



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



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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/43

IMPORTATION OF STOCKFEEDS AND STOCKFEED INGREDIENTS - RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES (TSEs)

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of measures proposed for a range of stockfeeds and stockfeed ingredients to manage the risk of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) entering Australia in such products. Comments are invited by 7 November 2002.

Conditions for importation of processed stockfeed of plant origin were finalised in August 1999. Since that time, there has been a move towards a national program for testing of local and imported stockfeeds in order to ensure compliance with Australia's ban on the feeding of animal protein to ruminants and to reduce the risk of TSEs (in particular BSE) through contamination of such products with material derived from ruminants.

Biosecurity Australia has already recommended that prepared stockfeed of plant origin from Indonesia be tested for ruminant DNA in the context of a specific import proposal. However, procedures for testing of other types of imported stockfeeds and stockfeed ingredients have not been finalised.

Attached is a paper describing proposed risk management measures for the various classes of imported stockfeeds and stockfeed ingredients. It describes the various types of stockfeeds and stockfeed ingredient which are imported into Australia and the pathways by which there may be a risk of contamination with material derived from ruminants. The paper discusses procedures such as issuance of import permits, testing for ruminant DNA, desk audit, site inspection and release from quarantine.

The risk management measures described in the paper include inspection and testing of product before release from quarantine. These measures therefore have important implications not only for end users but also for importers and agents in terms of possible holding times for clarification of test results or investigation of equivocal results.

The proposals in the paper are designed to be consistent with the risks posed by the particular product under consideration and to be consistent with contemporary quality control practices in Australia's domestic stockfeed and intensive livestock industries.

Next Steps

If you wish to comment on the above policy variation, please ensure your comments reach Biosecurity Australia by 7 November 2002. We invite comments on the

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proposals and any suggested alternative means of ensuring that imported stockfeeds are free of material derived from ruminants.

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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