

# IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC RABBITS INTO NEW ZEALAND FROM AUSTRALIA

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMPORTERS

20 October 2016

As per section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, Chief Technical Officer Direction: CTO 2016 065 [B] [G] applies:

- 1) Veterinary Certificate Clause 2:
  - a) A statement is required that there have been no reported cases in Australia of:
    - i) European brown hare syndrome, and
    - ii) tularemia in domestic animals.
- 2) Import Health Standard clause 6.1: On arrival in New Zealand the consignment will be examined by an Inspector.

Post-arrival insecticidal dusting is not required.

Pre-export external parasite treatment using a product suitable for use in rabbits, and pre and post-arrival inspection is required; the risk is mitigated without the possible toxic effects of over-treating or using outdated treatments.

- 3) Veterinary Certificate Clause 4.2: The animals have been treated for fleas using a product suitable for use in rabbits.

Pre and post-arrival inspections mitigate the risk of ticks.

This is a historic equivalence due to limited information available on products that are effective against ticks and safe to use in rabbits.

- 4) Import Health Standard clause 6.3: Is not required. In the case of sickness or death, this is covered by clause 6.4 (below).
- 5) Import Health Standard clause 6.4: In the event of any sickness or death occurring during this period the importer is to immediately advise the MPI hotline 0800 80 99 66.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.  
This CTO direction should be stated on an import permit.

## 1. PERMIT TO IMPORT

- 1.1 A permit to import must be obtained from the Chief Veterinary Officer,

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P O Box 2526, Wellington,  
New Zealand.

1.2 The importer must supply the following information:

- name and address of the importer and the premises where the rabbits are proposed to be kept
- name and address of the exporter and the premises of origin
- the number, sex and description of the rabbits proposed to be imported.

## 2. DOCUMENTATION

The permit and all the required certification must accompany the consignment to New Zealand. All documentation must be in English.

## 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

3.1 The rabbits must have been born and reared in captivity.

3.2 It is recommended that the importer shall conform with any provisions required by other government departments or local authorities.

## 4. IDENTIFICATION

The rabbits must be identified with tattoo or microchip that can be easily read. The identification must be shown on the certificate accompanying the animals.

## 5. TRANSPORT

5.1 The animals must be confined in cages that conform with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations. **THE CAGES MUST BE SECURELY FASTENED BUT NEED NOT BE SEALED.**

5.2 The use of hay, straw, peat or wood shavings as bedding is not permitted. It is advisable to use such materials as paper.

5.3 No animals other than those destined for New Zealand may be carried on the aircraft.

## 6. ENTRY CONDITIONS

- 6.1 On arrival in New Zealand the consignment will be examined by a Quarantine Service inspector. Provided the rabbits appear healthy and free from ectoparasites and the documentation is in order the animals will be treated with a recognised insecticidal dusting powder and will be released to the importer.
- 6.2 If the rabbits do not meet the importation conditions, or in the event of any signs of illness or the death of any of the animals, the shipment will be held in a secure place pending a decision on the matter.
- 6.3 The importer must keep the rabbits on the premises described on the permit to import for a period of 30 days during which time they may be subject to inspection by an inspector pursuant to section 121 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- 6.4 In the event of any sickness or death occurring during this period the importer is to advise immediately the nearest MAF office.

## 7. EQUIVALENCE

The attached health conditions have been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the animals will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to extenuating circumstances, the animals do not comply completely with the requirements. In such cases applications for dispensations will be considered and issued at the discretion of the NZ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's Veterinary Authorities:

1. which clause/s of the health requirements cannot be met and how this has occurred;
2. the reason the animals are considered to be of an "equivalent health" status and/or what proposal is made to return the animals to an equivalent health status as set-out in the health conditions;
3. the reasons why the Veterinary Authorities believe this proposal should be acceptable to the NZMAF and their recommendation for its acceptance.

**ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATE:**

Species: DOMESTIC RABBITS

To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number .....

Exporting Country:

Ministry/Department:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Identification number of microchip/tattoo	Anatomical site of microchip/tattoo	Breed	Sex	Age

Total Number of Animals: .....

II: SOURCE OF ANIMALS

Name and address of exporter: .....

Place of origin of animals: .....

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

Name and address of consignee: .....

Means of transport: .....



## VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I, ..... being a Government Veterinary Officer, certify with respect to the animals identified in the Zoo-sanitary section of this certificate that:

1. OWNER'S DECLARATION

After due enquiry I have no reason to doubt the owner/exporter's declaration.

2. COUNTRY FREEDOM

The country of export is officially free from tularemia and European brown hare syndrome.

3. PREMISES OF ORIGIN

The animals originate from premises which have not had viral haemorrhagic disease, myxomatosis, *Encephalitozoon cuniculi*, sylvatic plague, treponematosi, and Tyzzer's disease diagnosed in the colony in the previous six months.

4. EXAMINATION

Within 48 hours prior to export to New Zealand:

4.1 the animals were examined and found to be healthy and free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease\* and showed no signs of external parasites or skin disease.

4.2 the animals have been treated for fleas and ticks using an effective insecticide.

Active ingredient and dose rate:.....

4.3 all other rabbits on the premises or origin were inspected and found to be healthy and free from clinical signs or symptoms of infectious or contagious disease.\*

4.4 the animals have had all identification checked and recorded on the front of this certificate.

\*Disease:

Coccidiosis  
Enzootic pneumonia  
LCM (lymphocytic choriomeningitis) virus disease  
Listerellosis  
Myxomatosis  
*Encephalitozoon cuniculi*  
Pseudotuberculosis  
Snuffles  
Sylvatic plague  
Treponematosiis  
Tuberculosis  
Tularaemia  
Tyzzers disease  
Viral haemorrhagic disease  
European brown hare syndrome

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Government Veterinary Officer/  
Local Veterinary Inspector

Official Stamp and Date

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