IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF HORSES FROM CANADA

Due to outbreaks of contagious equine metritis in the USA (since 2008) and suspected cases in Canada, **ALL horses from the USA and Canada**, regardless of their residency status, must be now be tested for *Taylorella asinigenitalis* and *Taylorella equigenitalis*.

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

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993
Dated: 1 October 2007

USER GUIDE

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections that outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification that must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand. When MAF has accepted health certification produced by a government authority in the exporting country as meeting the requirements of the model health certification, this is noted. When no health certification is required to accompany consignments, Part D. will note “none required”.

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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 into New Zealand of horses from Canada.

1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of horses imported into New Zealand from Canada is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Imports Standards Group Manager.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 The importer must obtain a permit to import prior to proceeding with importation (See PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE).

2.2 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of horses shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.

2.3 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

biosecurity direction
Direction or authorisation given by an Inspector for uncleared goods to proceed to a transitional facility.

biosecurity clearance
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

equivalence
Acceptance by the Imports Standards Group Manager that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

New Zealand Inspector
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

MAF
The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

permit to import
A permit issued by the Director General of MAF pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 upon an importer's demonstration that certain requirements of the import health standard have been met in advance of an importation being made, such that a transitional facility is available to accept the consignment/s and a method and route of transport from the port of arrival to the transitional facility has been approved. The procedure for application and the information required for a permit to import are detailed within the import health standard.

transitional facility
As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Official Veterinarian
A civil service veterinarian or a specially appointed veterinarian, as authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country.

4 EQUIVALENCE

This import health standard is in accordance with agreements between the exporting country and New Zealand. Biosecurity clearance will not normally be given to a consignment that does not meet the requirements of this import health standard in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the requirements of this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence submitted prior to importation will be considered and may be given at the discretion of the Imports Standards Group Manager if the following information is provided by the exporting country's Veterinary Administration:

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

4.2 the reason/s the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and/or what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status;

4.3 the reason/s why the Veterinary Administration believes this proposal should be acceptable to MAF and their recommendation for its acceptance.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 A permit to import is required for all consignments of horses imported into New Zealand from Canada. Application for a permit to import shall be made at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to Animal Imports Team, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.

5.2 An application for a permit to import shall provide the following information:

(i) name and address of importer
(ii) name and address of exporter
(iii) description and quantity of the horses to be imported
(iv) date of the proposed importation
(v) name and address of the TRANSITIONAL FACILITY to which the consignment is to proceed following importation
(vi) a letter from the authorised supervisor of the transitional facility stating that the facility is registered and is available for the dates proposed and has the capacity to accommodate the consignment proposed to be imported
(vii) the transport method and route during importation into New Zealand, which will be in accordance with all requirements for TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND noted in this import health standard, and evidence of transit authority from countries on the transport route, and
(viii) the transport method and route during transfer from the port of arrival in New Zealand to the transitional facility.

5.3 A permit to import will be granted for a single consignment only.

6 ELIGIBILITY

6.1 In the case of a female animal, she must not be in the last third of pregnancy.

6.2 Animals must be at least 1 month old at the time of export.

6.3 The pre-export isolation premises must be at least equivalent to the requirements of the *NZMAF Standard for the approval of pre-export isolation premises for livestock*, dated June 1989.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed health certification, which meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION.

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

7.3 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 result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of consignments.

8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

8.1 The animals must be transported by a route and method approved by the Imports Standards Group Manager.

8.2 Transit through other countries requires approval by the Imports Standards Group Manager. If approved, arrangements for transit authorities and meeting these countries requirements are the responsibility of the importer.

8.3 No animals other than those destined for New Zealand and officially certified as meeting a New Zealand import health standard (or other animals determined to be of an equivalent health status at MAF's discretion) are permitted to be carried on the aircraft or ship.

8.4 The use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product may be used.

8.5 The New Zealand Quarantine Service of the region in which the port of arrival is situated must be notified at least 72 hours before the expected time of arrival of any animal, giving the flight number/ship number and arrival time.

9 NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE

9.1 A representative of the Imports Standards Group Manager may be sent, at the importer's expense, to the country of origin to accompany the consignment to New Zealand when the air route will transit countries where health risks associated with insect-borne pathogens exist. Refer: *Import health standard for the importation of livestock into New Zealand by air routes transiting countries where health risks associated with insect borne pathogens exist.*

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

10 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

10.1 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.

10.2 A biosecurity direction may be given by an Inspector, under section 25 of the Biosecurity

Act 1993, authorising the consignment to move to the transitional facility named in the permit to import, providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY.

11 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

11.1 Following biosecurity direction being given, the consignment shall proceed to a transitional facility registered according to *MAF Biosecurity Authority Animal Biosecurity Standard 154.02.13 Standard for Low Security Farm Animal Transitional Facilities.*

11.2 The consignment shall remain in the transitional facility for no less than 14 days, or for a longer period if required by the Imports Standards Group Manager.

11.3 While in the transitional facility the consignment will be subjected to such testing, treatments or procedures required by the Imports Standards Group Manager, including:

11.3.1 testing for EIA using the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test or competitive-ELISA with negative results

11.3.2 **after at least 5 days** testing for Equine Influenza using the PCR from a nasopharyngeal swab with negative results (this is an interim emergency measure and will be reviewed in the future)

11.3.3 treatment for endoparasites using an avermectin product at the recommended dose rate

11.3.4 treatment for ectoparasites using a recognised parasiticidal spray or wash at the recommended dose rate, and

11.3.5 such other tests, treatments or procedures as are reasonably necessary to determine the health status of the consignment.

12 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

On successful completion of the terms detailed under TRANSITIONAL FACILITY, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

13 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following documents are recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION, and are approved to accompany imports of horses into New Zealand from Canada when appropriately completed by a representative of the exporting country's competent authority:

MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

Commodity: HORSES

To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit No.:
Exporting Country: CANADA
Ministry/Department:
Service:
Region:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Species/ Breed:

Age:

Sex:

Identification: (An official passport and/or identification silhouette, which notes all distinguishing brands and markings, must be attached to the zoosanitary certification.)

Total number of animals:

II: ORIGIN OF ANIMALS

Name and address of exporter:

Place of origin of animals:

Airport/port of embarkation:

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

Name and address of consignee:

Means of transport:

Airport/port of arrival:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I, ..., the *Official Veterinarian* supervising pre-export preparation of the horses for export identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, certify that:

1 COUNTRY/REGION DISEASE FREEDOM AND RESIDENCY

1.1 The horses were resident since birth, or the period specified in brackets, immediately prior to export, in a country (or zone, where appropriate) which is free, according to the criteria provided, from the following diseases:

- African horse sickness, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.1.11.2 (2 months)
- vesicular stomatitis, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.1.2.2. (21 days)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.12.2 (21 days)
- Japanese encephalitis (21 days)
- equine encephalosis (28 days)
- Nipah virus (3 months)
- Hendra virus (3 months)
- Getah virus (21 days)
- contagious equine metritis (since birth)
- glanders, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.8.2 (6 months)
- equine piroplasmosis, and which excludes the importation of seropositive animals
- dourine, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.2.2. (6 months), and
- surra (2 months).

2 ANIMALS FOR EXPORT

2.1 After due enquiry and physical examination, I am satisfied that, in the case of any female animal for export, she will not be in the last third of pregnancy.

2.2 After due enquiry and physical examination, I am satisfied that the animals will be more than one month old at the time of export.

3 ESTABLISHMENT OF ORIGIN

3.1 The horses were resident since birth, or the period specified in brackets, immediately prior to export, on premises where clinical cases of the following diseases have not occurred during that period (or another period where indicated):

- equine encephalomyelitides (3 months)
- equine infectious anaemia (3 months)
- equine influenza (3 months)
- equine viral abortion (EHV-1, including neurological disease) (3 months)
- equine viral arteritis (3 months and where EVA shedder stallions are not known to be present during that period)

- horse pox (3 months)
- rabies (6 months on premises with no cases during previous 12 months)
- Borna disease (12 months)
- anthrax (20 days)
- glanders (6 months)
- melioidosis (3 months)
- *Salmonella abortus-equi* (3 months)
- equine ehrlichiosis (*E. risticii* and *E. equi*) (3 months), and
- epizootic lymphangitis (3 months).

4 PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION

4.1 Prior to export, the horses were subject to a period of pre-export isolation in facilities approved for the purpose and under the supervision of an *Official Veterinarian.* During this time, they have remained isolated from all other livestock not of an equivalent isolation and tested health status, and free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease. All horses of the same consignment have been isolated in the same premises.
Date of entry into isolation:
Date of export:
Premises of isolation:

4.2 During pre-export isolation the horses have been treated on two occasions, within 48 hours of entering the facility and export, in the following manner:

i) for ectoparasites, using the following compounds with efficacy against flies, ticks, lice and mites, according to the manufacturer's recommendations:
Ectoparasiticide:
Dose rate:
Dates of treatments:

ii) for endoparasites, using a macrocyclic lactone compound according to the manufacturer's recommendations:
Endoparasiticide:
Dose rate:
Dates of treatments:

4.3 The animals were examined within 48 hours of export and were found to be free of evidence of infectious or contagious disease including ectoparasites and fit to travel.

4.4 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by the Veterinary Administration of Canada to conduct export testing, and laboratory result sheets are attached.

5 EASTERN AND WESTERN ENCEPHALOMYELITIS (EEE, WEE)

5.1 When importing from countries within the Americas, the horses were vaccinated against EEE and WEE (according to the manufacturer's recommendations, using an inactivated vaccine for EEE and WEE either alone or in combination with VEE) not less than 15 days and not more than 1 year prior to the date of export.
Date/s of vaccination/s:

6 EQUINE INFLUENZA

6.1 Between 42 and 120 days prior to export, the horses (except for foals less than 2 months old and accompanied by their vaccinated dam) were vaccinated against equine influenza using an approved inactivated vaccine either twice, not less than 21 days apart, or once as a booster to a previous primary course of vaccination.
Date/s of vaccination/s:

(**N.B.** Approved vaccines must contain a Prague/56-like virus as the equine-1 (H7N7) component; either Suffolk/89 or a Newmarket/2/93-like virus as the European equine-2 (H3N8) component; and either A/equi 2 /Newmarket 1/93 or a Kentucky/94-like virus as the American equine-2 (H3N8) component.)

6.2 The horses were kept for a minimum 21 day period prior to export in a pre-export isolation facility.

6.3 At least 5 days after entry into pre-export isolation a nasopharyngeal swab was taken from each horse and tested negative for EI using a PCR or antigen ELISA (this is an interim emergency measure and will be reviewed in the future);
Date of sampling:

7 EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA (EIA)

7.1 The horses were subjected to the agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test or competitive-ELISA test for EIA during the 21 days prior to export, with negative results.
Test used:
Date of sampling:

8 EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS (EVA)

8.1 *When female and castrated male horses are imported:*

Either: i) The horses were subjected to a virus neutralisation (VN) test for EVA during the 28 days prior to export which demonstrated a negative titre.
Date of sampling:

Or: ii) The horses were subjected to two VN tests for EVA during the 28 days prior to export, on blood samples taken at least 14 days apart which demonstrated a negative, stable or declining titre.

Date/s of sampling:

Or: iii) The horses were vaccinated against EVA not more than one year nor less than 21 days prior to importation in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer's recommendations.
Date/s of vaccination/s:

(**N.B.** Delete whichever of i), ii) or iii) is not applicable.)

8.2 *When entire male horses are imported:*

Either: i) The horses were subjected to a virus neutralisation (VN) test for EVA during the 28 days prior to export which demonstrated a negative result.
Date of sampling:

Or: ii) The horses were vaccinated 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
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, and
c. vaccination when the animal 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: iii) The horses are seropositive to EVA, 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 sample 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.)

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:

- there is no evidence to indicate that he has shed equine arteritis virus in his semen at any time
- there is no evidence to indicate that he has ever been treated with gonadotropin-releasing hormone antagonist.

(Signature) (Name) (Date)

(**N.B.** Delete whichever of i), ii) or iii) is not applicable.)

9 EQUINE VIRAL ABORTION (EHV-1)

9.1 The horses were showing no clinical signs of equine viral abortion (EHV-1, neurological disease) on the day of export.

10 LEPTOSPIROSIS

10.1 During the 30 day period prior to export:

Either: i) The horses were subjected to the microscopic agglutination test (MAT) employing antigens from serogroups representative of serovars known to infect horses in the exporting country and *Leptospira* serovars *canicola, grippotyphosa* and *icterohaemorrhagiae,* with negative results (<50% agglutination at the 1:200 titre).
Date of sampling:

Or: ii) The horses were injected with dihydrostreptomycin or streptomycin (at a dose rate of 25 mg/ kg of live body weight) on two occasions with an interval of not less than 14 days.
Dates of treatments:

Or: iii)The horses were injected with long-acting oxytetracycline (at a dose rate of 20 mg/ kg of live body weight) on two occasions with an interval of not less than 14 days.
Dates of treatments:

(**N.B.** Delete whichever of i), ii) or iii) is not applicable.)

11 WARBLE FLY (Hypoderma bovis, H. lineatum)

11.1 The horses were treated with an ectoparasiticide capable of killing warble fly larvae during the 48 hours prior to export.
Ectoparasiticide:
Dose rate:
Date of treatment:

12 TRANSPORT TO PORT OF DEPARTURE

12.1 The animals, on leaving the isolation premises, were loaded onto vehicles that had been cleaned and disinfected using an approved disinfectant.

12.2 The vehicles used to transport the animals to the departure point were closed and sealed using seals of the Veterinary Administration of Canada bearing the following unique mark or identification number:

.....

Signature of *Official Veterinarian* supervising pre-export preparations:

Official stamp and date:

Name and address of office:

Name and address of pre-export isolation facility:

N.B. Signature and official stamp must be applied to all pages.

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I, ..., being the *Official Veterinarian* at the port of export certify, with respect to the horses for export identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, that:

1 ENDORSEMENT

1.1 The veterinarian whose signature appears on Veterinary Certificate A is a veterinarian approved by the government of the exporting country to supervise the preparation of animals for export.

2 TRANSPORT TO PORT OF DEPARTURE

2.1 During transport from the pre-export isolation premises to the port of departure, the animals for export have not come into contact with any animal of a lesser isolation and tested health status.

3 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

3.1 The crates or pens to be used for transporting the animals to New Zealand are either new or, if previously used, have been cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant capable of destroying the virus of foot and mouth disease.

3.2 No other animals are being transported on the aircraft or ship except animals officially certified by a veterinarian approved by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country for export to New Zealand (unless shared transport has been specifically authorised by MAF).

3.3 Prior to departure, the cargo space where the animals for export to New Zealand are to be transported was sprayed with an approved insecticidal spray.

Signature of *Official Veterinarian*:

Date:

Name and address of office:

N.B. Official stamp of the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country must be applied to all pages of zoosanitary certification.