



# Risk Management Proposal

**RMP Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants**

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## Disclaimer

This risk management proposal does not constitute, and should not be regarded as, legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this document is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, however it may have occurred.

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# 1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- a) Show how options for the management of risk organisms have been assessed.
- b) Provide recommendations for import requirements.

## 2 Background

Zoo Asian elephant semen from Australia is a risk commodity, with the potential to harbour exotic viral and bacterial diseases. A risk management proposal (RMP) citing a rapid risk analysis (RRA) accompanied the issue of the MPI *Import Health Standard for Zoo Asian Elephants from Sri Lanka and Australia* in June 2013. In December 2016 work commenced on developing an import health standard (IHS) for semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia based on that risk assessment.

In accordance with MPI processes, the draft IHS contains import requirements that manage the biosecurity risk of importing semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia.

## 3 Objective

The objective is to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with the import of semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia, consistent with New Zealand's domestic legislation and international obligations.

## 4 Options assessment

Of the potential hazards, the RRA and RMP for elephants concluded that risk management measures were justified for the following hazards in imported Asian elephants from Australia:

- a) Internal and external parasites
- b) Weed seeds

As neither of these hazards are associated with semen, it is concluded that no specific risk management measures are justified for the importation of semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia.

## 5 General requirements for all importations of semen

- (1) The semen must be collected from Asian elephants that are resident in Australian zoos, and have cleared all biosecurity requirements.
- (2) General biosecurity controls are required for semen collection and transportation:
  - a) The Australian zoo or wildlife park where the semen donor resides, and where the semen collection will occur, is under permanent veterinary supervision, and a health monitoring programme is followed including necropsies, and microbiological and parasitological testing.
  - b) The registered veterinarian supervising the collection must follow proper disinfection procedures and hygiene techniques, and ensure all personnel involved in collecting and processing the semen are suitably trained.
  - c) The elephant semen must be in straws, ampoules or other sealed packaging.
  - d) All products of animal origin used in the collection, processing and storage of the semen must be sterile preparations or be screened for adventitious viruses with negative results.
  - e) All equipment used in the collection and transport of the semen must be new or suitable sterilised.