



QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF BOVINE EMBRYOS FROM BRAZIL.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 A valid *Permit to Import Quarantine Material into Australia* must be obtained, prior to the export of embryos, from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import. A copy of the permit must accompany each consignment of bovine embryo. The exporter must ship the consignment to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.
- 1.2 The Animal Health Certificate must:
- conform to the template shown at Section 5;
 - conform with the requirements of these quarantine conditions;
 - record dates of sampling for tests and of the isolation period;
 - be signed by the *certifying veterinarians*, that is,
 - the *Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian* who must be registered with the relevant Veterinary Administration, being MAARA (Ministerio da Agricultura do Abastecimento e da Reforma Agraria) in Brazil, as approved to collect and process embryos for export; and
 - the *Official Veterinarian* who is a veterinary official of MAARA;
 - accompany each consignment (copies not acceptable);
 - be in English and in a language understood by the certifying veterinarians; and
 - be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.
- 1.3 If any embryos are from species other than *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus* or both, permission 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 | Ph: 02 6274 2291 |
| Wildlife Protection | Fax 02 6274 1921 |
| Environment Australia | email wps@ea.gov.au |
| GPO Box 787 | website: http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/plants/wildlife/intro.htm |
| Canberra ACT 2601 | |
- 1.4 Only an approved *embryo collection team* can collect and process the *in vivo* fertilised embryos in accordance with the standards as set out in *Code Appendix 4.2.3.1 (Attachment 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 imported embryos may enter a particular zone or move from one zone to another within Australia.
- 1.6 Certification of disease freedom must meet the minimum requirements as defined in the relevant articles of the *OIE International Animal Health Code*.
- 1.7 A *certifying veterinarian* must directly supervise
- the collection of all samples for diagnostic tests;
 - the collection of embryos for export to Australia; and
 - all servicing of storage containers prior to export.

AQIS may audit any of these activities at its discretion.

- 1.8 The *Official Veterinarian* must verify the identifying and placing of embryos in new, unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container prior to exporting the embryos to Australia.
- 1.9 Any requests for dispensation from these requirements must be submitted through MAARA. Such applications must include the reasons and contain all relevant information necessary for the application to be evaluated. AQIS will only consider requests for dispensation received through MAARA with their recommendation. Dispensations will be issued in exceptional circumstances by MAARA when it can be demonstrated that the quarantine security of the consignment has not been compromised.
- 1.10 Post arrival conditions as per sections 3 and 4 of these quarantine requirements must be complied with before the consignment is released by AQIS.
- 1.11 AQIS may vary or review quarantine requirements at any time.

2. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

The Animal Health Certificate, under V. Sanitary information, must attest that:

- 2.1 During embryo collection period until the export of embryos, Brazil met the OIE *Code* definitions of country freedom from
 - rinderpest (Article 2.1.4.2);
 - contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Article 2.1.6.2);
 - lumpy skin disease (Article 2.1.7.2);
 - Rift Valley fever (Article 2.1.8.2), and
 - haemorrhagic septicaemia (Article 3.2.12.2).

2.2 Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

Each donor cow
either

- was kept in a zone recognised by the OIE as being an FMD *free zone where vaccination is practised* (Article 2.1.1.2.) for a minimum of 2 years;

or

- showed no clinical signs of FMD at the time of collection,
- tested negative to a standardised EITB assay on blood drawn between 28 days and 60 days after collection,
- was kept in an establishment where no animals were added during the 30 days before collection, and
- FMD did not occur within 10 km for 30 days before and after collection.

- 2.3 Vesicular stomatitis has not been reported within 15 kilometres of the AI Centre for 30 days before and during the embryo collection period for this consignment.

2.4 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)

Each donor cow was kept either

- only in countries which meets the OIE *Code* definitions of *country freedom from BSE* (Article 3.2.13.2.).

or

in countries *provisionally free from BSE* provided that:

- affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
- the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned, and
- the embryos for export are derived from females which
 - were permanently identified to enable trace-back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - are not the progeny of BSE suspect or confirmed females; and
 - were not suspected of being affected with BSE at the time of embryo collection;

2.5 The semen used to produce the embryos in this consignment was free from quarantine restrictions and was eligible for export to Australia.

2.6 Each donor cow has been continually resident in Brazil and free from any quarantine restrictions for at least 180 days immediately prior to the first collection of embryos.

2.7 All blood, tissue and embryo tests for disease were carried out at a laboratory approved by the national Veterinary Administration. Dates of collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests were recorded on the Animal Health Certificate.

2.8 Rabies

Each donor cow did not show any clinical signs of rabies during, and for 15 days after, embryo collection.

2.9 Bovine tuberculosis

Each donor cow:

either

- was kept in a herd officially free from bovine tuberculosis (OIE *Code* Article 3.2.3.1) during the embryo collection period and gave a negative result to a tuberculin test within 30 days after the end of embryo collection but prior to the export of the embryos;

or

- was isolated from livestock not of equivalent tested animal health status for at least three months prior to start of embryo collection until embryo collections were completed, and gave negative results to tuberculin tests, the tests being a minimum of 90 days apart, given
 - at the start of isolation,
 - at the start of embryo collection, and
 - after the end of embryo collection but prior to the export of the embryos

2.10 Bovine pestivirus

The buffy coat from blood samples was collected from each donor cow prior to exporting this consignment of embryos and tested for bovine pestivirus, that is, all bovine genotypes including bovine viral diarrhoea virus [BVDV] genotypes 1 and 2, with negative results, using one of the following tests:

either

virus isolation test on bovine cell culture

or

an antigen capture enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
or
a polymerase chain reaction test.

2.11 Embryo collection, processing and storage.

All embryos

- were collected *in-vivo*, processed, identified, stored and transported in accordance with the recommendations of the OIE *Code* Appendices 4.2.3.1. by an *embryo collection team* approved at the time of collection by MAARA for the collection of embryos for export;
- were washed and treated with trypsin as described in Chapter 6 of the *IETS Manual*, 3rd Edition;
- were stored in diluent containing antibiotics in accordance with *Code* Article 4.2.3.1.5.a.;
- were not subjected to micromanipulation involving breach of the zona pellucida
- had intact zona pellucida at the time of storage, and
- were identified and stored in new unused liquid nitrogen in a new or properly disinfected container under the supervision of the *Official Veterinarian*.

All biological products of animal origin used in the collection, processing, washing or storage of the embryos were free from living micro-organisms. Media and solutions used in the collection, freezing and storage of embryos were sterilised by approved methods according to the *IETS Manual* and handled in such a manner to ensure that sterility was maintained.

The transport container was sealed, with an official seal, prior to shipment and the number or mark on the seal was recorded on the certificate prior to export.

3. POST ARRIVAL

- 3.1 AQIS will hold the consignment until a Quarantine Veterinary Officer or a Quarantine Officer, under the direct supervision of the Quarantine Veterinary Officer, has audited the contents of the shipping container.
- 3.2 In the event of a transport container of genetic material arriving in Australia without the correct certification, with the seals on the transport container broken or in any other way not having met these requirements, AQIS may place the container and its entire contents in quarantine, return it to the country of origin or destroy it without recompense.

4. IMPORTER'S/AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 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).
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The Australian Government will charge the importer for services provided. The Australian Government will not compensate the importer or agent for any losses incurred while the embryos intended for importation are under AQIS control.

DAVID BANKS

A/g Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

5. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Import Permit Number:

Species and Category: BOVINE EMBRYOS

Importing Country: AUSTRALIA

Exporting Country: BRAZIL

Ministry/Department of:

Service:

Region/District/Province/State:

I. Information concerning each donor

a) Cows:
Breed:
Herd book number:
Identification:
Herd of origin:

b) Bulls:
Breed:
Herd book number:
Identification:
Herd of origin:

II. Information concerning embryos and semen from each donor

Embryos
Dates of collection:
Number of embryos:
Number of straws:
Straw identification:

Semen
Date of collection:
Number of straws:
Straw identification:

III. Origin of the embryos

Exporter Name:
Address:

Registered name of the approved embryo collection team:
Name and address of premises at which embryos collected:

IV. Destination of the embryos

Consignee Name: _____
Address: AQIS [State of Import]

V. Sanitary information

The undersigned Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian and the undersigned *Official Veterinarian* certify in respect of the donor animals described in part I of this certificate, and in respect of the bovine embryos described in part 2 of this certificate, that:
(Certification as detailed in Section 2 of this document)

Signature:.....Date:.....
(Embryo Collection Team Veterinarian)

Signature:.....Date:.....
(*Official Veterinarian*)

Note: Official Stamp must be endorsed on all pages.