QUARANTINE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF BOVINE SEMEN FROM BRAZIL

1 GENERAL

1.1 A valid Permit to Import Quarantine Material into Australia must be obtained, prior to the export of the semen, from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State import. A copy of the permit must accompany each consignment of bovine semen. The exporter must ship the consignment to the Australian importer care of AQIS in the State of import.

1.2 The Animal Health Certificate must:
• accompany each consignment of the bovine semen (copies not acceptable),
• conform with Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Health Code (Code) Model Certificate No 3 and, under V. Sanitary information, contain the certifications specified in Section 2 of these requirements,
• include an attached table showing details of the donor(s), semen identification, semen collection dates, dates of sampling for tests, type of tests used and the dates of isolation period
• be signed by the certifying veterinarians, that is,
  - the Approved Veterinarian who is the attending semen collection centre veterinarian, approved by MAARA (Ministerio da Agricultura do Abastecimento e da Reforma Agraria) to supervise the collection and processing of semen; and
  - the Official Veterinarian who is a veterinary official of MAARA, and
• be in English, and , if necessary, in a language understood by the certifying veterinarians;
• be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

1.3 If the semen is from species other than Bos taurus or Bos indicus or both, permission must also be obtained from Environment Australia to meet the requirements of the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982. Further information may be obtained from:
The Director Ph: 02 6274 2291
Wildlife Protection Fax 02 6274 1921
Environment Australia email wps@ea.gov.au
Canberra ACT 2601 plants/wildlife/intro.htm

1.4 Section 2 sets out the minimum requirements for importation into Australia. Various zones in Australia may differ in animal health status and State/Territory veterinary authorities may require testing or certification additional to these requirements before the semen may enter a particular zone or move from one zone to another within Australia.

1.5 The Approved Veterinarian must
• ensure the isolation of the donors from all other ruminants not of equivalent health status prior to semen collection,
• supervise the isolation period,
• ensure that the donors are tested in accordance with the requirements in Section 2 of these requirements,
• supervise the blood sampling of donors and the collection and processing of semen, and
• record the required details for each donor on a Table attached to the Animal Health Certificate.
1.6 The semen must comply with all certification requirements to be eligible for export.

1.7 Any requests for dispensation from these requirements must be submitted through MAARA. Such applications must include the reasons and contain all relevant information necessary for the application to be evaluated. AQIS will only consider requests for dispensation received through MAARA with their recommendation. Dispensations will be issued in exceptional circumstances by MAARA when it can be demonstrated that the quarantine security of the consignment has not been compromised.

1.8 The consignment must comply with post arrival conditions as per sections 3 and 4 of these quarantine requirements before the consignment is released by AQIS.

1.9 AQIS may vary or review quarantine requirements at any time.

2. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE


2.1 Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

At the time of semen collection, each donor
- was kept in an FMD free zone where vaccination is practised (Article 2.1.1.2) for a minimum of 2 years and
- gave negative results to both the enzyme-linked immunoelectrotransfer blot (EITB) assay and 3ABC ELISA on blood samples drawn between 28 days and 60 days after final semen collection.

2.2 During semen collection until the export of semen, Brazil met the OIE Code definitions of country freedom from
- rinderpest (Article 2.1.4.2)
- contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Article 2.1.6.2)
- lumpy skin disease (Article 2.1.7.2)
- Rift Valley fever (Article 2.1.8.2) and
- haemorrhagic septicaemia (Article 3.2.12.2).

2.3 An Approved Veterinarian has supervised the collection of specimens for testing. All blood, tissue and semen tests for disease were carried out at a laboratory approved by MAARA to perform the test required for that disease. Dates of collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests were recorded on the Animal Health Certificate.

2.4 The donors were, at the time of semen collection, part of the resident herd at a semen collection centre (AI Centre) which complies with the OIE Code Appendix 4.2.1.1. and approved by MAARA for the export of bovine semen.

2.5 Vesicular stomatitis has not been reported within 15 kilometres of the AI Centre for 30 days before and during the semen collection period for this consignment.

2.6 Rabies

Each donor did not show any clinical signs of rabies during, and for 15 days after, semen collection.
2.7 Johne’s disease

Each donor gave a negative result to an absorbed enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for Johne’s disease (paratuberculosis) after the first collection of semen for this consignment but not more than 180 days after final collection for this consignment.

2.8 Bovine brucellosis

Each donor

EITHER

• was kept in a herd officially free from bovine brucellosis as defined by OIE Code Article 3.2.1.1,

OR

• was kept in a herd free from bovine brucellosis as defined by OIE Code Article 3.2.1.1.

and

within 30 days prior to entering the AI centre, and again during the pre-entry isolation period, and then at 6 monthly intervals, gave negative results to both the buffered Brucella plate agglutination test and the complement fixation test for bovine brucellosis

and

prior to the release of semen for export, gave a negative result to the buffered Brucella plate agglutination test for bovine brucellosis.

2.9 Bovine tuberculosis

Each donor

EITHER

was kept in a herd officially free from tuberculosis as defined by OIE Code Article 3.2.3.1.

OR

underwent intradermal tuberculin tests with negative results:

• twice, at an interval of at least 90 days, during isolation from the herd at the premises of origin for a minimum of three months prior to entering the AI Centre;

• at least 60 days after the last pre-entry test;

• at 6 monthly intervals; and

• before the release of semen for export if the last semen collection is more than 90 days after the previous tuberculin test.

2.10 Enzootic bovine leucosis (EBL)

Each donor

EITHER

was kept at the time of semen collection in an EBL free herd and, if less than 2 years of age, came from a serologically negative "uterine" dam

OR

gave negative results to an OIE approved diagnostic test for EBL on blood samples drawn on two occasions, the first at least 30 days before semen collection and the second at least 90 days after semen collection;

2.11 Bovine pestivirus

The buffy coat from blood samples, collected from each donor during the pre-entry isolation period, gave a negative result to one of the following tests for bovine pestivirus (ie all bovine genotypes including bovine viral diarrhoea virus [BVDV] genotypes 1 and 2):

EITHER

• a virus isolation test on bovine cell culture
OR
an antigen capture enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
OR
a polymerase chain reaction test.

2.12 Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IBR/IPV)

An aliquot of not less than 0.5 ml of processed semen from each donor was tested, with negative results, for bovine herpesvirus-1 (BHV-1) by cell culture inoculation after 2 passages or by the nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]). Where there was more than one semen collection in this consignment, the aliquots were pooled from at least two of the collections for this consignment.

2.13 Bluetongue (BT):

EITHER

Serum samples were drawn from each donor:
- at least 14 days before first semen collection, and
- between 28 days and 60 days after final semen collection, and
- during semen collection period if there is more than 60 days between the pre-collection and post-collection serum samples

and gave negative results to either the competition ELISA or AGID test for BT antibodies.
[Note: Serum sample collections must be at least 28 days apart.]

OR

Blood samples were drawn from each donor
- at the commencement of semen collection
- at the conclusion of semen collection

either
- at least every 7 days during semen collection (for a virus isolation test)
- every 28 days during semen collection (for a PCR)

and gave negative results to either a virus isolation test or nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]) for BT virus
*(Delete the options which do not apply)*

2.14 Epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer (EHD):

EITHER*

Serum samples were drawn from each donor
- at least 14 days before first semen collection, and
- between 28 days and 60 days after final semen collection, and
- during semen collection period if there is more than 60 days between the pre-collection and post-collection serum samples

and gave negative results to either an AGID test or virus neutralisation test for EHD antibodies.
[Note: Serum sample collections must be at least 28 days apart.]

OR

Blood samples were drawn from each donor:
- at the commencement of semen collection
- at the conclusion of semen collection
AND

either
at least every 7 days during semen collection (for a virus isolation test)
or
every 28 days during semen collection (for a PCR)
and gave negative results to either a virus isolation test or nucleic acid detection test (polymerase chain reaction technology [PCR]) for EHD virus.
*(Delete the options which do not apply)*

2.15 Semen collection, processing and storage.

The approved Veterinarian
• supervised the collection and processing of the semen in accordance with the Code Appendix 4.2.1.2., and
• ensured that suitable antibiotics were added to the diluent and that the diluents were prepared in accordance with Code Appendices 4.2.1.1.D. and 4.2.1.2.D.2..

The Official Veterinarian
• verified the permanent identification of the semen straws with the identification details of the donor and the date of collection or a code from which this information could be determined; and
• sealed the semen transport container with an official seal prior to shipment.

2.16 The semen was stored in fresh liquid nitrogen in sterilised containers in which no biological material, other than semen embryos or ova of equivalent health status was held.

2.17 For testing purposes, the period between the first and last collection of semen certified on this health certificate was not more than 90 days.

3. POST ARRIVAL

3.1 AQIS will hold the consignment until a Quarantine Veterinary Officer (QVO) or a Quarantine Officer under the supervision of a QVO has audited the contents of the shipping container.

3.2 In the event of a transport container with one or more consignments of genetic material arriving in Australia without the correct certification, with the seals on the transport containers broken or in any other way not having met these requirements, AQIS may place the container and its contents in quarantine, return it to the country of origin or destroy it without recompense.

4. IMPORTER’S/AGENT’S RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 It is the responsibility of the importer or importer’s agent to arrange for the provision of any health certification or testing additional to that required by AQIS (eg for inherited diseases or genetic defects, or as required by State/Territory veterinary authorities).

4.2 The importer or agent must nominate a person who can be contacted by AQIS officers and who will be responsible for ensuring that all import requirements are met.
4.3 The Australian Government will charge the importer for services provided. The Australian Government will not compensate the importer or agent for any losses incurred while the semen intended for importation is under AQIS control.

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