Ref: CTO 2016 046 [B] **Veterinary Certification for Horse Semen from Australia**

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors relating to the clearance of horse semen from Australia according to the approved Department of Agriculture and Water Resources of Australia veterinary certificate

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Howard Pharo, Deputy Chief Technical Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, give the following directions for horse semen from Australia relating to whether to give clearance in accordance with the approved veterinary certificate from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) of Australia. The approved veterinary certificate contains the following measures, different from those in the applicable Import Health Standard Semen and Embryos from Horses (Equidae) HORSSEMB.SPE (3 December 2015):

1. All required laboratory testing will be conducted at a NATA accredited laboratory using methods described in the OIE *Manual* instead of at a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority.

   I consider that laboratory testing conducted at a NATA accredited laboratory to be equivalent because the DAWR has confirmed that the responsibility for approval of laboratories does not rest with the DAWR, but with Australia's National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

2. An amendment to clause 5: ***After due enquiry***, all products and vaccinations (final dose of a primary or recommended booster) administered to meet specific disease requirements were administered according to the manufacturer's instruction ***or as required*** in a country approved to export to New Zealand.

   I consider the amendments to provide the equivalent level of risk management since the DAWR would be unable to certify for vaccinations that have occurred in other countries. I consider the amendment to provide an equivalent level of risk management because allowing horses to be vaccinated as required in a country approved to export to New Zealand when extensive vaccination records are present, manages the biosecurity risk.

3. Deletion of the details of products and vaccination under clauses 5, and 25 i) ii., ii), iv) iii. and information moved to the accompanying Veterinary Certificate Table.

   I consider the deletion of the product/vaccine details from the clause to be equivalent to the requirements of HORSSEMB.SPE because the details will be recorded in the accompanying table.

4. Removal of clause 6: All products and vaccinations administered to donor animals for the purposes of meeting the specific disease requirements of this certificate were administered according to the manufacturer's instruction in a country approved to export to New Zealand. Vaccinations were either the final dose of a primary course or the recommended booster to complement the primary.

   I consider the deletion as equivalent because this is a repeat clause to clause 5 and is not required on the certificate.

5. An amendment to clauses 23 a, 24 i, and 25 i to allow donor animals to be kept on multiple premises of equal health status as opposed to a single establishment.

   I consider these clauses to be equivalent to the requirements of HORSSEMB.SPE because clause 10 of the veterinary certificate allows for the transfer of semen donors between approved semen collection centres of equal health status which effectively manages the biosecurity risks.

6. An amendment to clause 24 ii: Donors were subjected to ~~a test listed in the MPI document: MPI Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards (MPI-STD-TVTL)~~ an agar gel immunodiffusion (AGID/Coggins) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for EIA, ***no more than 180 days and*** not less than 30 days prior to collection with negative results.

I consider this clause to be equivalent to the requirements of HORSSEMB.SPE because the addition of "no more than 180 days" does not change the level of risk.

7. An amendment to clause 25 i) ii., and ii) that changes directions for regular revaccination according to the recommendations of the manufacturer to regular revaccination ***"as required"***.

   I consider the amendment to provide an equivalent level of risk management because allowing horses to be vaccinated as required in a country approved to export to New Zealand when extensive vaccination records are present, manages the biosecurity risk.

8. An amendment to clause 25 iii): Were subjected to a VNT for EVA on a blood sample with negative results ~~within 14 days prior to semen collection~~ ***no less than 21 days after entering the collection centre(s)***, and had been separated from other equids not of equivalent health status ~~for 14 days prior to blood sampling~~ ***since entry into the semen collection centre(s)*** until the end of semen collection.

   I consider this clause to be equivalent to the requirement of HORSSEMB.SPE because as per the IHS, stallions must be resident in the semen collection centre (or equivalent centres) for at least 28 days prior to semen collection and the incubation period of equine viral arteritis (EVA) is 21 days. A negative test not less than 21 days after entry to the initial collection centre, in combination with ongoing isolation from non-equivalent equids during the collection period, premises freedom and no clinical signs on the day of collection equivalently manages the biosecurity risk.

9. Removal of the contagious equine metritis requirement.

   I consider the deletion to manage the risk with equivalent outcome because the DAWR has confirmed that Australia has not reported an occurrence of CEM since 1980, the disease is nationally notifiable, and all horses imported into Australia must undergo CEM testing as part of the biosecurity measures for horses from approved countries. Australia's CEM-free status is recognised in the veterinary certificate for horses from Australia under the IHS HORANIIC.GEN.

The above varied requirements are deemed by MPI as equivalent to the requirements in HORSSEMB.SPE. The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.