



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



11 July 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/34

IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR BOVINE SEMEN FROM JAPAN VIA CANADA

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) seeks stakeholder comment on a proposed arrangement with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to import bovine semen from Japan via Canada. Draft import conditions are attached. Comments by 12 September 2002 would be appreciated.

In response to producer interest, since late 1987 Animal Biosecurity has been negotiating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Japan, to establish protocols under which cattle, bovine semen and/or embryos from Japan could be imported into Australia. Draft conditions for the importation of bovine embryos were circulated for discussion in April 1997 (Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1997/26) and bovine semen in May 1997 (AQPM 1997/32). No official comment on these drafts was received from MAFF.

During further negotiations between MAFF and our Department's representative in Tokyo, it became evident that Japan might consider the export of bovine semen but not embryos to Australia. In light of this, revised conditions for bovine semen from Japan to Australia were sent to MAFF in September 1998. However, subsequent negotiations led to no agreement and were abandoned.

The CFIA has been successful in negotiating conditions for the import of bovine semen from Japan. Following representations from a prospective importer in Australia, CFIA was asked if semen imported into Canada under their conditions could then be re-exported to Australia. The CFIA did not object to semen transiting Canada as long as it met conditions and all re-handling was organised, and paid for, by the importer.

Animal Biosecurity assessed the equivalence of the Canadian conditions and the draft 1998 Australian conditions for bovine semen from Japan. The assessment covered the various certification and testing requirements. There is general equivalence between the respective risk management measures. The only significant differences were Australia's requirement that the semen be tested for Bovine Herpes Virus 1 (BHV1) and Johne's disease.

Australia is free from the highly pathogenic strains of BHV1 which occur in both Canada and Japan and the proposed requirements in the draft 1998 conditions require that the semen gives a negative result to a test for BHV1 (the testing regime is the same as that currently used when exporting semen from Canada to Australia).



Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

A review of Johne's disease has found that the risk of transmission through artificial insemination is negligible except when the donor is clinically affected. The disease is subject to an eradication campaign in Japan and it would be most unlikely that a clinically affected bull would be standing at an artificial insemination centre. Consequently no requirements are proposed for Johne's disease.

The draft import conditions for bovine semen from Japan via Canada are at Attachment A, the import conditions for bovine semen from Japan to Canada are at Attachment B and the equivalence assessment is at Attachment C.

Next steps

Your comments and suggestions would be welcome by 12 September 2002. Animal Biosecurity will consider stakeholder comments in finalising the 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.

DAVID BANKS
General Manager
Animal Biosecurity

Contact Officer:	Geoff Ryan
Telephone no:	(02) 6272 5138
Facsimile no:	(02) 6272 3399
E-mail:	geoff.ryan@affa.gov.au