



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



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## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/46**

### **REVIEW OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE) POLICY DECISION ON BIOSECURITY POLICY**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with Australia's revised biosecurity policy for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) (at Attachment A). The policy will be adopted today. All import conditions, which include BSE conditions, will be amended accordingly.

Biosecurity Australia circulated a draft revised BSE policy for comment on 26 February 2002 (ABPM 2002/07). Comments were received from 10 stakeholders and these were considered in finalising the policy. Stakeholder comments and Biosecurity Australia's responses are at Attachment B.

The final policy differs from the circulated draft as a result of changes to the OIE International Animal Health Code Chapter on BSE and comments from stakeholders.

#### **1. Changes to the OIE International Animal Health Code Chapter on BSE**

Since the draft conditions were circulated there have been several changes to the OIE Chapter. Australia's BSE policy has been brought in to line with the amended OIE Chapter. This involved the following changes:

***Bovine embryos: these have been added to the list of commodities to be traded without BSE restrictions. Therefore, all Articles referring to bovine embryos in the policy have been deleted.***

On 8 April 2002, the OIE advised that the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) had recommended that regulatory authorities remove any BSE restrictions on the trade in bovine embryos. The OIE recognises the IETS as the internationally accepted authoritative body on embryo transfer. This recommendation followed a comprehensive study involving the collection of embryos from BSE infected cattle in a peer-reviewed journal (Wrathall *et al.*, *Veterinary Record*, 2002, **150** [12], 365-378). The study found that embryos that are properly handled between collection and transfer are unlikely to transmit the BSE agent, even when collected from donors at advanced stages of the disease.

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### ***Terminology changes of country and zone status***

Country and zone status names have been changed thus:

- . *BSE free* stayed the same
- . *BSE provisionally free where no indigenous case has been reported* became *BSE provisionally free*
- . *BSE provisionally free where at least one indigenous case has been reported* became a *country or zone with a minimal BSE risk*
- . a *country or zone with a low incidence of BSE* became a *country or zone moderate incidence of BSE*, and
- . a *country or zone with a high incidence of BSE* became a *country or zone high risk of BSE*.

## **2. Conditions for gelatin, collagen prepared from bones and tallow and tallow derivatives (other than protein free tallow)**

In response to a submission from Switzerland, Biosecurity Australia reassessed the risks associated with the importation of these commodities from *countries or zones with a moderate BSE risk*. Biosecurity Australia examined three reports from the European Commission Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General, Scientific Steering Committee:

- . Safety with respect to TSE risks of collagen produced from ruminant hides (May 2001);
- . Safety of tallow obtained from ruminant slaughter by-products (June 2001); and
- . Safety with regard to TSE risks of gelatine derived from ruminant bones or hides from cattle, sheep or goats (September 2001).

Following examination of these reports and consultation with several TSE risk management experts, Biosecurity Australia has amended the policy to permit importation of these commodities from *countries or zones with a moderate BSE risk*. The conditions applied to these commodities are in accordance with the OIE Code.

### **Next Steps**

New policy related to BSE will be adopted today. All import conditions that include BSE conditions will be amended accordingly.

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).

## **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.

Thank you for your assistance with this review.

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