



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

24 July 2009

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/16**

**BIOSECURITY POLICY DETERMINATION –  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HATCHING DUCK EGGS FROM  
APPROVED COUNTRIES**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) informs stakeholders that Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has determined a revised policy for the importation of the hatching (fertile) duck eggs from approved countries. Importation of hatching duck eggs can be permitted, subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified in *Requirements for the Importation of the Hatching Duck Eggs from Approved Countries*. The policy will be taken into account by decision makers when considering import applications for hatching duck eggs in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* and *Quarantine Proclamation 1988* as amended.

A draft report of a review of quarantine risks associated with the importation of hatching (fertile) duck eggs into Australia from approved countries was issued for stakeholder comment on 13 March 2009 (BAA 2009/05). The report included proposed amended quarantine requirements that included a reduction in the post-hatch quarantine period from 12 to 9 weeks.

Four stakeholders provided comments and these have been taken into account in finalising the policy review. As a result of these comments, the final policy has been amended to delete a footnote advice to send *Salmonella* isolates for sero-typing specifically to Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide. Biosecurity Australia considered that it was not necessary to specify a particular laboratory.

In terms of testing for salmonellae species by validated methods, the draft report had removed specific requirements, i.e. culture and isolation, for salmonellae testing. A stakeholder queried whether this testing could also be done by molecular characterisation of isolates rather than traditional culture methods. Biosecurity Australia considers that the new policy allows scope for alternative validated methods such as the molecular characterisation of isolates.

A stakeholder made a number of comments and suggestions on the avian importation programs generally and these will be taken into account in future reviews.

Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has now determined the policy to permit the entry of hatching (fertile) duck eggs. Importation can be permitted subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified in *Requirements for the Importation of the Hatching Duck Eggs from Approved Countries, July 2009*. These measures are designed to limit quarantine risk to a level which is acceptably low, consistent with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine. A copy of the final report of the policy review and quarantine requirements is available electronically from Biosecurity Australia's website or in hard copy from the contact officer (below).

The policy determination and related information have been forwarded to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). AQIS will take the determination and policy advice into account when considering applications for import permits.

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. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk assessments being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website.



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