

# IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ZOO ORIENTAL SMALL CLAWED OTTERS FROM AUSTRALIA INTO NEW ZEALAND

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 14 June 2006

## 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.

## 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 into New Zealand zoos of oriental small clawed otters (*Aonyx cineria/cinerea*, synonym *Amblonyx cinereus*) from Australia.
- 1.2 Approval for the importation of each consignment of otters into New Zealand from Australia is dependent on containment approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) for that particular species of otter and the

consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

- 1.3 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 otters 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 otters 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 a New Zealand Official Veterinarian, who may seal the container in which the otters 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 (if arriving by air) or name of shipping vessel.
- 2.5 If a species of otter that is not held in a zoo within New Zealand is to be imported, the importer is responsible for obtaining approval from the Environmental Risk Management Authority before importation may 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 otters 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 direction**

Direction or authorisation given by an Inspector for uncleared goods to proceed to a transitional or a containment facility.

##### **Biosecurity clearance**

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

##### **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.

##### **Inspector**

A person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

##### **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 certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or

public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Section 1.2 of the *Terrestrial Code*

### ***Terrestrial Code***

The Office International des Epizooties *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

## **PART B: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**

### **5 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

- 5.1 A permit to import is required for the importation of oriental small clawed otters into New Zealand. Application must be made in writing, at least 30 days prior to the proposed date of importation. Applications should be made to: Animal Imports, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, P O Box 2526, Wellington.
- 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 otter;
  - 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 a letter from the New Zealand Official Veterinarian supervising post-arrival quarantine indicating that the facility is available for this consignment; and
  - 5.2.6 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. Attached to, and an integral part of the permit to import, is the current import health standard which describes the conditions under which the otters may be imported into New Zealand.

### **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 oriental small clawed otters of the species *Aonyx cineria/cinerea*, synonym *Amblonyx cinereus*.
- 7.2 The otters must be:
- EITHER: (i) more than 6 months old at departure, weaned, healthy and fit to travel.
- OR: (ii) if accompanied by their mother, the animals must be at least 2 months old at the date of shipment.
- 7.3 The otters must not be in the last third of pregnancy at the scheduled date of date of export.
- 7.4 The otters must have been continuously resident in a government registered, or licensed, zoo or wildlife park in Australia since birth, or for the 12 months prior to the scheduled date of export.
- 7.5 The otters and the zoo, in which the otter resides, must have been free of quarantine restrictions for the 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export.
- 7.6 The otters must be permanently identified by microchip transponder.
- 7.7 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 (PEI)**

- 8.1 The otters must be held in pre-export quarantine for at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export to New Zealand. The PEI premises must be approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.

- 8.2 While in PEI the animals must not be fed freshwater fish.
- 8.3 Bedding used in PEI must be clean and have no evidence of contamination with ticks, eg sterilised peat, soft board, wood shavings or other inert material. Straw and hay must not be used.
- 8.4 Ectoparasite and endoparasite treatments must be administered as specified in the Model Zoosanitary Certificate.

## **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](http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/forests/index.htm) )

## **PART C: CLEARANCE PROCEDURE**

### **10 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION**

- 10.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand an official veterinarian/inspector must inspect the otters 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 otters to be moved to the transitional facility named in the permit to import.

### **11 TRANSITIONAL FACILITY**

- 11.1 The otters must remain in the transitional facility for at least 30 days, or for a longer period if required by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.
- 11.2 On arrival in the transitional facility, the otters must be subjected to any testing, treatments or procedures as required by the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.
- 11.3 On satisfactory completion of the post-arrival quarantine period, and on the written confirmation from the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager, the supervising Official

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

- 11.4 The otters and its/their offspring must remain permanently in a registered zoo, and may not be transferred to another zoo without the prior permission of the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.
- 11.5 All other requirements of the MAF *Standard for Low Security Farm Animal Transitional Facilities* must be complied with. This document can be obtained at: [www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-02-13.htm](http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-02-13.htm)

## **PART D: ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE**

### **12 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION**

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of oriental small clawed otters into New Zealand from Australia:

**PART D: MODEL ZOO SANITARY CERTIFICATE**

Species:                   ORIENTAL SMALL CLAWED OTTERS  
*Aonyx cineria/cinerea, Amblonyx cinereus*

To:                         NEW ZEALAND

Import Permit Number:.....

Exporting Country:    AUSTRALIA

Competant Authority: AQIS

**I:       IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS**

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

Total number of otters in the consignment: .....

**II:       ORIGIN OF ANIMALS**

Name and address of exporter: .....

Place of origin of otters:.....

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, ....., an Official Veterinarian authorised by AQIS, certify after due enquiry, with respect to the otters identified in this zoosanitary certificate, that:

1. After due enquiry or physical examination, I am satisfied that each animal:
  - 1.1 is an oriental small clawed otter of the species *Aonyx cineria/cinerea*, synonym *Amblonyx cinereus*.
  - 1.2 was born, and has been continuously resident in a government registered or licensed zoo or wildlife park in Australia
  - EITHER            i) since birth;  
OR                    ii) for the 12 months prior to the scheduled date of export.  
(Delete as appropriate)
  - 1.3 is not in the last third of pregnancy
  - 1.4 is weaned and more than 6 months old or at least 2 months old, and accompanied by their mother.
2. Australia is considered free from rabies .
3. There have been no *Trichinella* spp identified during the previous 5 years, or cases of bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) during the previous 3 years in any animal species resident in the zoo or wildlife park.
4. For at least 90 days prior to the scheduled date of export, the otters and the zoos or wildlife parks, in which the otters reside, have been free of quarantine restrictions or other official restriction on account of disease.
5. The otters were isolated from all other animals not of the same health and residency status for at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of export, to New Zealand in Pre-export isolation (PEI) premises approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian.
6. During this isolation period:
  - 6.1 the otters and all in contact animals were free from clinical signs of infectious disease
  - 6.2 the otters were not fed fresh water fish
  - 6.3 the otters were treated for endoparasites using the following treatment regime:

- i) two subcutaneous injections of ivermectin at a dose of 0.4 mg/kg at an interval of 10 to 14 days and;

Dates of treatment:.....

- ii) three consecutive daily doses of fenbendazole at a dose of 50 mg/kg per os and;

Dates of treatment:.....

- iii) two treatments, at a minimum of 14 days apart with a compound effective against *Echinococcus* species:

Active ingredient and dose rate : .....

Dates of treatment:.....

6.4 The otters tested negative for *Dirofilaria immitis* using:

- i) a microfilariae concentration test, and
- ii) two antigen tests, 21 days apart

Tests used:.....

Dates of test:.....

6.5 Within the first 14 days of PEI the otters were treated for ectoparasites with a compound capable of killing fleas, mites, lice and ticks.

Active ingredients and dose rate : .....

Date of treatment:.....

6.6 Within 72 hours of export the otters were again treated with an ectoparasiticide capable of killing fleas mites, lice and ticks;

Active ingredients and dose rate : .....

Date of treatment:.....

6.7 The otters were subjected to two faecal examinations, at least 14 days apart, using a floatation concentration method able to detect 1 egg/3g of faeces, with negative results (*method based on that of: Egwang TG, Slocombe JOD. Evaluation of the Cornwell-Wisconsin centrifugal flotation technique for recovering trichostrongylid eggs from bovine feces. Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine 46, 133-7, 1982*).

Dates of faecal examination:.....

6.8 A faecal sample from each otter was cultured for *Salmonellae* (all isolates must be serotyped); and *Yersinia ruckeri* with negative results.

Date of sampling:.....

6.9 The otters were treated for Leptospirosis with:

EITHER 2 injections of long-acting oxytetracycline 20 mg/kg 10 days apart;

OR oral doxycycline at a therapeutic dose rate for 14 consecutive days

Active ingredient and dose rate:.....

Dates of treatment:.....

6.10 Within 48 hours of export, the otters were examined by an Official Veterinarian and found to be free from clinical signs of infectious disease and external parasites.

7. Transport to New Zealand:

7.1 The vehicles in which the animals were transported from the PEI premise to the port of departure were cleaned and disinfected.

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 being shipped by air, the animals must 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 During transport, the use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterile peat, soft board or other inert approved products are used.

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 being 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 AQIS 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**