

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS INTO NEW ZEALAND FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 4 October 2005

USER GUIDE

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections that outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand. When MAF has accepted health certification produced by a government authority in the exporting country as meeting the requirements of the model health certification this is noted. When no health certification is required to accompany consignments Part D. will note "none required".

PART A: GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation of chicken hatching eggs into New Zealand from Australia.
- 1.2 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of poultry hatching eggs shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent.
- 2.3 The importer must make all arrangements for transport of the hatching eggs to and within New Zealand. If the planned route is not directly from Australia to the port of entry into New Zealand, the importer must obtain the necessary transit authorities from any third countries on the transport route. The proposed routes and means of travel both to New Zealand and within New Zealand must be advised to and approved by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager. The vehicles and crates used for transport within New Zealand may be subject to inspection by the MAF Official Veterinarian who may seal the containers in which the eggs are transported to the transitional facility.
- 2.4 The importer must give the New Zealand Official Veterinarian, MAF Quarantine Section at the port of arrival, at least 7 days notice of the expected time of arrival and flight number or name of shipping vessel.
- 2.5 This import health standard does not include testing and treatment requirements for diseases that are endemic in New Zealand. This is a quality issue and, if necessary, testing and treatments additional to what is specified in this import health standard should be part of the purchase agreement for the animals concerned.

3 EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the hatching eggs will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply completely with this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence may be considered and may be issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority:

- 3.1 which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 3.2 the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status and/or what proposal is made to return the consignment to an equivalent health status as set out in this standard; and

- 3.3 the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

4 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity Standards Group Manager

The Biosecurity Standards Group Manager, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the power and functions of the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

Equivalence

Acceptance by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

MAF

New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Official Veterinarian

An official veterinarian means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the chapter of the OIE *Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

OIE Code

The Office International des Epizooties *Terrestrial Animal Health Code: mammals, birds and bees.*)

PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 5.1 Application must be made in writing for a permit to import, at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation. Applications should be made to: Animal Imports, Pre-Clearance Directorate, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.
- 5.2 Permits will be issued for single consignments only, and the importer must supply the following information:
- 5.2.1 name and address of exporter
 - 5.2.2 breed and type of poultry
 - 5.2.3 number of eggs to be imported.
 - 5.2.4 date of the proposed importation
 - 5.2.5 location of the nominated avian transitional facility in New Zealand

- 5.2.6 a letter from the Veterinary Officer supervising post-arrival quarantine stating that:
- 5.2.6.1 the facility meets the facility approval requirements of *MAF Standard 154.02.05 Standard for Avian Transitional Facilities* and is able to accept the proposed number of eggs to be imported on the proposed date of importation.
 - 5.2.6.2 the method and route of transport has been approved from the port of arrival in New Zealand to the approved avian transitional facility.

6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 6.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by the permit to import and all appropriately completed health certification which meets the requirements of PART D.
ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION
- 6.2 All pre-export laboratory test results should be attached to the zoosanitary certification.
- 6.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of consignments.

7 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1 The birds from which the eggs have been obtained must have been hatched in or have been in the exporting country for at least six months and during this time have not had any contact with imported birds.
- 7.2 The eggs have to be externally clean and have been sanitised.
- 7.3 The eggs have to be sealed into clean and disinfected crates, using an official seal, attached by a full-time government veterinary officer of the country of origin before departure.
- 7.4 The consignment of eggs must be clearly identified and identifiable with the health certification.

8 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 8.1 Details of transport and arrival times must be supplied to the Port Veterinary Officer at the port of entry not less than 7 days in advance of importation.

- 8.2 On arrival in New Zealand the consignment will be checked by an Inspector under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and, provided the documentation is in order and seals intact, the eggs will be directed to the transitional facility nominated in the permit.
- 8.3 Vehicles whilst being used to transport crates to the transitional facility must not transport any other eggs or poultry.
- 8.4 The vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after delivery of the eggs.

PART C: CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

9 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 9.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, an Official Veterinarian must inspect the consignment and the accompanying documentation.
- 9.2 Providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, may give a biosecurity direction authorising the consignment to be moved to the approved avian transitional facility named in the Permit to Import.

10 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

- 10.1 The eggs shall be hatched in New Zealand in an approved transitional facility complying with MAF Std 154.02.06: Standard for Avian Transitional Facilities, and the hatched birds shall remain in this facility for at least 60 days.
- 10.2 After the eggs have been placed in an incubator all fillers etc and packing must be destroyed by incineration. The crates may be used again if they are fumigated.
- 10.3 All birds hatched in the transitional facility will remain in the facility for a period of not less than 60 days.
- 10.4 During that time any unusual deaths and/or sicknesses must be reported to the nearest MAF veterinary officer and carcasses retained for possible post-mortem examination.
- 10.5 MAF reserves the right to remove birds and/or specimens for any tests that may be desired at any time.
- 10.6 At 42 days of age a random sample of 92 chicks will be subjected to serological testing for Newcastle Disease (APMV-1) by HI, and for Avian Influenza by an ELISA that is able to detect all 15 haemagglutinin subtypes.

(this sample size confirms that the flock is seronegative with at least 99% confidence of detecting a 5% prevalence)

- 10.7 Regular inspections will be made of the transitional facility by the veterinary supervisor.
- 10.8 No compensation will be paid for birds slaughtered as a result of test for disease or for diagnosis.

PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

11 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following document is recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION, and is approved to accompany imports of chicken hatching eggs into New Zealand from Australia when appropriately completed by a representative of the exporting country's competent authority:

ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Species: CHICKEN HATCHING EGGS

To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number:

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA

Competent Authority:.....

I: IDENTIFICATION OF EGGS

Number	Identification	Species
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Total number of eggs:

II: SOURCE OF EGGS

Name and address of exporter:.....

.....

Name and address of breeder:

.....

III: DESTINATION OF EGGS

Name and address of consignee:

.....

Means of transport:.....

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

OWNERS/MANAGERS DECLARATION

I,..... , being the owner/manager of the flock from which the eggs have originated certify that:

1. The birds in the flocks from which the eggs are obtained have either been hatched in, or have been resident in, Australia for at least 6 months and during this time they have not had any contact with imported birds.

2. After collection only clean eggs have been selected and were either:

fumigated using formaldehyde gas generated by adding 35 cc of commercial formalin (40% solution) to 17.5 grams of potassium permanganate for each 2.38 cubic metres of fumigation space;

OR

sprayed with or immersed in an egg shell disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturers instructions;

OR

subjected to an alternative disinfection procedure approved by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

(Delete as applicable)

.....
Owner/Manager Date

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I,..... being an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Australian Government, certify after due enquiry, with respect to the eggs identified in this certificate that:

1. After due enquiry I have no reason to doubt the owners/managers declaration.
2. Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza and Newcastle Disease have not occurred on any premises within a radius of 25 km of the premises of origin for a period of 6 months.
3. During the 28 days prior to the collection of the eggs, the birds in the flock of origin were inspected and found to be free from clinical evidence of infectious diseases including newcastle disease, highly pathogenic avian influenza, infectious avian encephalomyelitis, infectious bronchitis, infectious laryngotracheitis, infectious bursal disease, avian reticuloendotheliosis, ornithosis, fowl pox, mycoplasmosis, vibronic hepatitis, salmonellosis, big liver and spleen disease, tuberculosis, acute fowl cholera and avian leucosis. To the best of my knowledge and belief, and after due enquiry none of these diseases have existed within the flock of origin during the preceding 6 months.
4. To the best of my knowledge and belief the supply flock has not been vaccinated for avian influenza, and no live newcastle disease vaccine or any other live vaccines have been administered during the three months before collection of the eggs.
5. For Newcastle Disease, within 30 days before the collection of the eggs for shipment, the birds in:
 - 5.1 unvaccinated supply flocks have been subjected to a serological test to confirm with at least 99% confidence of detecting a prevalence of 5%, that the flock is seronegative to avian paramyxovirus 1 (APMV-1).
 - 5.2 vaccinated supply flocks have been subjected to virus isolation from cloacal swabs to demonstrate with at least 99% confidence of detecting a prevalence of 5%, that there are no APMV-1 viruses circulating in the flock.
6. For Avian Influenza, within 30 days before collection of the eggs for shipment a random sample of the supply flock has been serologically tested with at least 99% confidence of detecting a 5% prevalence by an approved ELISA test that is able to detect all 15 haemagglutinin subtypes of avian influenza with negative results in each case.

(Please note: In the case of birds with test results that were positive or inconclusive, a further sample was taken and retested by an ELISA that is able to detect all 15 haemagglutinin subtypes. Any birds positive to this repeat test had cloacal swabs taken for virus isolation and were found to be free of avian influenza viruses)

(Delete if not applicable)

7. For Mycoplasmosis, within 30 days before collection of the eggs for shipment a random sample of the supply flock has been serologically tested with at least 99% confidence of detecting a 5% prevalence by the slide agglutination test or the haemagglutination test for mycoplasma (*M. gallisepticum* and *M. synoviae*) with negative results in each case.

(Please note: In the case of birds with test results that were positive or inconclusive, a further sample was taken and retested by ELISA. Any birds positive to this test were subject to post mortem and bacteriological examination and showed no evidence of *Mycoplasma* infection)

(Delete if not applicable)

8. Within 30 days of collection of the eggs for shipment a random sample of 240 birds from the flock of origin were subjected to the agar immunodiffusion test for big liver and spleen disease with negative results.

(Please note: Interpretation of negative being where fewer than 5% of the serum samples react to the test. The sample size ensures that the in-flock reactor is less than 10% with 99% confidence)

9. The eggs have been placed into a spill proof container and sealed into clean and disinfected crates using an official seal.

10. All pre-export laboratory test results are attached to this certification.

.....
Signature of Official Veterinarian Official stamp and date

.....
.....
Name and address

Note: Official stamp must be applied to all pages.