and tested and treated in accordance with the requirements in Section 2. The minimum options for quarantine are:
either:
30 days PEQ and 60 days off-shore quarantine (OSQ) before entry into Australia
or
90 days PEQ and 30 days post arrival quarantine (PAQ) in Australia.
- 1.7 PEQ will be supervised by SENASA and an AQIS *Official Veterinarian* who will be in Peru to oversee the entire duration of PEQ up to the time of export and will accompany the camelids to Australia or to the OSQ facility. The costs associated with the AQIS Official Veterinarian will be borne by the importer.

- 1.8 If samples give a positive result to any animal health tests during PEQ, all animals in the consignment may be subjected to further testing. Depending on the results of testing, AQIS may withhold permission for the importation of any/all animals in the consignment.
- 1.9 In the event of a consignment arriving in Australia without the correct certification, or in any other way not having met these requirements, the consignment may be subjected to extended quarantine, returned to the country of origin or destroyed without recompense to the owner.
- 1.10 The importer or agent must nominate a person, based in Australia, who can be contacted by AQIS officers and will be responsible for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
- 1.11 Conditions of importation may be varied or reviewed at any time at AQIS's discretion.

2 CERTIFICATION WHILST IN PERU

Each consignment of camelids must be accompanied by an Animal Health Certificate signed by a SENASA *Official Veterinarian*. The Animal Health Certificate must conform with Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code (*Code*) Model Certificate No 2 and must attest under **IV. Sanitary Information** that:

2.1 General Certification:

[Note: This certification must be signed by a SENASA Official Veterinarian.]

- . The camelids originate from, and have lived only in, that area of Peru above 4 000 m altitude known to be free from foot and mouth disease (FMD).
- . The camelids have not been in contact with cattle during the 12 months prior to export.
- . Alpacas for export were purchased from breeders registered as eligible for export by the Sociedad Peruana Alpaca Registrados (SPAR), who have not introduced camelids or ruminants onto their properties from areas outside the FMD free area of Peru.
- . Peru meets the OIE requirements for freedom from rinderpest (*Code* Article 2.1.4.2.).
- . The camelids originate from herds not known or suspected of being infected with Johne's disease (JD) [paratuberculosis].
- . In the 12 months prior to export neither haemorrhagic septicaemia nor camel pox were reported in Peru.
- . Vesicular stomatitis was not reported, in the herds from which the camelids originated, during 21 days immediately prior to PEQ.
- . The camelids have not been vaccinated against FMD, brucellosis, bluetongue or JD.
- . An *Official Veterinarian* supervised the collection of specimens for testing and treatment of camelids for export and all specimens were tested at the OIE Reference Laboratory relevant for each disease, or a laboratory approved by AQIS. Unless otherwise specified in these conditions, the required tests were conducted and the results

interpreted in accordance with the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines.

- . Dates of specimen collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests used were recorded on the Animal Health Certificate. The dates that treatments were carried out and the chemicals used were also recorded on the Animal Health Certificate. Laboratory reports for each required test were attached.
- . Before entering the PEQ premises the camelids were inspected by an *Official Veterinarian* and certified free from all signs of infectious and contagious diseases and external parasites.

2.2 PEQ certification

[Note: This section of the Animal Health Certificate must be signed by a SENASA Official Veterinarian and an AQIS Official Veterinarian]

- . The PEQ premises were either located in a zone that is free, or seasonally free, from competent vectors of bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease or enclosed buildings constructed so as to preclude entry of competent vectors of bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease.
- . The PEQ premises met the specifications and were managed according to the procedures listed in Attachment 1.
- . During PEQ the camelids for export were isolated from all other livestock.
- . At the commencement of PEQ the camelids for export were individually identified by a written description of each camelid including details of species, age, sex and colour and the application, under the supervision of the *Official Veterinarian*, of:
 - individually numbered ear tags, and
 - an electronic microchip.
- . At the commencement of PEQ a whole blood sample was taken from each camelid and stored in case it should be necessary to use it to confirm the identification of any individual animal.
- . During PEQ foot and mouth disease (FMD) was not reported within 80 km of the PEQ premises.
- . Immediately after entering the PEQ premises a faecal sample was collected from each camelid over 1 year of age and submitted for testing by radiometric culture for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*.
- . During the first 7 days of PEQ each camelid was tested for tuberculosis by a single intra-dermal tuberculin test at the axillary site [using bovine PPD 1mg, to OIE standards] with a negative result (being either no swelling or a swelling not greater than 2mm at the site of injection 72 hours after injection).

[Note: This testing to be done at least 90 days after any previous intradermal test for tuberculosis. An animal which returns a positive result to the above test will be rejected from the consignment, slaughtered, autopsied and subjected to histopathological examination and cultured; if the results of the post-mortem histopathology and culture are negative, the remainder of the consignment may be retested after a minimum interval of 90 days and, if all tests are negative, may proceed with pre- export quarantine. In the case where an animal returns a positive result to the post-mortem, histopathology or culture, the consignment is to be rejected.]

- . During the first 14 days of PEQ each camelid gave a negative result to one of the following tests for bovine pestivirus infection (bovine viral diarrhoea/mucosal disease): either
an antigen-capture ELISA on peripheral blood leucocytes,
or
an virus isolation test on blood or serum.
- . During the first 14 days of PEQ specimens were taken from each camelid and gave a negative result to:
 - an enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot assay (EITB) or a liquid-phase blocking enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for FMD – O, A and C serotypes
 - competitive ELISAs or virus neutralisation tests (VNT) for both Indiana (subtypes 1, 2 and 3) and New Jersey strains of vesicular stomatitis
 - a buffered acidified plate antigen (BAPA) test, standard plate test (SPT) or ELISA, for *Brucella abortus* and *B. melitensis* infection
 - an antibody ELISA or an immunofluorescent antibody (IFA) test for *Trypanosoma vivax* and *T. cruzi*, and
 - an indirect haemagglutination test (IHA) for *Mycoplasma mycoides capricolum* Biotype 38.

[Note: If a sample from any animal gives a positive or indeterminate result to any test conducted during PEQ, AQIS must be notified and will decide on the need for further testing and the fate of the affected animals and the rest of the animals in the consignment.]

- . During the first 14 days of PEQ the camelids
 - were shorn clean – including head, legs and tail
 - were treated with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of both cestode and nematode internal parasites, and
 - were treated with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of external parasites from camelids.
- . Camelids undergoing off-shore quarantine underwent a minimum of 30 days PEQ.
- . Camelids not undergoing off-shore quarantine underwent a minimum of 90 days PEQ.

2.3 For consignments not undergoing off-shore quarantine

[Note: This section of the Animal Health Certificate must be signed by a SENASA Official Veterinarian and an AQIS Official Veterinarian]

- . After at least 60 days of PEQ specimens were taken from each camelid and gave a negative result to:

- an EITB or a liquid-phase blocking ELISA for FMD serotypes O, A and C *
- a buffered acidified plate antigen (BAPA) test, standard plate test (SPT) or ELISA, for *Brucella abortus* and *B. melitensis* infection, and
- competitive ELISAs or virus neutralisation tests (VNT) for both Indiana (subtypes 1, 2 and 3) and New Jersey strains of vesicular stomatitis.

*(Note: These serological tests for FMD must be done at Australian Animal Health Laboratory [AAHL], Geelong Victoria)

- . After at least 75 days of PEQ the camelids were subjected to:
 - treatment with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of both cestode and nematode internal parasites
 - treatment with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of external parasites from camelids
 - a microscopic examination of saline flushings of both ear canals for *Psoroptes* ear mites (in accordance with the technique described in Attachment 2), and
 - treatment for *Psoroptes* ear mites, with 5 ml of ivermectin solution (50 ml ivermectin in 1 litre of normal saline) in each ear canal.
- . The camelids were examined by an *Official Veterinarian* 24 hours before leaving the PEQ premises for the port of export and were found to be free from signs of infectious and contagious disease, free from evidence of external parasites, shorn as required by AQIS and fit to travel. None of the animals was pregnant (as detectable by abdominal palpation).
- . Before leaving the PEQ premises each camelid gave a negative result to a radiometric culture for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* on the faecal sample collected at the start of PEQ.

- 2.4 During transport from the PEQ premises to the port of embarkation the camelids:
- . travelled a route approved by the SENASA and AQIS *Official Veterinarians*
 - . did not pass within 80 km of livestock affected by an outbreak of FMD
 - . were protected from attack by insects, and
 - . did not come in contact with other livestock.

3 INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT

- 3.1 The camelids must be consigned from the country of export directly to Australia, or the off-shore quarantine facility, by a route approved by AQIS. Camelids must also be consigned directly to Australia from the off-shore facility by a route approved by AQIS. They may be accompanied by other animals only with AQIS approval. Any transshipment requires prior AQIS approval.
- 3.2 AQIS may require that an Australian or New Zealand quarantine veterinarian accompanies the shipment at the importer's expense. AQIS must receive adequate notice of the intention to import so that arrangements can be made.
- 3.3 The design of the containers used to transport the camelids, including recommended species requirements; the preparation of the containers for transport; and the disinfection of the interior of the aircraft or vessel, removable equipment, penning and containers must comply with OIE recommendations and International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations, unless otherwise agreed by AQIS.

The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted; treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.

4 POST-ARRIVAL QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Camelids which did not undergo off-shore quarantine must undergo post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) on premises approved by AQIS for a minimum period of 30 days. The PAQ must be at Spotswood Animal Quarantine Station or another quarantine station with an equivalent biosecurity.
- 4.2 During the first 4 days of PAQ the camelids will be examined by an AQIS nominated weed seeds expert who will supervise the removal and destruction of any weed seeds adhering to the animals.
- 4.3 During PAQ camelids will be tested for FMD using an EITB or a liquid-phase blocking ELISA for FMD serotypes O, A and C (these tests must be done at AAHL).
- 4.4 In the highly unlikely circumstance that an animal/s give positive or suspect positive results to the serological test for FMD conducted during PAQ, the following actions will be considered in consultation with scientists from the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) and industry representatives:
 - . Positive result confirmed as a false positive (eg due to testing error). Once confirmed the animals would be allowed to complete PAQ and be released from quarantine as planned.
 - . Positive antibody test confirmed as indicative of vaccination with no evidence of infection. The individual identification of all animals in the consignment would be checked and confirmed by DNA testing. All antibody positive animals would be destroyed. The fate of the other animals that test negative for antibody would be determined by AQIS after consultation.
 - . Positive antibody test subsequently confirmed positive for viral antigen. Following confirmation the consignment would be immediately destroyed.
- 4.5 During PAQ the camelids may be subjected to any other tests or treatments, prescribed by AQIS, at the importer's expense.

5 OFF-SHORE QUARANTINE (OSQ) REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 Camelids for export to Australia via an OSQ facility must have completed a minimum of 30 days PEQ in Peru before starting OSQ and must complete a minimum of 60 days OSQ before entering Australia.
- 5.2 The OSQ facility must be approved by AQIS for camelids from South America and meet the requirements for off-shore quarantine facilities laid down in Attachment 3.
- 5.3 Certification

[Note: This certification to be signed by an AQIS Official Veterinarian]

- . During the first 21 days of OSQ samples taken from the camelids for export gave negative results in the following tests:
 - an EITB, or a liquid-phase blocking ELISA, for FMD serotypes O, A and C
 - a buffered acidified plate antigen (BAPA) test, standard plate test (SPT) or ELISA, for *Brucella abortus* and *B. melitensis* infection, and
 - competitive ELISAs or virus neutralisation tests (VNT) for both Indiana (subtypes 1, 2 and 3) and New Jersey strains of vesicular stomatitis.
 - . Before leaving the OSQ premises each camelid gave a negative result to a radiometric culture for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* on the faecal sample collected at the start of PEQ.
 - . After at least 45 days of OSQ the camelids were subjected to:
 - treatment with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of both nematode and cestode internal parasites, and
 - treatment with a broad spectrum parasiticide in the manner approved by AQIS for the removal of external parasites from camelids, and
 - a microscopic examination of saline flushings of both ear canals for *Psoroptes* ear mites (in accordance with the technique described in Attachment 2), and
 - treatment for *Psoroptes* ear mites, with 5 ml of ivermectin solution (50 ml ivermectin in 1 litre of normal saline) in each ear canal.
- [Note: If a sample from any animal gives a positive or indeterminate result to any test conducted during OSQ, AQIS must be notified and will decide if further testing is required and the disposition of the affected animals and the rest of the animals in the consignment.]*
- . After 45 days of OSQ the camelids were shorn clean, did not have access to the seeds of plants not present in Australia and were fed either Australian or New Zealand fodder.
 - . During the final 4 days of OSQ the camelids will be examined by an AQIS nominated weed seeds expert who will supervise the removal and destruction of any weed seeds adhering to the animals.
 - . The camelids were examined by an *Official Veterinarian* 24 hours before leaving the OSQ premises for the port of export and were found to be free from signs of infectious and contagious disease, free from evidence of external parasites, shorn as required by AQIS and fit to travel.

6 IMPORTER'S/AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of the importer or importer's agent to arrange for the provision of any health certification or testing additional to that required by AQIS (eg for inherited diseases or genetic defects, or as required by State/Territory veterinary authorities).
- 6.2 The importer or agent must nominate a person who can be contacted by AQIS officers and who will be responsible for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
- 6.3 The importer will be charged for services provided by the Australian Government. The Australian Government will not compensate the importer or agent for any losses incurred while the animals intended for importation are under AQIS control

6.4 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>

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ATTACHMENT 1

AQIS REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-EXPORT QUARANTINE (PEQ) PREMISES FOR CAMELIDS FROM PERU

1. The facility must be approved by AQIS prior to initial use. The facility must be inspected and approved by a *SENASA Official Veterinarian* prior to the entry of each subsequent consignment of camelids.
2. The facility must be located at a sufficient distance from any other animal industry or enterprise to ensure that the quarantine status of the facility is not compromised.
3. Staff which come in contact with the camelids held in the facility must have no contact with other livestock for the duration of PEQ.
4. The facility must be surrounded by a livestock-proof perimeter fence and the camelids are to be separated from the perimeter fence by either a minimum distance of 10 metres, or a solid partition.
5. The facility should be of solid construction and maintained in good condition.
 - a. Where the facility is used regularly for pre-export quarantine of animals, it must be constructed to facilitate cleaning and disinfection, and shall include:
 - an impervious floor of either metal, concrete or treated wood, or
 - an earthen floor with a suitable topping of sand or wood shavings, and
 - impervious walls of metal, concrete or other material approved by SENASA,
 - permanent watering facilities.
 - b. Where the facility is part of the property of area-of-origin isolation of the animals, it must not have been used for livestock activity other than for the holding of animals of similar tested equivalent health status for a period of three months before the commencement of PEQ. In this case it may comprise fenced pasture, or yards that are subject to daily cleaning.
 - c. Buildings and shelters must be cleaned daily and waste disposed in a manner approved by SENASA.
6. The facility must be either:
 - a. effectively screened against the entry of all insects; or
 - b. located in a climatic area in which it is known or can be demonstrated that there are no insect vectors of bluetongue, EHD, vesicular stomatitis virus or trypanosomes.
7. The facility is to be locked (with keys held by the nominated person-in-charge and by the duty SENASA Veterinary Officer) or, alternatively, continually staffed by security personnel so as to ensure, to the satisfaction of the *SENASA Official Veterinarian*, that there is no contact with other livestock and no entry of unauthorised personnel.

8. PEQ starts on the last day of entry of animals in the consignment. The facility is to be run on an all-in all-out basis. Animals in the facility must be isolated from all animals not of tested equivalent health status throughout PEQ.
9. The source of water and feed must be approved by SENASA and must not represent a source of contamination for the introduction of communicable disease into the facility.

All feed for a consignment should be stored in the facility before the start of the quarantine period. If additional feed is required, this should be introduced by a means approved by SENASA. An area for the receipt of feed should have an entrance capable of being secured by a means approved by SENASA. Delivery equipment and personnel involved in the unloading of feed must not have direct access to, or contact with, the animal areas. All feed must be obtained either from within Peru and from areas where no foot and mouth disease has been diagnosed within a 50 km radius in any species during the previous 12 months; or from a country officially free from foot and mouth disease.

10. All movements of people in and out of the facility must be recorded.
11. A SENASA *Official Veterinarian* is to inspect the animals at least twice weekly during the quarantine period.
12. Staff must undertake normal measures against cross-contamination during the quarantine period including:
 - using footbath and hand wash facility at the entrance to the facility
 - outer clothing dedicated to, and provided at, the facility
 - all equipment (*eg* shovels, feed bins, veterinary equipment) must be dedicated to the facility and stored in a area approved by SENASA.

During the quarantine period, all handling facilities (*eg* race, crush, yards) must be dedicated to animals in the PEQ facility.

ATTACHMENT 2

TECHNIQUE OF EAR FLUSHING FOR COLLECTION OF MITES FROM ALPACAS

- . The procedure is done with the animal standing and either restrained by a single attendant or in a crush. The latter procedure is less satisfactory as there may be insufficient control over head movements and washings can be lost.
- . The 'flushing apparatus' consists of a 10ml disposable syringe to which is attached approximately 6-7cm of clean 3mm vinyl tubing (Code 15440041 CL0031 Nylex Corporation Mentone Vic). Attached to the tubing is a disposable micropipette tip (Titerick Pipette Tip Band (340) Cat No 77-896-05 Eflab Finland) cut off and carefully smoothed and rounded at the small ridge towards its tip. The rounding is to prevent damage to the alpacas ear which has a delicate, narrow canal and also helps to safeguard the operator's forefinger which can also be worn or damaged when large numbers of animals are examined. This leaves a nozzle diameter of about 1.5mm which is sufficient to produce suitable pressure for the jet of fluid which passes through it.
- . Both ears are flushed using the following technique and the washes combined. There is no justification for examining them separately.
- . The tip needs to be passed firmly, almost in a vertical position, down the edge of the lateral (outer) aspect of the ear canal. Often the canal is partly occluded by a small cartilaginous protuberance, but this can be easily felt if the forefinger directs the line of the introduced tip from within the ear and firmly steers it down the outer edge. If the tip is not carefully directed it may follow any one of several auricular folds and the liquid will not enter the ear canal. Approximately 4-5 ml of normal saline is injected forcefully into the canal of an adult alpaca; 2-3ml is sufficient for small animals.
- . The tube is then removed from the ear canal and pipette replaced for use in the next animal.
- . The liquid is aspirated from the ear canals with a disposable plastic transfer pipette (BERAL B78-400 "Graduated pipet" Beral Inc California) from which the last two tapering graduations at the tip have been snipped off. In most cases up to 80% of the total volume introduced can be recovered.
- . The washings should be kept cool, out of sunlight and preferably processed on the day of collection. Mites survive only for short periods in washings from abscessed or infected ears, and in such cases should be processed first.
- . Washings are processed in the following manner. Depending on the amount of detritus the mixture is either washed through a coarse sieve (eg tea strainer) to retain hair and large crusts or more usually poured directly on to a black 70mm filter paper disc (551 Rundfilter Ref no 310 808, Schliecher and Schuell, Dassel Germany) in a Buchner funnel to which light suction is applied.
- . This results in mites being well distributed over the surface of the black filter paper which is then removed and placed in a petri dish. Live mites and eggs are counted using an overhead cold light source under a stereomicroscope. The mites are relatively large (0.7-0.8mm) active and easily seen. Use a 15-20x magnification for scanning the filter paper, but 25x magnification is probably more appropriate for those unfamiliar with the technique.

- . The recovery rate is very high. One animal yielded 96 mites and more than 150 eggs on Day 0 with a repeat washing on Day 6 yielding only 3 immature mites.
- . If mites are observed a small sample (approx 10 specimens) should be preserved in 70% alcohol (not formalin) for taxonomic confirmation of the genus and the remainder collected in saline, washed gently and cryopreserved for later speciation. It has been found that larval trombiculid mites in ear washings from alpacas and both sarcoptic and chorioptic mites have been recovered from this host elsewhere.

ATTACHMENT 3

REQUIREMENTS FOR AN OFF-SHORE QUARANTINE STATION (OSQS)

The OSQS must:

1. **be run on an all-in-all-out basis.**
2. **be located**
 - . a minimum of 200 km from other countries and from Australia
 - . to facilitate disease security and transport to and from the port, and
 - . so as not to receive drainage from potentially contaminated animal sources.
3. **be secure with**
 - . animal-proof perimeter fencing
 - doubled fenced with a buffer zone of a minimum of 10 metres from other livestock
 - a wall of a building may form part of the inner fence
 - . lockable gates and single point of entry/exit for animals
4. **be constructed in a manner**
 - . to readily permit cleaning and disinfection
 - . to meet Australian animal welfare standards
 - . to facilitate decontamination of the animal housing
 - . that allows the animal feed storage area to be protected from the weather, birds and rodents.
5. **include the following facilities**
 - . animal handling - restraint for specified sample collections, and for veterinary examinations and treatments
 - . laboratory - suitable for the preparation and storage of samples
 - . isolation rooms/areas for sick or injured animals
 - . autopsy room/area
6. **be provided with**
 - . water - the source must be approved by AQIS and not present a disease risk
 - . feed from farms which do not graze livestock on the source crop
 - . electricity via mains and a stand-by generator
 - . telephone
7. **have facilities for**
 - . vehicle decontamination
 - . animal carcasses disposal
 - . solid and liquid waste disposal
 - . showers for staff with walk through entry and exit
 - . protective clothing
8. **have written agreement** that staff working in the facility will have no contact with other livestock for at least 96 hours prior to, during and for at least 96 hours after working in the OSQS.