# IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF HORSE SEMEN FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993**
**Dated: 12 February 2009**

A case of glanders was reported in the USA on 3 April 2015.

Due to the nature of the detection, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) still considers the USA free from glanders. Consequently, the veterinary certification for equine semen from the USA to New Zealand is not affected.

The IHSs for horse semen from the USA and Canada currently require testing for *Taylorella asinigenitalis* and *Taylorella equigenitalis* when donors have not spent their whole life in the USA or Canada.

The causative agents for both these diseases are identical, therefore a negative test for *Taylorella equigenitalis* is sufficient to declare an animal free of *Taylorella asinigenitalis*.

**Regarding clause 4.4 of the Veterinary Certificate:**

The antibiotic combinations, at the concentrations listed below, have been accepted as equivalent to the Import Health Standard requirements, and may be added to the semen after final dilution.

- Ticarcillin at 1.2 mg/mL
- Ticarcillin at 1.0 mg/mL and Amikacin 0.5 mg/mL (Timentin® at 1.0mg/mL)
- Gentamycin at 50 mg/L

All other requirements of the IHS must be met.

## USER GUIDE

The information in this import health standard is in four parts:

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION describes the legal basis for this import health standard and your general responsibilities as an importer.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE outlines whether a permit is required, the conditions of eligibility, and documentation that may need to accompany your consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE describes the clearance requirements at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, whether the consignment must go to a transitional facility or containment facility.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be fully completed and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

Part E. APPENDIX 1 contains the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand standard for equine semen collection centres collecting semen for export to New Zealand

# PART A. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

## 1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

1.1 Pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation of horse semen from the United States of America.

1.2 To obtain biosecurity clearance the consignment must meet the requirements of this import health standard.

## 2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 It is the importers responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant import health standard at the time of importation. Current versions of import health standards are available online at: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search. A register of import health standards is also publicly available for inspection at the office of the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.

2.2 The costs to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand in performing functions, powers and duties provided for in the Biosecurity Act 1993 relating to the importation of horses shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 1993 and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance shall be covered by the importer or agent.

## 3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Animal Imports/Exports Group Manager**
The Animal Imports/Exports Group Manager, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the delegated power and functions of the Animal Imports/Exports Group Manager

**Biosecurity clearance**
A clearance under Section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the entry of goods into New

Zealand. (*Explanatory Note: Goods given a biosecurity clearance by an inspector are released to the importer without restriction*)

**Biosecurity direction**
Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand

**Chief Technical Officer**
A person appointed a chief technical officer under section 101 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

**Inspector**
A person who is appointed an inspector under Section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. (*Explanatory Note: An inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and controls imposed under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996*).

**MAFBNZ**
The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

**Official Veterinarian**
A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the Section 5.2 of the *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

**OIE *Code***
The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Any reference in this standard to the **OIE *Code*** is to the most current as found on the OIE website: http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_sommaire.htm

**Veterinary Authority**
Means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* in the whole territory

## 4 EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the consignment will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it may be found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the specific requirements in this import health standard, but may meet the outcomes sought. In such cases, a permit to import application may be made, an equivalence granted and import permit issued at the discretion of MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. The following information must be forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority for an equivalence to be considered:

- which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;

- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status;
- the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

# PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

## 5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 Importations of horse semen into New Zealand from the United States of America which meet the requirements of this import health standard may, subject to Sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given biosecurity clearance and do not require a biosecurity direction to a transitional facility. As such, they do not require a permit to import.

5.2 Importations that claim equivalence with the requirements must obtain a permit to import prior to departure from Australia

## 6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 The horse semen must be in straws, ampoules or other sealed containers. Semen in pellets is not acceptable.

6.2 All straws and ampoules must be permanently marked with identification of the donor animal(s) and the date of collection. If a code is used for this information, the decipher must accompany the consignment.

6.3 Fresh/chilled or frozen horse semen is eligible for importation under this import health standard, upon completion of the appropriate health conditions described in the zoosanitary certification.

6.4 All requirements of this import health standard, including those detailed in the Model Zoosanitary Certificate must be met for the commodity to be eligible for importation.

## 7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed health certification that meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION. The laboratory results for the tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate must be attached.

7.2 The official veterinarian of the exporting country must sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and any documents that form part of the extended health certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and print.

7.3 Documentation shall be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).

7.4 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may cause delays in obtaining biosecurity clearance or

rejection of the consignment.

7.5 Where reliance for import is based on equivalence a permit must have been issued before departure of the consignment from the United States of America.

# PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

## 8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

8.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, the documentation accompanying the consignment shall be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival. The Inspector may also inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment.

8.2 A biosecurity clearance may be given by an Inspector under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY.

8.3 In the case of animal products, if there is any visible contamination (blood, faeces, soil etc.) of packaging of the consignment, this shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to biosecurity clearance being given.

# PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

## 9 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

9.1 The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of horse semen into New Zealand from United States of America:

## MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

Commodity: HORSE SEMEN

To: NEW ZEALAND

Exporting Country: THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Ministry/Department:
Service:
Region:

## I: IDENTIFICATION OF DONOR STALLIONS

Identification:

Species:

Breed:

Premises of origin:

## II: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE HORSE SEMEN

Date(s) of semen collection:

Identification of straws/ampoules (markings to be indelible):

Number of straws/ampoules:

## III: ORIGIN OF THE HORSE SEMEN

Name and address of approved semen collection centre:

## IV: DESTINATION OF THE HORSE SEMEN

Name and address of importer:

## V: SANITARY INFORMATION

## VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I, ....., an Official Veterinarian authorised by the United States of America Government certify, after due enquiry, with respect to the donor stallions and semen identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

### 1 Country/region health status

Note: criteria of freedom for the diseases listed in this clause will be assessed by the Official Veterinarian of the USA signing this certificate.

1.1 The donor stallions were resident immediately prior to semen collection for the period specified in brackets, in a country (or zone, where appropriate) which is free from the following diseases:

- African horse sickness, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 12.1.2 (resident for 2 months)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 12.14.2 (21 days)

1.2 The donor stallions were resident for the period specified in brackets, immediately prior to semen collection, in a country (or zone, where appropriate) which is free from the following diseases:

- glanders, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 12.11.2 (6 months),
- dourine, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 12.3.2 (6 months),
- contagious equine metritis, according to the criteria in OIE Article 12.2.2 (since birth) and have only been mated with mares of equivalent health status.

(**NB**: Delete whichever is not applicable. Residency periods and tests/treatments must be undertaken for all the diseases that have been deleted above. Where the donor stallion complies with the specific residency requirement in 1.2 the test for that disease is not required.)

### 2 Establishment of origin

2.1 The donor stallions were resident for the period specified in brackets, immediately prior to semen collection, on premises where clinical cases of the following diseases have not occurred during that period:

- vesicular stomatitis (21 days),
- equine infectious anaemia (3 months),

- equine viral arteritis (30 days),
- *Salmonella abortus-equi* (3 months),
- dourine – *Trypanosoma equiperdum* (6 months),
- glanders – *Burkholderia mallei* (6 months), and
- contagious equine metritis – *Taylorella equigenitalis* (2 months)

2.2 During the 30 days immediately prior to semen collection, the donor stallions were resident on premises where equine viral arteritis (EVA) shedder stallions are not known to have been present.

## 3 Donor males and semen collection centre

3.1 The donor stallions were resident at the time of collection on a semen collection centre approved by an Official Veterinarian according to MAFBNZ Standard for Equine Semen Collection Centres Collecting Semen for Export to New Zealand (see **Appendix 1**).

Date of entry onto the semen collection centre:……..

## 4 Semen collection

4.1 On the day(s) of collection of semen for export to New Zealand, the donor stallions were free from any evidence of infectious diseases caused by micro-organisms transmissible in semen.

4.2 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the horse semen were certified as either sterile preparations or as having been screened for adventitious viruses, including tests for cytopathology in appropriate cell cultures, for haemagglutinating and haemadsorbent viruses, and for pestiviruses by immunoperoxidase or immunofluorescence techniques, with negative results in each case.

4.3 All biological products have been handled in a manner that ensures their sterility was maintained.

4.4 An effective combination of antibiotics was added to the semen extender/diluent. The combination must produce an effect at least equivalent to the following:

500 IU per ml streptomycin; or
500 IU per ml penicillin; or
150 µg per ml lincomycin; or
300 µg per ml spectinomycin; or
50 µg per ml gentamycin.

Names and concentrations of antibiotics included in semen diluent:……

4.5 Immediately after the addition of the antibiotics, the diluted semen was kept at a temperature of at least 15ºC for a period of not less than 45 minutes.

## 5 Testing

5.1 **Equine infectious anaemia (EIA):**
The donor stallions were subjected to the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test or competitive-ELISA for EIA not less than 21 days after entry onto the semen collection centre, with negative results.

Test used: ……
Date of sampling: ……

5.2 **Equine viral arteritis (EVA):**
(DELETE whichever clause 5.2.1, 5.2.2 or 5.2.3 is NOT applicable.)

Either 5.2.1 The donor stallions were subjected to a virus neutralisation (VN) test for EVA not less than 21 days after entering the semen collection centre which demonstrated a negative result.

Date of sampling: ……..

Or 5.2.2 The donor stallions were <u>vaccinated</u>* against EVA under official veterinary control and have been re-vaccinated at regular intervals (at least annually).

Date(s) of vaccination(s): ……..

*__N.B.__ Approved programmes for initial vaccination are as follows:

a) vaccination on the day a blood sample was taken which was subjected to the VN test with a negative result, or
b) vaccination during a period of isolation of not more than 15 days, commencing on the day a blood sample was taken which was subjected to the VN test with a negative result, or
c) vaccination when the stallion was at an age of 180 to 270 days during a period of isolation, during which two blood samples taken at least 10 days apart were subjected to the VN test and demonstrated a negative, stable or declining antibody titre.

Or 5.2.3 The donor stallions are <u>seropositive to EVA</u> (and not vaccinated as per clause 5.2.2), there is no evidence of them shedding equine arteritis virus in semen or being treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist*, and they were tested** during the one year prior to export in order to determine that they are not semen carriers.

Test used:……
Date(s) of sampling: ……..

* **N.B.** A **declaration** must be provided, by the veterinarian who deals with the stallion, that there is no evidence of the stallion ever shedding EAV in semen or being treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist (see model of declaration below).

**Approved methods for determining semen carriers are as follows:

a) test mating to two mares which were subjected to VN tests with negative results on two blood samples, one collected at the time of test mating and the other 28 days after mating, or

b) virus isolation on cell culture carried out on the sperm rich fraction of two separate semen samples with negative results.

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**DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned,.....
(Veterinarian holding records for the horse described above)

have made due enquiry of the owner of the horse described above and have examined relevant records relating to the horse's breeding life, and declare that:

i) there is no evidence to indicate that the horse has shed **equine arteritis virus** (**EVA**) in his semen at any time

AND

ii) there is no evidence to indicate that the horse has ever been treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist.

(Signature of veterinarian) (Print Name) (Date)

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5.3 ***Taylorella asinigenitalis***

5.3.1 During the breeding season in which the semen for export is collected, the donor stallion has been tested for *Taylorella asinigenitalis* by swabbing and culture on two occasions, with a negative result in each case. The swabs must be taken at 5-7 day intervals.

Dates of sampling: ……...

[**N.B.** The sites for swabbing are from the prepuce, the urethral sinus, and the fossa glandis (including its diverticulum).]

5.3.2 If testing occurred prior to the collection of semen for export, since the date of first swabbing for *Taylorella asinigenitalis* until the time of collection for export, the donor stallion has not been naturally mated, except to mares of equivalent health status.

5.4 **Contagious equine metritis (CEM) - *Taylorella equigenitalis***
(delete entire clause if disease freedom claimed in clause 1.2)

5.4.1 During the breeding season in which the semen for export is collected, the donor stallion has been tested for *Taylorella equigenitalis* by swabbing and culture on two occasions, with a negative result for *Taylorella equigenitalis* in each case. The swabs must be taken at 5-7 day intervals.

Dates of sampling: ……

(**N.B.** The sites for swabbing are from the prepuce, the urethral sinus, and the fossa glandis (including its diverticulum).)

5.4.2 If testing occurred prior to the collection of semen for export, since the date of first swabbing for *Taylorella equigenitalis* testing until the time of collection for export, the donor stallion has not been naturally mated, except to mares of equivalent health status.

5.5 **Dourine – *Trypanosoma equiperdum***
(delete entire clause if disease freedom claimed in clause 1.2)

The donor stallions were subjected with negative results to the complement fixation test (CFT) or competitive-ELISA for dourine, not less than 30 days after entering the semen collection centre.
Test used: …….
Date of sampling: ……..…….

5.6 **Glanders – *Burkholderia mallei***
(delete entire clause if disease freedom claimed in clause 1.2)

The donor stallions were subjected with negative results to either the *intradermopalpebral* mallein test, the complement fixation test (CFT), or the dot-ELISA for glanders not less than 7 days after entering the semen collection centre.
Test used: ...…….
Date of mallein test or of sampling:……..…….

5.7 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by the Veterinary Administration of the United States of America to conduct export testing, and laboratory test result for all donor stallions are attached.

## 6 Storage and transport

6.1 All straws/ampoules are clearly marked with the identification of the donor stallion and the date of semen collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment.

6.2 The semen was stored only with other semen or embryos that were eligible for export to New Zealand. The containers were held in an approved storage place under the supervision of the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country until export.

6.3 The semen was placed in new or disinfected transport containers. For frozen semen the containers were filled with fresh (previously unused) liquid nitrogen.

Method of disinfection (if applicable): .....
Date of disinfection (if applicable): .....

## VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I, ……., an Official Veterinarian authorised certify, after due enquiry, with respect to the donor stallions and semen identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

## 7 ENDORSEMENT

7.1 The veterinarian whose signature appears on Veterinary Certificate A is approved by the Veterinary Administration of the United States of America to supervise the collection of horse semen for export.

7.2 Prior to export, the container in which the semen is to be transported was sealed by an Official Veterinarian, using seals bearing the marks: .....

Signature of Official Veterinarian: Official stamp

Date:

Name and address of veterinarian:

**N.B. Official stamp must be applied to all pages**

# PART E. APPENDIX 1

## MAF BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND STANDARD FOR EQUINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES COLLECTING SEMEN FOR EXPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

### 1 HEALTH STATUS

1.1 The centre must have remained free from the following diseases for the indicated calendar period prior to collection of semen for export to New Zealand:

- African horse sickness (2 months)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (21 days)
- vesicular stomatitis (21 days)
- equine infectious anaemia (3 months)
- equine viral arteritis (30 days)
- glanders (6 months)
- contagious equine metritis (2 months)
- dourine (6 months), and
- *Salmonella abortus-equi*) (3 months).

1.2 During the 30 days immediately prior to semen collection, the donor stallions were resident on premises where EVA shedder stallions are not known to have been present.

1.3 Following any previous case of the above diseases, testing of all horses subsequent to removal of the case must be undertaken to re-establish freedom from disease. The centre must then remain free from further cases for the indicated calendar period.

1.4 All horses on the centre during the period of semen collection for export to New Zealand must be of an equivalent health status as eligible donor stallions.

### 2 LOCATION

2.1 The centre may be located on an established equine enterprise. In that case, the entire premises should meet the health status requirements noted at 1.1 above. For the duration of the period of collection of semen for export to New Zealand, contact between horses on the centre and other equines not of equivalent health status must be prevented.

2.2 The centre must be conveniently located for supervision by a Government Veterinary Officer or Government approved Veterinarian (an Official Veterinarian).

### 3 FACILITIES

3.1 The centre must be surrounded by two secure stock-proof fences at least 5 metres apart except where the wall of a building forms part of the perimeter. (Exceptions may be approved by MAF if they are considered to provide equivalent quarantine security.)

3.2 Stables on the centre must be so constructed that they can be readily cleaned and

disinfected.

3.3 The centre shall have facilities for veterinary examination of animals and the collection of samples, and facilities for the segregation and isolation of sick animals.

3.4 Semen must be processed in a room or building or mobile laboratory set aside for that purpose, separate from areas where animals are housed and where semen is collected. All working surfaces in this facility must be cleaned and disinfected before use.

## 4 OPERATION

4.1 The centre must be approved by the Veterinary Administration, and under the direct supervision of an Official Veterinarian.

4.2 Prior to each period of collection of semen for export to New Zealand, an Official Veterinarian must be satisfied that all equipment and working surfaces likely to come into contact with semen for export or personnel handling semen has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected.

4.3 All measures described in the zoosanitary certification, including identification of donor stallion and semen, disease testing, semen collection, processing and storage must be supervised by an Official Veterinarian.

4.4 Liners used in artificial vaginas during the collection process should be:

Either: 4.4.1 new disposal liners on each occasion;
Or: 4.4.2 re-usable rubber liners dedicated to individual stallions, which have been thoroughly cleaned and dried between each use.

4.5 Personnel collecting and processing semen must be trained in, and practice, proper disinfection procedures and hygiene techniques.

4.6 Semen must be stored in a secure area.

4.7 Any health problems affecting horses or other stock on the centre during the collection period must be promptly reported to the Official Veterinarian, who shall investigate in order to rule out infectious diseases of concern during trade in equine semen.

4.8 Records detailing identification of all horses on the centre, their origins, dates of entry, dates and results of disease tests or investigations, treatments either therapeutic or prophylactic, any departures from good health and condition, inspection visits by the Official Veterinarian, and any other information relevant to each animal's health status while resident on the centre must be kept by the operator and/or the export agent.

4.9 Unauthorised access to the centre should be prevented. All visitor entries must be recorded.