



Department of  
**AGRICULTURE  
FISHERIES &  
FORESTRY -  
AUSTRALIA**



3 December 2001

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/35**

### **IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: RUMINANT SEMEN FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

#### **COMMENCEMENT ADVICE**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the commencement of an import risk analysis (IRA) to develop quarantine policy for the importation of ruminant semen from the Republic of South Africa (RSA) and seeks public comment on Animal Biosecurity's proposed approach.

ABPM 2001/10 advised stakeholders of Animal Biosecurity's import access request list which includes requests to import ruminant semen from RSA received since 1997. An IRA for the importation of ruminant semen from RSA is required as there is no established policy and the request involves importation of a commodity from a country whose disease and pest status is different from those covered by other ruminant semen policy.

There is long-term, continuing interest in importing ruminant semen from RSA and Animal Biosecurity regards commencement of this IRA as a priority.

Stakeholders will be aware that the IRA process is under review (the last consultation on the draft 'Administrative Framework for IRAs' closed on 15 November 2001). Considering the advanced stage of the review and that the suggested changes have generally been supported, we propose this IRA follow the revised process as set out in the draft Framework document.

#### **Scope**

The IRA will consider the quarantine risks associated with importing frozen semen collected from bovines (*Bos taurus*, *Bos indicus*, or *Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus* crosses), ovines (*Ovis aries*) and caprines (*Capra hircus*) from RSA; the semen being collected and processed under conditions consistent with recommendations in the Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE) *International Animal Health Code*.

The IRA will take into consideration the current veterinary controls, the animal health status and artificial breeding standards in both Australia and South Africa, particularly with regard to foot and mouth disease (FMD) – Australia does not permit importation of ruminant semen from countries or zones not recognised by



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the OIE as free from FMD. Australia's highly conservative quarantine policy on FMD can be seen in the outcomes of other IRAs for ruminant semen from other countries.

South Africa, except for Kruger National Park and farms bordering Swaziland, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, was recognised by the OIE as a zone free from FMD disease until two outbreaks occurred in the previously free zone during 2000. When notified, Australia immediately suspended the importation of susceptible animal products and ruminant embryos from RSA. Both outbreaks were controlled and eradication measures implemented. Consequently, RSA is expected to regain its OIE recognised FMD free zone without vaccination status after the OIE FMD and Other Epizootics Commission has evaluated RSA's re-application in early 2002. Australia will then consider removing the suspensions. Similarly, subject to finalisation of the IRA and conditions being developed, the importation of ruminant semen from RSA cannot commence until Australia recognises a FMD free zone without vaccination within the RSA.

### **Indicative timetable**

Research relevant to this IRA has already taken place with an Animal Biosecurity veterinary officer meeting with veterinarians and officials in South Africa to discuss technical and scientific issues. Because of this and the existence of other relevant information, we estimate that the IRA process will take approximately 18 months to complete. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect to release the technical issues paper in early 2002.

### **IRA team**

Animal Biosecurity considers that a team of veterinary officers from within Animal Biosecurity should conduct the IRA. The team has experience in a range of relevant diseases (including FMD in Africa and insect-borne diseases), epidemiology and risk analysis, and has developed relevant expertise through similar analyses on the risk of importing ruminant semen and embryos from a number of other countries. Additionally, the IRA is not expected to be technically complex, and there is existing policy for ruminant embryos from RSA and for ruminant genetic material from other countries.

### **Your comments are invited**

You are invited to comment on the proposed scope of the IRA, the indicative timetable and the use of an in-house Animal Biosecurity team. Your response by 11 January 2002 would be appreciated. We will take your comments into consideration in making recommendations to the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Animal Biosecurity if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below. In addition to the above information I also recommend that you regularly check our homepage for information on animal and aquatic animal quarantine issues: <http://www.affa.gov.au>

### **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 Biosecurity 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.

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