



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

21 August 2006

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/25**

**AMENDMENT TO IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC DUCKS**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) advises stakeholders of amendments to the avian influenza conditions for importation of hatching eggs of domestic ducks from approved countries. These conditions take effect immediately.

Biosecurity Australia issued amended avian influenza conditions for the importation of hatching eggs of domestic hens and domestic turkeys in November 2005 (BAPMs 2005/17 and 2005/19 respectively) in response to the global situation with highly pathogenic avian influenza. This policy memorandum advises stakeholders of similar amendments to conditions for the importation of hatching eggs of domestic ducks.

Amended conditions for importation of hatching eggs of domestic ducks are attached (Attachment A). The main changes to the conditions are:

- Certification of country freedom from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza in poultry; and
- Poultry source flocks must be tested for antibodies to Type A avian influenza virus with negative results. This requirement applies even when the exporting country certifies freedom from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza.

The format of the domestic duck egg import conditions has also been amended to be consistent with that of the domestic hen and domestic turkey hatching eggs conditions. In addition, to bring the requirements in line with protocols for other species, the sampling regimen for testing avian influenza and Newcastle disease has been amended, from a 99% confidence of detecting the disease if there was a 0.5% disease prevalence in the source flock to a 99% confidence for a 5% prevalence due to the high prevalence of these diseases if present in a flock. The sampling regimen for other diseases remains unchanged.

Biosecurity Australia is also considering a proposal by the Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group for the post arrival quarantine period for domestic ducks to be shortened from 12 to 9 weeks. This follows the decision in August 2004 to shorten the quarantine period for hatching eggs of hens and turkeys to 9 weeks (BAPM 2004/14). Stakeholders will be consulted on the proposal when the review is completed.

### **Consultation**

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder on our register, or if you wish to be removed from the stakeholder register, please provide details to the contact officer (below).

Information on import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at <http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au>.

## **Confidentiality**

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to BAPMs 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

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