



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

31 January 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/01

DRAFT MINIMUM EXPORT STANDARD FOR BOVINE SEMEN COLLECTION CENTRES IN AUSTRALIA

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) provides stakeholders with a draft *Minimum Export Standard for Bovine Semen Collection Centres in Australia*. Biosecurity Australia is proposing that the new standard replace the 1998 *Bovine Semen Collection Centres* as the minimum standard for the production of semen for export. We would welcome your comments on the draft by 2 March 2006.

Most countries importing bovine semen require certification that the semen was collected from donors tested for certain diseases and resident in an establishment approved by the exporting country's veterinary administration. An establishment, or semen collection centre (SCC), must be approved according to a specified standard. Currently, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) approves centres or delegates approval to State and Territory veterinary authorities. In both cases, *Bovine Semen Collection Centres* [Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM) Report; no. 64] is the minimum standard used for assessment and licensing purposes (a copy of the SCARM report is available from Biosecurity Australia).

Bovine Semen Collection Centres (SCARM Report no. 64) is out of date and needs to be replaced. It includes requirements not relevant to biosecurity and not consistent with international standards, including:

- . dihydrostreptomycin treatment, which is no longer registered for use in Australia in food producing animals
- . unnecessary testing for bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis - Australia is now free from both diseases
- . testing which is inconsistent with international standards for bovine viral diarrhoea leptospirosis, paratuberculosis and enzootic bovine leucosis.

Biosecurity Australia has developed a draft *Minimum Export Standard for Bovine Semen Collection Centres* (Attachment A). The proposed standard is intended to apply to the production of bovine semen for export. When finalised, this standard will be used in Australia and promoted to veterinary authorities in importing countries. It includes biosecurity arrangements relevant to semen collection, processing and storage, reflects the health status of Australian cattle, removes the need to test for exotic diseases, such as bovine brucellosis and takes into account Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code recommendations.

This is a minimum standard and only applies to collection centres wishing to export to countries that do not impose specific or a more restrictive standard as is the case for exports of semen to the European Union.

As scientific knowledge and international standards on bovine semen production continue to evolve, Biosecurity Australia will closely monitor developments. If necessary, minor adjustments to this standard will be made in consultation with AQIS. Major changes will continue to be subject to wider stakeholder consultation.

Consultation

Biosecurity Australia would welcome your comments on the attached draft standard by 2 March 2006. We will take into account stakeholder comments as we finalise the standard.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia>.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to 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 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

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 1982*.

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