



Department of  
AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA



20 May 2002

## ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/24

### DRAFT REVISED CONDITIONS FOR BOVINE SEMEN FROM BRAZIL

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) seeks stakeholder comment on revised conditions for the importation of bovine semen from Brazil (Attachment A). Comments would be appreciated by 22 July 2002.

In February 2000 following an import risk analysis (IRA), Australia adopted conditions for the importation of bovine genetic material from Brazil. These were subsequently suspended in March 2000 in response to concerns about the availability of animal health testing in Brazil.

Biosecurity Australia has reviewed the conditions in light of the strong Australian demand for genetic material from Brazil: Australian breeders are keen to access genetic material from the world's largest national beef herd and the latest genetic improvements in tropically adapted and composite breeds.

The attached revised conditions were developed to overcome the problems that caused the suspension, without changing the biosecurity risks. The revised conditions allow animal health testing of donors to be performed at laboratories in and outside Brazil, that have been approved by both the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and the Ministerio da Agricultura do Abastecimento e da Reforma Agraria (MAARA). This arrangement will allow the use of appropriate accredited laboratories.

Specifically, the proposed revisions include:

- 1 Changing the approval of the laboratory requirement from *approved by MAARA or AQIS* to *approved by MAARA and AQIS* and requiring that all laboratories reports be attached to the health certificate. These changes allow the use of Brazilian laboratories, or laboratories in other countries, approved by both AQIS and MAARA.
- 2 Including the option that the herd at the semen collection centre either complies with the minimum standards set by Certified Semen Services Inc (CSS), a United States organisation, **or** meets the recommendations in Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Appendix 4.2.1.1. The CSS minimum standards are accepted by Australia in the conditions for bovine semen from the USA and provide equivalent security to that provided by OIE recommendations. This amendment will facilitate import from most international collection centres, particularly from those owned by the large American companies.
- 3 Requiring that the *Approved Veterinarian* verify the identification of semen straws. This expedites exports in countries where the *Official Veterinarian* may be unable to make regular visits to centres. In most instances the Approved Veterinarian is more familiar with the identification of the straws than the Official Veterinarian.



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Other sections have been modified for clarification or to update them in line with other current import requirements:

- 1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD) – an option has been added for importation from donors kept in a zone recognised by the OIE as free from FMD without vaccination.
- 2 Bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis – these sections have been deleted as testing requirements are included in both the CSS minimum requirements and the OIE Code Appendix.
- 3 Johne's disease – the complement fixation test (CFT) has been added as an optional test. *Mycobacterium avium var paratuberculosis* has only been detected in the semen of clinical affected bulls and the CFT is considered to be as sensitive as the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) in clinically affected animals.
- 4 Bovine pestivirus – the CSS minimum requirements include comprehensive testing for bovine pestivirus. These have been included as an option.
- 5 Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis – two changes have been made to these requirements: the addition of an option for a negative serological test and that semen from serologically positive donors must give negative results to a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to be eligible for export. The PCR is more sensitive than virus isolation by cell culture – this option has been deleted.
- 6 Bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer – for clarity these requirements have been reformatted.

### **Next steps**

You are invited to comment on the proposed conditions. Your response by 22 July 2002 would be appreciated. We will take your comments into consideration when finalising the revised conditions.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this advice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

### **Confidentiality**

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

The Commonwealth 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 the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act*.

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