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BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/01

EGG AND EGG PRODUCTS IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

TECHNICAL ISSUES PAPER

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides the technical issues paper for public comment. Comments are due by 21 March 2001.

Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1999/88 of 22 December 1999 provided a progress report on the import risk analysis (IRA) of egg and egg products. Since that time the risk analysis panel has developed the attached technical issues paper and established technical working groups on Newcastle disease, infectious bursal disease and bacterial pathogens (see below).

The technical issues paper is intended to promote discussion on the scope of the analysis, the main pest and disease risk issues and other matters relevant to the import risk analysis. The paper identifies 24 diseases as hazards requiring risk assessment including Newcastle disease, infectious bursal disease, avian influenza, duck virus enteritis and salmonella infections. It does not discuss risk management issues which will be addressed in the next consultation step, the draft IRA paper.

The risk analysis panel will consider all technical comments received which will be used to develop the draft IRA. Where available, comments should be supported by scientific references.

The technical working groups will examine technical issues relating to the presence of disease pathogens in egg and egg products and the susceptibility of relevant species to contaminated product. Members of the groups are as follows:

Bacterial pathogens

Dr Julian Cox (RAP member and chair of the TWG)	Department of Food Science and Technology The University of New South Wales
Dr Heather Gardner (Secretary of RAP and TWG)	Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity Australia
Professor Tom Humphrey	Public Health Laboratory Service, Food Microbiology Research Unit, UK
Professor Alan Frost	Department Veterinary Pathology and Anatomy, School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland
Ms Dianne Davos	Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science
Dr Marian Healy	Australia New Zealand Food Authority

Newcastle Disease

Dr Harvey Westbury (RAP member and chair of the TWG)	Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong
Dr Heather Gardner (Secretary of RAP and TWG)	Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity Australia
Dr Dennis Alexander	Department of Avian Virology, Central Veterinary Laboratory, UK
Professor Peter Spradbrow	Virus Laboratory, Veterinary School Farm, Queensland
Dr Clive Jackson	Biological Technology Transfer Pty Ltd

Infectious Bursal Disease Virus

Dr Harvey Westbury (RAP member and chair of the TWG)	Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong
Dr Heather Gardner (Secretary of RAP and TWG)	Animal Biosecurity, Biosecurity Australia
Dr Thierry van den Berg	Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre, Avian Virology and Biotechnology, Belgium
Dr Jagoda Ignjatovic	Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong
Dr Tom Grimes	Grimes Consultancy Pty Ltd

Further information on the technical working groups is available from the contact officer.

Next Steps

I would appreciate receiving your comments, supported by scientific references, if available, by 21 March 2001. As mentioned earlier, the risk analysis panel will consider technical comments received and these will be taken into account in preparing the draft IRA report.

Please pass this circular to other interested parties whom you may know of, and who should advise AQIS if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. All inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

DAVID BANKS
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Animal Biosecurity

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