



Import Health Standard

ZOORODIC.SPE

Zoo Rodents from Australia, the European Union and the
United States of America

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Issuing Authority

This standard is issued under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

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(Pursuant to delegated authority)


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Part A: Introduction

Background

1. This document, issued under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, is the Import Health Standard for Zoo Rodents from Australia, the European Union and the United States of America.
2. If this standard needs to be amended or revoked urgently, or the Director General or delegate considers that an amendment is minor, the amendment or revocation may be carried out without prior consultation.
3. Where the requirements of this import health standard have been complied with, a biosecurity authority/direction may be issued under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act. The Biosecurity Act can be accessed at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/> 

Scope

4. This standard specifies the requirements that must be met to import, into New Zealand, zoo rodents from Australia, the European Union and the United States of America.
5. For the purposes of this standard, the rodents must come from premises that are under veterinary supervision, and must not have been caught in the wild.
6. For the purposes of this standard, zoo rodents are restricted to the following species:
 - African crested porcupine: *Hystrix cristata*, *Hystrix africaeaustralis*
 - Brazilian agouti: *Dasyprocta leporina*, *Dasyprocta aguti*
 - Capybara: *Hydrochaerus hydrochaeris* (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*)
 - Patagonian mara: *Dolichotis patagonum*.

Importer's responsibilities

7. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant import health standard. Current versions of import health standards are available on the MPI New Zealand website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>. A register of import health standards is also available for inspection at the office of the Director-General during normal business hours.
8. The costs of MPI in performing functions relating to the importation of rodents shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity authority shall be borne by the importer or agent.
9. It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that the consignment is accompanied by a permit to export in accordance with the legislation of the country of origin and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): <http://www.cites.org>. The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of animal in relation to international agreements on their trade prior to export. Material arriving in New Zealand without the correct CITES permit/s may be subject to seizure by the New Zealand Department of Conservation. [Note: Any requirement for the CITES or other conservation-related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer and is independent of this import health standard.]
10. The importer must obtain a permit to import prior to proceeding with importation.

11. The importer must notify the date, expected time, port of arrival and the flight number or ship's name to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 7 days in advance of importation. Email: liveanimalsector@mpi.govt.nz

Definitions

Approved country

Australia, the European Union and the United States of America

Biosecurity Authority

Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, to move un-cleared 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

Competent Authority

The Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring, or supervising, the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards, and recommendations in the *OIE Code* in the whole territory

Equivalence

Acceptance by the Director-General of Primary Industries or person with delegated authority 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

IATA

The International Air Transport Association

Inspector

A person who is appointed an inspector under Section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. (Explanatory note: An inspector is appointed to administer and enforce the provisions of the Biosecurity Act, and in respect of new organisms, the provisions of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996)

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the exporting 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 the Section 5.2 of the *OIE Code* pertaining to principles of certification

OIE

World Organisation for Animal Health

OIE Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Any reference in this standard to the OIE Code is to the most current as found on the OIE website: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>

Permit to Import

A written order issued by the Director-General of MPI under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Zoo

A containment facility approved under the Biosecurity Act to the containment standard where live zoo animals are kept for the purposes of public exhibition, conservation, research or education. Note: A zoo includes for example, a circus, butterfly house, aquarium or an oceanarium. A zoo may also hold indigenous animals that are not new organisms but these animals are not covered by this standard

Zoo Animal

A new organism approved under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996 (HSNO) to be held in a zoo. The organism is both a new organism under the HSNO Act and a restricted organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993

Part B: General Requirements

Eligibility

12. The animals have been resident in one or more government registered, or licensed, zoos or wildlife parks in an approved country or countries in this import health standard since birth.
13. The animals must not be in the last trimester of pregnancy on the date of export.
14. The animals must be older than the accepted post-wean age for the species at departure and weaned, healthy and fit to travel.

Permit to import

15. A permit to import is required for the importation of all rodents into New Zealand.

An application form for a permit to import can be obtained from the MPI website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-live-animals-into-trans-facility> or by contacting:

Animal Imports
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington
New Zealand
Email: animalimports@mpi.govt.nz

16. The importer must supply the following information:
 - name and address of exporter;
 - number, sex, age, species and microchip transponder identification of the animal;
 - date of the proposed importation;
 - name and address of the transitional/containment facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation;
 - a letter from the New Zealand Official Veterinarian supervising the transitional facility indicating that the facility is available for this consignment;
 - port of arrival, and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.

17. The permit to import will be issued for a single consignment.

Documentation accompanying the consignment

18. Documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard must be original (unless otherwise specified), in English, and clearly legible. Inadequate documentation may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity authority or rejection of the consignment.

19. The consignment must be accompanied by:

- a signed copy of the permit to import; AND
- health certification that meets the requirements of Part C: Zoosanitary Certification

20. 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.

21. A copy of all documentation must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of entry at least 72 hours in advance of importation. Email:

liveanimalsector@mpi.govt.nz

Transport

22. In the case of transport by:

- Air: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the requirements published in the IATA Live Animal Regulations.
- Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the *MPI Shipping Requirements for Sea Transport of Livestock* or MPI-approved equivalent.

23. No animals, other than those qualified for entry into New Zealand (and with permission from MPI), are permitted to be transported with the rodents on the aircraft or ship.

24. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product may be used as bedding.

25. The door of the transport container must be sealed with a seal approved by the government of the country of origin before the container is loaded in the country of origin. The number or mark on the seal must be recorded in the zoosanitary certificate by the Official Veterinarian. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal. If the container is opened during shipment it must be re sealed and a certificate detailing the circumstances provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority, or captain of the aircraft. Instructions to this effect must be attached to the outside of the transport container.

26. Trans-shipment in any third country may only occur if pre-approved by MPI.

27. Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard. Refer to:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>

Biosecurity authority

28. On the rodents' arrival in New Zealand, an Official Veterinarian may give a biosecurity authorisation under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the animals to move to the transitional facility named in the permit to import.
29. Any unused feed, bedding and faecal material not in the crate must be destroyed by a MPI-approved method.

Transitional facility

30. Following biosecurity authorisation being given, the animals must proceed directly to the transitional facility.
31. The animals shall remain in the transitional facility for no less than 10 days, or for a longer period as specified in the biosecurity authorisation under section 27 of the Biosecurity Act.
32. As soon as practical after arrival in the transitional facility, the animals must be subject to such testing, treatments or procedures as is required to diagnose a disease, ascertain the presence or absence of any pest or unwanted organism or make an assessment of measures taken to eradicate any pest or unwanted organism, including:
 - verification of the microchip identification of the animals; AND
 - inspection under the supervision of the supervising Official Veterinarian for ticks. If ticks are found, the animals must be retreated and re-examined until the animals are found to be free from evidence of ectoparasites.
33. If any animal fails a test or shows signs of disease, MPI may give reasonable directions to (a) treat the animal or (b) destroy the animal (without recompense). In exercising these powers, MPI will primarily take into account the need to effectively manage biosecurity risks arising from the imported animal. MPI may offer the importer the option of re-exporting the animals to the country of origin (at the importer's expense) if this is consistent with the primary objective stated above. MPI can also authorise the animal to be held as long as necessary for the importer to obtain a biosecurity authorisation to containment.
34. On satisfactory completion of the post arrival quarantine period, and providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under Part C Zoosanitary Certification and the consignment meets the conditions of Eligibility, the supervising Official Veterinarian will authorise the animals be moved from the transitional facility to a containment facility, approved to MPI Standard 154.03.04 Containment Facilities for Zoo Animals: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/animals/154-03-04.htm>
35. All costs of testing, treatment, transport, quarantine servicing and veterinary supervision must be borne by the importer.
36. The crates must be cleaned and disinfected and stored until the end of quarantine. After completion of quarantine all feed, bedding material and faeces from the transitional facility and crate must be destroyed by a MPI-approved method.

37. The animals and their offspring must remain permanently in a containment facility and may only be transferred to another containment facility with the prior permission of MPI.

Equivalence

38. The import health standard has been agreed as suitable for trade between New Zealand and Australia, the European Union and USA. It is expected that the consignment will meet the conditions in every respect.
39. Occasionally it may be found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the requirements in this import health standard. In such cases, a permit to import application may be made, equivalence granted and import permit issued at the discretion of MPI. The following information must be forwarded by the certifying government's Competent Authority for an equivalence to be considered:
- which clause/s of the zoosanitary certificate cannot be met and how this has occurred;
 - the reason the consignment is considered to be of an 'equivalent health' status;
 - the reasons why the Competent Authority of the country of origin believes this proposal should be acceptable to MPI and their recommendation for its acceptance.

Part C: Zoosanitary Certificate

The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate is approved to accompany imports of rodents into New Zealand from Australia, the European Union and USA.

1. Species of rodent:
To: NEW ZEALAND
Permit to import number:
Exporting Country:
Competent Authority:
2. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS
Microchip number:
Site of microchip:
Other identification (eg ARKS number):
Sex:
Date of birth:
Total number of animals:
3. ORIGIN OF THE ANIMAL
Name and address of exporter:
Place of origin of animal:
Port of embarkation:

Sanitary information

I,....., an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the country of origin of the rodents, certify after due enquiry that the rodents described above satisfy the following requirements:

4. The animals have been resident in one or more government registered, or licensed, zoos or wildlife parks in the approved country or countries in this import health standard since birth.
5. The premises in the country of origin in which the animals for export have been resident are under permanent veterinary supervision, and a health monitoring programme is followed including necropsies, and microbiological and parasitological testing.

Pre-export isolation

6. The animals were held in pre-export isolation (PEI):
 - for a minimum period of 30 days prior to export; AND
 - in premises that were approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian; AND
 - isolated from other animals not of equivalent health status; AND
 - the animals and all in-contact animals were free from clinical signs of infectious disease.
7. The quarantine premises had an impervious washable floor and walls. Prior to housing the animals, the premises were thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with an acaricide. Bedding and feed used were clean and free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds. Bedding was removed every 10 days and the premises thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with acaricide. When examined for ticks (see number 11) the animals were also thoroughly examined and if possible groomed to ensure there were no weed seeds present.

Tests and treatments

8. *Babesia* species

- a. The rodents originate from premises where babesiosis caused by species exotic to New Zealand has not been confirmed by laboratory testing in any resident species in the previous 3 years, OR
- b. During PEI the rodents were tested with an OIE-described test, with negative results.

Test type:.....

Test result:.....

Date of test:.....

(strike out option not used)

9. *Leptospira* species

During PEI the rodents were treated with an antibiotic effective in clearing leptospire.

Antibiotic:.....

Active ingredient(s):.....

Dose rate:

Dates of treatment:

10. ***Typanosoma evansi* (surra)**

- a. The rodents come from premises where surra has never been recorded in any resident species; OR
- b. During PEI, as well as being treated with an acaricide, the quarantine premises were sprayed with insecticide as required for efficacy; AND the rodents were tested using an OIE-described test, with negative results.

Test type:.....
Test result:.....
Date of test:.....
(strike out option not used)

11. **Ticks**

The zoo rodents were treated with an acaricide in the 7-10 days prior to entering PEI, and at least 10 days after entering PEI they were thoroughly examined for ectoparasites and retreated with an acaricide. If ectoparasites were found on examination, these were removed and the animals were re-examined as required by MPI.

Treatment 1:.....
Product used:
Active ingredient and concentration:
Date:.....

Treatment 2:.....
Product used:.....
Active ingredients and concentration:.....
Date;.....

Inspection and transport

- 12. The animals were examined by an Official Veterinarian in the 72 hours prior to export, and were free from clinical evidence of infectious or contagious disease, external parasites, plant and seed contamination, and were healthy and fit to travel.
- 13. The containers used for transporting the animals were new or were cleaned and disinfected, and if from a country where surra is present were sprayed with a residual insecticide, prior to loading as required by MPI. Containers constructed of timber met the requirements of the wood packaging import health standard (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>)
- 14. Only sterilised peat, soft board or other inert approved product was provided for bedding during transport.
- 15. During transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand the animals were not transported with animals that are not eligible for export to New Zealand.
- 16. All food loaded for use during transport to the port of departure and during transit to New Zealand was free from evidence of contamination with ticks and weeds/weed seeds.
- 17. In the case of transport by:

- Air: the transport facilities and arrangements meet the requirements published in the IATA Live Animal Regulations;
- Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements meet the *MPI Shipping Requirements for Sea Transport of Livestock* or an MPI-approved equivalent.

18. The container was fastened with an official seal bearing the number or mark:

.....

Note: Official stamp, signature and date must be applied to all pages and any documents that form part of the extended certificate