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INTERIM QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF REPTILES

Scope

These requirements apply to the importation of members of the Class Reptilia other than crocodilians. Crocodilians may be imported under the Quarantine Conditions for the Importation of Live Captive Crocodilians. Biosecurity Australia is conducting an import risk analysis (IRA) on reptiles of the Sub-Order Serpentes, and plans to undertake IRAs on Chelonians (Testudines) and Saurians (lizards) in due course. These interim requirements apply pending completion of those IRAs or earlier review.

Documentation

Each consignment of zoo carnivores must be accompanied by:

- 1) a copy of a valid Permit to Import issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS),
- 2) an Environment Australia (EA) Permit and relevant CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) documentation. [Details of EA's requirements are available from the Director, Wildlife Permits and Enforcement Section, Email wildlifetrade@ea.gov.au or from their website <http://www.ea.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use>
- 3) a brief description of the health monitoring programme implemented in the premises of origin, signed by the owner or veterinary supervisor, and
- 4) an *international veterinary certificate*.

The veterinary certificate should be in the format of an OIE (Office International des Epizooties) Model International Veterinary Certificate for live animals and must give details of

- . the identification of each animal including species, sex, age, and identifying marks, registration number or microchip implant number;
- . name and address of exporter and registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park of origin;
- . name and address of consignee;
- . nature and identification of means of transport.

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The veterinary certificate must be in English and signed by an *Official Veterinarian** of the country of export who must certify that:

- a) the premise of origin is a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park or a government-approved facility for the holding of reptiles;
- b) each animal has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 12 months prior to certification;
- c) the premise of origin is under permanent veterinary supervision, and a suitable health-monitoring programme, including microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies, is implemented;
- d) as far as can be determined, no case of aeromonas septicaemia, inclusion body disease of boids, paramyxovirus infection, salmonellosis, septicaemic cutaneous ulcerative disease (SCUD), tuberculosis, ulcerative shell disease (USD) or ulcerative stomatitis has been diagnosed at the premises of origin, in any member of the species of reptile to which this certificate applies, during the 12 months prior to certification;
- e) the animals were isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status for 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, and they and all in-contact animals were free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease during that period;
- f) **either** *the premises of origin is in an area free from Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis; **or** *the animals have been protected from exposure to insects for 120 days prior to export; (*delete one)
- g) within 96 hours prior to export, each reptile was treated with an effective external parasiticide suitable for use on reptiles;
- h) he/ she or another *Official Veterinarian*, or a veterinarian recognised by the *Official Veterinarian* as having expertise in the diagnosis of disease in reptiles, has inspected each animal within 72 hours prior to export and found it to be healthy and fit to travel;
- i) after due enquiry he /she is satisfied that each animal will be shipped in a container that meets the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations [General Container Requirements for Reptiles, Amphibians and Shellfish, and Container Requirements 41 - 47 as appropriate].

Note*: An *Official Veterinarian* is a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Administration* of the exporting country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 1.3.2. of the OIE International Animal Health Code (herein called the Code).

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Transport

The animal/s must be consigned directly to Australia by an approved route. During transport to the port of export, during shipment, and during transport from the port of importation to the post-arrival quarantine facility, the animal/s must have no contact with animals not of the same consignment.

Quarantine

Each animal must undergo at least 30 days post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in a quarantine approved premises and be inspected and found free from signs of infectious disease before release from quarantine. At the completion of PAQ, the animal/s will be released from quarantine or released under quarantine surveillance into premises approved by the appropriate State or Territory Government for the holding of the species imported, subject to meeting EA and CITES requirements.

During PAQ the animal/s may be subjected to such tests and/or treatments as are specified by AQIS at the importer's expense. If any animal fails any test or shows evidence of an exotic disease during post-arrival quarantine, it may be detained in quarantine, exported at the importer's expense or destroyed.

Review

These conditions may be reviewed at any time at the discretion of the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (Australia).

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