



Laboratory Rodents to Australia (OMAR)

AULAB23

Effective from 10 March 2025

TITLE

Animal Products Notice: Laboratory Rodents to Australia (OMAR)

COMMENCEMENT

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 10 March 2025

REVOCATION

This Animal Products Notice revokes and replaces:

- OMAR B MIRANIEC.AUS 14.08.12 – LABORATORY RODENTS (MICE, BLACK RATS AND BROWN RATS) from NEW ZEALAND to AUSTRALIA

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Animal Products Notice is issued under sections 167(1) and 60(1) of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Dated at Wellington, 7 March 2025

Trish Mead
Manager Animal Health & Exports
Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Animal Products Notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the zoosanitary requirements necessary to export compliant rodents from New Zealand to Australia.

Background

The Animal Products Act 1999 provides the controls and mechanisms needed to give and to safeguard official assurances (zoosanitary certificates / export certificates / health certificates / veterinary certificates) to facilitate the entry of animal material including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, and products into overseas markets.

Notices issued as Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs) under section 60(1)(a) and (b) of the Animal Products Act specify the requirements that are necessary or desirable for the purpose of facilitating access to overseas markets or are in accordance with the requirements of the relevant authority of the importing country.

OMARs may also determine the form and content of the official assurances that can be issued for animal material or product, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen or embryos, which meet the specified requirements.

Where the OMAR determines the form and content of the official assurances, a separate export certificate template is available to certifiers, official assurance verifiers, and registered exporters who have applied for access to the certificate templates, to facilitate the completion and issuing of the relevant official assurance. That template will be an amendable version of the form set in the OMAR.

Notices issued under section 60(1)(c) of the Animal Products Act to safeguard the assurances provided by New Zealand, and guidance in the form of Operational Codes, should be read in conjunction with this Notice.

This OMAR specifies the requirements that must be met by exporters of laboratory rodents to be exported from New Zealand to Australia and determines the form and content of the official assurance that must accompany the laboratory rodents to be exported. The OMAR was issued after consultation with industry and the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. It is based on the Australian Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON): *Live animals and their reproductive material for laboratory use – Rats and mice*.

Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

Exporters of laboratory rodents to Australia.

Why is this important?

This Notice is important because it sets out the requirements that need to be met so that the Director-General of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) can certify that the rodents meet the requirements for export to Australia which New Zealand, in consultation with the government of Australia, has determined will apply. It should be noted that although the rodents may comply with these requirements and be given an official assurance (by way of a certificate), the importing country ultimately retains control over what rodents it clears for entry.

History

Refer to *Appendix 1*

Other information

Export non-conformances

Exporters should note that, under section 51 of the Animal Products Act 1999, where they have exported animal material or products, including live animals, hatching eggs, semen and embryos, that are refused entry by the foreign government they have a statutory duty to notify the Director-General of MPI not later than 24 hours after they have first knowledge of the event.

Liability

Section 61A of the Animal Products Act 1999 states that:

The Crown is not liable, and nor is the Director-General or any employee of the Ministry liable, for any loss arising through the refusal or failure of the relevant authority of an overseas market to admit export animal material or animal product to that market.

Related documents

OMAR documents can be downloaded from <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/export-requirements/omars-for-live-animals-semen-and-embryos/>

When you click on the + symbol on the right-hand side of any OMAR document, you can view the related information and documents (guidance document and export certificate template).

The export certificate for this OMAR is provided for in *Laboratory Rodents to Australia (Export Certificate)*. The export certificate is password-protected through a RealMe ® account.

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This Notice applies to the export of laboratory rodents from New Zealand to Australia.
- (2) The species of laboratory rodents this Notice applies to are:
 - a) Black rats (*Rattus rattus*)
 - b) Brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*)
 - c) Mice (*Mus musculus*)

1.2 Definitions

- (1) In this Notice, unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

Colony means the entire group of animals that is in contact with the animals to be exported. In contact animals are those that share airspaces, handlers and equipment and not separated by air filters or any physical barriers.
- (2) A term used in this Notice that is defined in the Act or the following Notices (or their successors) has the meaning given to it in the Act or that Notice:
 - a) [Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Requirements.](#)
 - b) [Animal Products Notice: Recognised Laboratories](#)

1.3 Requirements for export

- (1) Rodents exported from New Zealand to Australia must be accompanied by an official assurance in the form of a zoosanitary certificate, a sample version of which is included in Part 2.
- (2) A zoosanitary certificate must be completed and issued by an authorised person.
- (3) In order to issue a zoosanitary certificate, the authorised person must be satisfied that:
 - a) A permit to import the rodents has been issued by the competent authority of Australia.
 - b) The rodents must have been housed their entire lifetime at a scientific institution.
 - c) The proposed shipment otherwise meets the requirements of this Notice.

1.4 Laboratories

- (1) Where this Notice requires laboratory testing to be undertaken for official purposes the testing, unless otherwise stated must be done in laboratories recognised by MPI for this testing.

Part 2: Zoosanitary Certificate



Certificate No:

NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: LABORATORY RODENTS (MOUSE *Mus musculus*, BLACK RAT *Rattus rattus* and BROWN RAT *R. norvegicus* ONLY)

To: AUSTRALIA

Exporting Country: NEW ZEALAND

Competent Authority: MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Import Permit Number:

I: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL(S)

Species	Description	Sex	Age

Total number of animals in consignment:

Air Waybill of consignment:

II: SOURCE OF ANIMAL(S)

Name and address of exporter:

.....

Facility of origin of animal(s) name and address:

.....

III: DESTINATION OF ANIMAL(S)

Name and address of consignee:

.....

Means of transport:

Scheduled date and identification of transport:

IV: SANITARY INFORMATION**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE**

I, being an Official Veterinarian of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, certify with respect to the animals identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate that:

1. Premises of origin

- 1.1 The animals for export were bred and housed for their lifetime in a facility that is part of a bona fide scientific institution as evidenced by the existence of an Animal Ethics Committee or equivalent arrangement with the organisation.
- 1.2 The colony of origin is housed in accommodation that precludes access by other animals, including wildlife, and insects and is free of infestation with ectoparasites.

2. Pre-export isolation and disease freedom (hantavirus, ectromelia virus and rabies)

- 2.1 During the twelve (12) months prior to the date of export there has been no clinical or other evidence of the following diseases or infectious agents in the colony including hantaviruses, ectromelia virus and rabies.
- 2.2 During the 30 days immediately prior to export each animal for export has remained clinically healthy and free from evidence of hantaviruses, ectromelia virus and rabies.
- 2.3 During the 30 days immediately prior to export the colony has remained isolated from animals not of equivalent health status.

3. Hantavirus testing

- 3.1 During the six months immediately prior to export the colony tested negative for hantavirus in accordance with either clause 3.3 or 3.4, or was certified using clause 3.5.
- 3.2 No new animals were introduced to the colony (unless they have tested negative for hantavirus) between the time of testing for hantavirus and export.

EITHER

[*3.3 The colony was tested with negative results for hantavirus by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or multiplex fluorescent immunoassay (MFI) during the six (6) months immediately prior to export.

- 3.3.1 Animals tested were at least eight (8) weeks of age.
- 3.3.2 The number of animals tested provided 99% confidence of detecting disease at 25% prevalence.
- 3.3.3 Laboratory reports have been provided and include the number of animals in the colony, the number of animals tested and the date of blood collection.]

OR

[*3.4 Sentinels were tested with negative results for hantavirus by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or multiplex fluorescent immunoassay (MFI) during the six (6) months immediately prior to export.

- 3.4.1 Sentinels of the same species, 8-12 weeks of age were placed with the colony and remained in contact for a minimum of 45 days but not more than 120 days prior to testing.

Certificate No:

3.4.2 An appropriate number of sentinels were tested to provide 99% confidence of detecting disease at 25% prevalence. Note a few additional sentinels should be added to the colony to allow for incidental losses.

3.4.3 Laboratory reports have been provided and include the number of animals in the colony, the date of introduction of sentinels, the number of sentinels tested, the date of blood collection.]

OR

[*3.5 Testing for hantavirus has not occurred.

Note: If testing for hantavirus has not been undertaken the animals will be directed for isolation at an approved arrangement (AA) site.]

[* Delete as appropriate]

5. During the seventy-two (72) hours immediately prior to leaving the facility for export, each animal was examined and found to be free from evidence of infectious and contagious disease and ectoparasites.



.....
Signature of Official Veterinarian
New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries

.....
Official Stamp and Date

Name and address
.....

Appendix 1 – Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
10 March 2025	All sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated requirements to match Australia's BICON conditions.• New OMAR format.