



BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA

11 December 2000

**QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF GIRAFFE SEMEN
FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)**

1 GENERAL

1.1 A valid *Permit to Import Quarantine Material into Australia*, obtained from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) office in the State of import, must accompany each consignment of giraffe 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 (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 periods
- be signed by the *certifying veterinarians*, that is,
 - the *Approved Veterinarian* who supervises semen collection and is a veterinarian accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under part 161 of Chapter 1, title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations and
 - the *Official Veterinarian* who is a veterinary official of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA, and
- be in English, and be stamped on each page with an Official stamp.

1.3 Before importing giraffe semen 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
Wildlife Protection
Environment Australia
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6274 2291
Fax 02 6274 1921
email wps@ea.gov.au
website: <http://www.biodiversity.environment.gov.au/plants/wildlife/intro.htm>

- 1.4 The *Approved Veterinarian* must
- ensure the isolation of the donors from all other ruminants not of equivalent health status for 30 days prior to, and during, 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.
- 1.5 The semen must comply with all certification requirements to be eligible for export.
- 1.6 Any requests for dispensation from these requirements must be submitted through APHIS. 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 APHIS with their recommendation. Dispensations will be issued in exceptional circumstances by AQIS when it can be demonstrated that the quarantine security of the consignment has not been compromised.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 Biosecurity Australia and AQIS may vary or review quarantine requirements at any time.

2. CERTIFICATION

The Animal Health Certificate, under **V. Sanitary information**, must attest that:-

- 2.1 Immediately prior to semen collection each donor was continuously resident for at least 12 months in Canada or the United States of America (USA) in a zoo or wildlife park registered or approved by the responsible Federal government.
- 2.2 Each donor was continuously resident for at least 12 months immediately prior to the semen collection in countries/zones
- recognised by the OIE as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) without vaccination (Article 2.1.1.2) for the past 12 months and
 - which meet the OIE *Code* definitions of country/zone freedom from
 - rinderpest (Article 2.1.4.2);
 - contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Article 2.1.6.2);
 - lumpy skin disease (Article 2.1.7.2), and
 - Rift Valley fever (Article 2.1.8.2)
- 2.3 Vesicular stomatitis was not reported within 15 kilometres of the zoo or wildlife park during the period from 30 days prior to first collection of semen for this consignment until completion of the final collection of semen for this consignment.

2.4 An *Approved Veterinarian* supervised the collection of specimens for testing. All blood, tissue and semen tests for disease were carried out at a laboratory approved by USDA to perform the test required for that disease. Dates of collection for tests and types of diagnostic tests were recorded in a Table attached to the Animal Health Certificate. Where diagnostic tests are not specified, only those tests recognised by the USDA for the disease being tested were used.

2.5 Bovine brucellosis

Each donor showed no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis on the day of collection and gave negative results to the complement fixation test (CFT) for bovine brucellosis on each of two occasions 30 days apart, the second within 21 days of semen collection.

2.6 Bovine tuberculosis

Bovine tuberculosis has not been diagnosed in animals in the zoo population/s in which the donor giraffe has been held during the five years immediately prior to collection.

2.7 Bluetongue:

EITHER

semen was collected during the period from 15 January to 15 May, from donors resident at least 60 days prior to, and during, semen collection, in a USDA designated bluetongue low incidence State.

OR

the recipient giraffe was held in the Australian bluetongue free, or seasonally free, zone for at least 60 days after insemination.

2.8 Semen collection, processing and storage

The *Approved Veterinarian*

- supervised the collection and processing of the semen,
- 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.

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

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.
- 3.3 The semen may only be used to inseminate giraffe held in AQIS quarantine approved premises. Any giraffe inseminated with imported semen must remain in quarantine or under quarantine surveillance unless or until released from quarantine control by AQIS.

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 animals intended for importation are under AQIS control.

DAVID BANKS

A/g General Manager

Animal Biosecurity

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