

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

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 25 March 2004

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 zebra semen from the United States of America.

- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of zebra semen imported into New Zealand from the United States of America 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 Director Animal Biosecurity.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Director Animal Biosecurity

The Director Animal Biosecurity, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who, for the time being, may lawfully exercise and perform the powers and functions of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

equivalence

Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity 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.

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Official Veterinarian

An official veterinarian means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the chapter of the OIE *Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

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 Director Animal Biosecurity 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 must be obtained before importation. Applications should be made to:

Animal Imports and Exports,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF),
P O Box 2526,
Wellington.

- 5.2 The import permit will be issued for a single consignment. Attached to, and an integral part of the import permit, is the current import health standard that describes the conditions under which zebra semen may be imported into New Zealand.

6 ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 The zebra semen must be in straws, ampoules or other sealed packaging. Semen in pellets is not acceptable.
- 6.2 All straws must be permanently marked with identification of the donor animal/s and the date of collection. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must

accompany the consignment.

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

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 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.

[Note: Any requirement for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) or other conservation related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer and is independent of this certification.]

8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 8.1 The zebra semen must be transported in transport containers that have been sealed with an official seal of the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country. The number of the seal must be recorded in the Veterinary Certification accompanying the consignment.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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 direction being given.
- 9.3 A biosecurity direction may be given by an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 authorising the consignment to move into permanent containment at the zoological park 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.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

10 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 zebra semen into New Zealand from the United States of America when appropriately completed by a representative of the exporting country's competent authority:

11 MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

Commodity: ZEBRA SEMEN

To: NEW ZEALAND

Exporting Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Ministry/Department:

Service:

Region:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF DONOR ANIMALS

Identification:

Species:

Breed:

Premises of origin:

II: INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ZEBRA SEMEN

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

Date of collection:

Number of straws/packages (include recommended number of straws per insemination dose for semen, or number of embryos per straw):

Preservatives and antibiotics used:

III: ORIGIN OF THE ZEBRA SEMEN

Name and address of approved collection centre:

IV: DESTINATION OF THE ZEBRA SEMEN

Name and address of importer:

V: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I,, being the *Official Veterinarian* supervising collection of zebra semen for export, certify, with respect to the consignment identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, that:

11.1 COUNTRY/REGION HEALTH STATUS

- 11.1.1 The donor stallions were resident for 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)
 - Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.12.2 (21 days)
 - glanders, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.8.2 (6 months), and
 - dourine, according to the criteria in OIE Code Article 2.5.2.2. (6 months).

11.2 ESTABLISHMENT OF ORIGIN

- 11.2.1 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)
 - contagious equine metritis (2 months), and
 - *Salmonella abortus-equi* (3 months).

11.3 COLLECTION CENTRE

- 11.3.1 The donor stallion was resident at the time of collection on a semen collection centre approved by an *Official Veterinarian* according to the appended standard *MAF standard for equine semen collection centres collecting semen for export to New Zealand*.
Date of entry into the semen collection centre:
Date of semen collection:

11.4 EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA (EIA)

11.4.1 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:

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11.5 EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS (EVA)

11.5.1 The donor stallions were subjected to a virus neutralisation (VN) test for EVA, not less than 21 days after entry onto the semen collection centre, with negative results.

Date of sampling:

11.6 CONTAGIOUS EQUINE METRITIS (CEM, *Taylorella equigenitalis*)

11.6.1 During the breeding season in which the semen for export is collected, the donor stallion has been tested for CEM 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).)

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

11.7 COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND STORAGE

11.7.1 On the dates of collection for export of zebra semen in this consignment, no animals on the collection centre showed any clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease.

11.7.2 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the zebra 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.

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

- 11.7.4 An effective combination of antibiotics was added to the semen after final dilution. The combination must produce an effect at least equivalent to the following dilutions:
500 IU per ml streptomycin; or
500 IU per ml penicillin; or
150 µg per ml lincomycin; or
300 µg per ml spectinomycin.
Immediately after the addition of the antibiotics, the diluted semen was kept at a temperature of at least 15°C for a period of not less than 45 minutes.
- 11.7.5 After processing, the zebra semen was stored in previously sterilised flasks. In the case of frozen zebra semen, the liquid nitrogen has not previously been used for any other purpose.
- 11.7.6 During storage of frozen zebra semen, any container servicing was completed under the overall supervision of the veterinarian appointed to the collection centre and has been conducted in a manner that prevents contamination of the container or its contents.
- 11.7.7 All testing was conducted at a laboratory approved by the Veterinary Administration of the United States of America to conduct export testing, and laboratory result sheets are attached.

Signature of *Official Veterinarian* supervising the collection centre:

Official stamp and date:

Name and address of office:

Name and address of collection centre:

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

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I,, an *Official Veterinarian* of the Veterinary Administration certify, with respect to the zebra semen identified in the attached zoosanitary certificate, that:

11.8 ENDORSEMENT

11.8.1 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 zebra semen for export.

11.8.2 Prior to export, the container in which the zebra semen is to be transported was sealed using an official seal of the Veterinary Administration of the United States of America bearing the following unique mark or identification number:

.....

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.

MAF 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)
 - 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
 - equine salmonellosis (*Salmonella abortus-equi*) (3 months).
- 1.2 Following any previous case of the above diseases, testing of all zebra 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.
- 1.3 All zebra 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/zoological garden. 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 zebras 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: new disposal liners on each occasion;
Or: 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 zebras 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 zebras 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.