

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR ZOO CROCODILIA FROM AUSTRALIA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 21 April 2008

USER GUIDE

The information in MAFBNZ 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 MAFBNZ 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.

Part E. APPENDICES contains the list of species of Crocodilia deemed by the Environmental Risk Management Authority as present in New Zealand.

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 specified zoo Crocodilia 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 Import Standards Manager.
- 1.3 Approval for the importation of each consignment of Crocodilia into New Zealand is dependent on containment approval from the Environmental Risk Management

Authority for that particular species of Crocodilia and the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs of MAFBNZ in performing functions relating to the importation of Crocodilia 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 clearance shall be borne by the importer or importer's agent.
- 2.3 The importer must make all arrangements for transport of the Crocodilia 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 Import Standards Manager. The vehicles and crates used for transport within New Zealand may be subject to inspection by a New Zealand Official Veterinarian, who may seal the container in which the Crocodilia are transported to the containment facility.
- 2.4 If the species of Crocodilia is not listed in Appendix A, species of Crocodilia deemed by the Environmental Risk Management Authority as present in New Zealand, it's the importer's responsibility to obtain approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority (www.ermanz.govt.nz) before importation will be permitted.

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 Crocodilia 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

AQIS

Australian Quarantine Inspection Service

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

Biosecurity direction

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act (1993), to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Inspector BA

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993). (Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and controls imposed under HSNO).

MAFBNZ

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

Official veterinarian

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 *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

Terrestrial Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 Application for a permit to import must be made at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to the Animal Imports Team, Border Standards Directorate, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand

Email: animalimports@maf.govt.nz or fax: +64 4 894 0662.

5.2 The importer must supply the following information:

5.2.1 name and address of exporter;

5.2.2 number, sex, age and species of Crocodilia;

- 5.2.3 date of the proposed importation;
 - 5.2.4 name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand, to which the consignment is to proceed following importation;
 - 5.2.5 port of arrival and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.
- 5.3 The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment.

6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 6.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by the permit to import and all appropriately completed health certification that meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION. The laboratory test results, or certified copies of results, for those tests specified in the Zoosanitary Certificate must be attached.
- 6.2 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 the consignment.

[Note: Any requirement for the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) or other conservation related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer and is independent of this certification.]

- 6.3 The Official Veterinarian of the exporting country must sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate and any documents that form part of the extended certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and print.

7 ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

- 7.1 Eligibility for importation under this import health standard is confined to Crocodylia of the species specified in appendix A, which have been hatched and reared in captivity in Australia.
- 7.2 The Crocodylia must be permanently identified by microchip transponder.
- 7.3 All requirements of this import health standard, including those detailed in the Model Zoosanitary Certificate must be met for the commodity to be eligible for importation.

8 PRE-EXPORT ISOLATION

- 8.1 The Crocodylia must be held in pre-export quarantine for at least 21 days prior to the scheduled date of export to New Zealand. The pre-export premises must be approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.
- 8.2 During pre-export isolation the Crocodylia must be resident in an environment with good quality water from a supply that is not inhabited by fish (either potable water or water from a bore) and the Crocodylia must not be fed on fish or be exposed to live fish;

9 TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 9.1 Date, expected time of arrival and the flight number or ship's name must be notified to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 7 days in advance of importation.
- 9.2 Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard (refer to www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/forests/index.htm)

PART C: CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

10 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 10.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand an inspector must inspect the Crocodilia and the documentation accompanying them.
- 10.2 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 Crocodilia to be moved to the transitional facility named in the permit to import.

11 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY

- 11.1 Following biosecurity direction being given, the consignment must proceed to a transitional facility registered according to MAF Biosecurity Authority Animal Biosecurity Standard 154.02.13 Standard for Low Security Farm Animal Transitional Facilities. This document can be obtained at:
www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-02-13.htm
- 11.2 The Crocodilia must remain in the transitional facility for at least 7 days, or for a longer period if required by the Import Standards Manager.
- 11.3 On arrival in the transitional facility, the Crocodilia must be meticulously inspected by an Official Veterinarian assisted by an experienced wildlife or zoo veterinarian and found to have no clinical signs of disease and free from soil contamination. Restraints, sedation or general anaesthetics may be required for the inspection.
- 11.5 The Crocodilia must be subjected to any testing, treatments or procedures as required by the Import Standards Group Manager.
- 11.4 Any unusual deaths and/or sicknesses during this period must be reported to the supervising Official Veterinarian and carcasses retained for possible post-mortem examination.
- 11.5 Regular inspections will be made of the facility by the veterinary supervisor.
- 11.6 On satisfactory completion of the post-arrival quarantine period, and on the written confirmation from the Import Standards Group Manager, the supervising Official

Veterinarian shall authorise the movement of the Crocodilia from the transitional facility to a containment facility for zoo animals.

- 11.7 The Crocodilia and its/their offspring must remain permanently in a registered zoo, and may not be transferred to another zoo without the prior permission of an adviser within the Import Standards Group.

PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

12 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAFBNZ to accompany imports of zoo Crocodilia into New Zealand from Australia:

PART D: MODEL ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATE

Species of Crocodilia:
 (insert one of the species listed in appendix A)

To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number:.....

Exporting Country: AUSTRALIA
 Competent Authority: Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Identification				
Microchip identification number	Site of microchip	Other identification (eg ARKS number)	Sex	Date of birth

Total number of Crocodilia in the consignment:

II: ORIGIN OF ANIMALS

Name and address of exporter:

Place of origin of Crocodilia:.....

Port of embarkation:

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

Name and address of consignee:.....

Flight number or ship's name:

Port of arrival:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I, Official Veterinarian authorised by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, certify after due enquiry, with respect to the zoo Crocodilia identified in this zoosanitary certificate, that:

1. Each animal:
 - 1.1 is of the species:
(insert one of the species listed in appendix A)
 - 1.2 was hatched and has been continuously resident in a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park in Australia
- 2 For at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export, the Crocodilia and the zoos or wildlife parks, in which the Crocodilia reside, have been free of quarantine restrictions.
- 3 For at least 21 days prior to the scheduled date of export to New Zealand the Crocodilia were kept in pre-export isolation premises approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.
4. During this pre-export isolation period:
 - 4.1 the Crocodilia and all in contact animals were free from clinical signs of disease;
 - 4.2 the Crocodilia were held in an environment with good quality water from a supply that is not inhabited by fish (either potable water or water from a bore) and have not been fed on fish or been exposed to live fish;
5. The Crocodilia to be imported are:
 - EITHER 5.1) born and reared in an environment with good quality water from a supply not inhabited by fish (either potable water or water from a bore) and have never been fed on fish or been exposed to live fish;
 - OR 5.2) during the pre-export isolation period samples from both gular and paracloacal glands were collected from each animal and these samples have been cultured for *Edwardsiella tarda* with negative results;
 - AND 5.3) during the pre-export isolation period faecal samples were collected from each animal on two separate occasions, at least 14 days apart, and these samples have been cultured for *Edwardsiella tarda* with negative results;

- 6 Within 72 hours prior to the scheduled date of export the Crocodilia were meticulously inspected by an Official Veterinarian assisted by an experienced wildlife or zoo veterinarian and found to have no clinical signs of disease and free from soil contamination and were then held in an environment free of soil until export. Restraints or sedation may be required for the inspection.

7. Transport to New Zealand:
 - 7.1 The vehicles in which the animals will be transported from the pre-export isolation premises to the port of departure were cleaned and disinfected prior to loading using a disinfectant approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.
 - 7.2 During transport to the port of departure the animals were kept isolated from animals that were not of equivalent health status.
 - 7.3 During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand, all feed provided is free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds.
 - 7.4 If shipped by air, the animals will be shipped in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations.
 - 7.5 The crates or pens to be used for transporting the animals to New Zealand are either new or if previously used were cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant.
 - 7.6 Only sterile peat, soft board, treated wood shavings, shredded paper or other inert approved products was loaded for use as bedding during transportation.
 - 7.7 No other animals are being transported in the aircraft or ship except animals officially certified by an Official Veterinarian for export from Australia to New Zealand.
 - 7.8 For animals transported by air, the cargo space of the aircraft where the animals are to be transported was sprayed with an approved insecticidal spray prior to departure.
 - 7.9 The crates or pens were sealed by an Official Veterinarian using seals bearing the unique mark or identification number:.....

8. All laboratory tests were conducted at a laboratory approved by Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and all results accompany this certification.

.....

Name and Signature of Official Veterinarian

Official stamp and date

Name and address of office:

.....

Note: Official stamp must be applied to all pages

PART E: APPENDIX A

**SPECIES OF ZOO CROCODILIA ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION
INTO NEW ZEALAND:**

TAXONOMIC NAME

COMMON NAME

Alligator mississippiensis

American Alligator

Crocodylus porosus

Estuarine or Saltwater Crocodile