



Rodents for Zoological Purposes to Australia (OMAR)

AUROD45

Effective from 28 February 2025

TITLE

Animal Products Notice: Rodents for Zoological Purposes to Australia (OMAR)

COMMENCEMENT

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 28 February 2025

REVOCATION

This Animal Products Notice revokes and replaces:

- ZOOROD.AU 20 DECEMBER 2017 – RODENTS FOR ZOOLOGICAL PURPOSES 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, 17 February 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 for zoological purposes 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 rodents for zoological purposes to be exported from New Zealand to Australia and determines the form and content of the official assurance that must accompany the rodents for zoological purposes 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 BICON Conditions: Rodents for Zoological Purposes - Effective 15 January 2025.

Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

Exporters of rodents for zoological purposes 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 for zoological purposes 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 for zoological purposes 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 for zoological purposes it clears for entry.

Document 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 *Rodents for Zoological Purposes 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 Brazilian agouti (*Dasyprocta leporine*), Cape porcupine (*Hystrix africaeaustralis*), capybara (*Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris*) and Patagonian maras (*Dolichotis patagonum*) from New Zealand to Australia.
- (2) The rodents for zoological purposes must be sourced from either a zoo, aquarium or other institution, approved, licensed or registered by the New Zealand government to hold non-domestic rodents.

1.2 Definitions

- (1) In this Notice, unless the context otherwise requires:
Act means the Animal Products Act 1999
- (3) 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.](#)

1.3 Requirements for export

- (1) Rodents for zoological purposes 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 for zoological purposes has been issued by the competent authority of Australia.
 - b) The Pre-Export Quarantine facility (PEQ) has met the country and premises requirements specified in the zoosanitary certificate before export preparations commenced.
 - c) The PEQ facility has been approved by the Australian Department of Agriculture and the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries before commencement of PEQ.
 - d) Arrangements have been made to ensure that the animals will travel in a container that meets the container requirements specified for that species in the *International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations*.
 - e) All feed used during transport to the Australia territory must enter the pre-export establishment before commencement of the PEQ period.
 - f) The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport is not permitted.
 - g) The proposed shipment otherwise meets the requirements of this Notice.

Part 2: Zoosanitary Certificate



Certificate No:

NEW ZEALAND MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATE

Commodity: RODENTS FOR ZOOLOGICAL PURPOSES
To: AUSTRALIA
Exporting country: NEW ZEALAND
Competent authority: MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
Import Permit Number:

I. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL

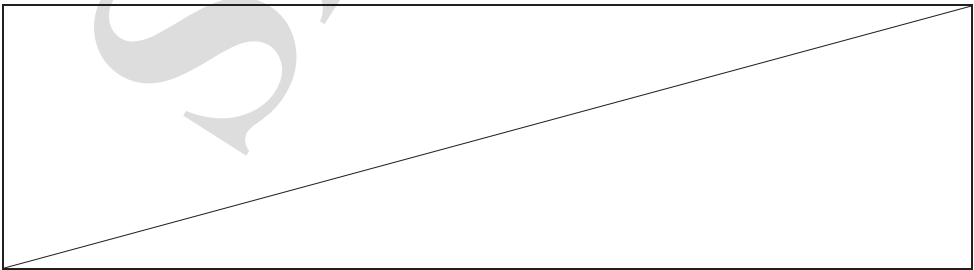
Microchip number and site of implantation	Species (Scientific name)	Breed and description	Sex	Age

II. ORIGIN OF ANIMAL

Name, identifier and address of exporter:.....
.....
Name and address of registered zoo/wildlife park of origin:.....
.....

III. DESTINATION OF ANIMAL

Name and address of consignee:.....
.....
Means and identification of transport:



Certificate No:

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE**

I, an Official Veterinarian of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, certify, after due enquiry in regard to the animals identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate, that:

1. PREMISES OF ORIGIN

- 1.1 The premises of origin is a zoo, aquarium or other institution, approved, licensed or registered by the government to hold non-domestic rodents.
- 1.2 The animal for export has been continuously resident in the premises of origin for at least 12 (twelve) months prior to certification or since birth.
- 1.3 The premises of origin is under veterinary supervision, where the health of the animal(s) is monitored so that incursions of disease are identified, and control and/or eradication measures can be applied. The premises of origin operates a documented animal health monitoring program which includes microbiological and parasitological tests and necropsies.
- 1.4 No case of bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) has been diagnosed in the premises of origin during the past 3 (three) years. No case of babesiosis has been diagnosed in rodents in the premises of origin during the 12 (twelve) months prior to certification.

2. ISOLATION AND TESTING

- 2.1 The animal was isolated from other animals not of the same health and residency status for at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the scheduled date of export and remained free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease until certification.
- 2.2 During the first week of isolation the animal was treated for endoparasites using parasiticides effective against nematodes, cestodes and trematodes and was tested by appropriate parasitological techniques 7-14 days later.
If evidence of parasites was detected, the animal was re-treated and re-tested until negative results were obtained.*

Date of treatment	Active ingredient(s) and dose rate(s)	Date of testing	Test result

*Duplicate table rows if required

- 2.3 During isolation the animal was treated twice, at an interval of 14 days, for ectoparasites using parasiticides effective against ticks, mites and lice.

	Date of treatment	Active ingredient(s) and dose rate(s)
First treatment		
Second treatment		

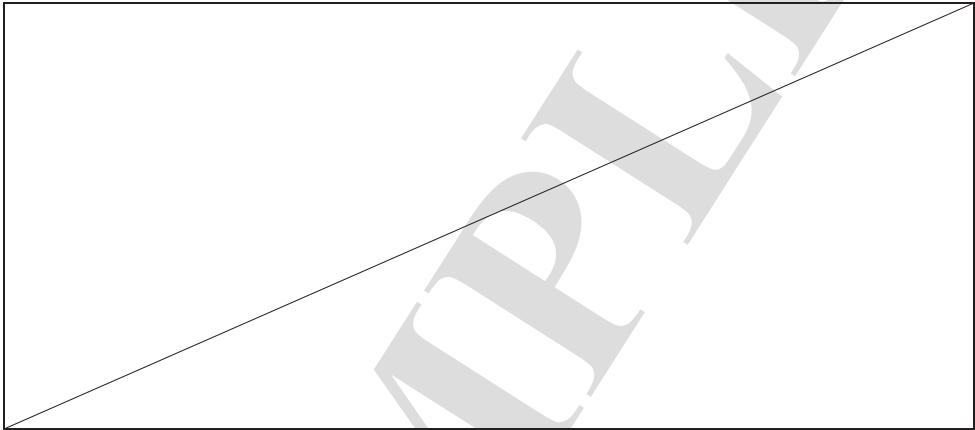
3. EXAMINATION

- 3.1 The animal for export has been individually identified with an International Standards Organisation (ISO) compliant microchip.
- 3.2 The animal for export was individually examined by an Official Veterinarian within 24 (twenty-four) hours prior to export and found to be free from evidence of infectious or contagious disease; visibly free from fleas, ticks and other external parasites and is healthy and fit to travel.

Certificate No:

4. TRANSPORT

- 4.1 After due enquiry I am satisfied that the animal will be shipped in a container that meets the container requirements specified in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations.
- 4.2 After due enquiry I am satisfied that the container for transport is new or was cleaned and disinfected prior to loading the animal. Containers constructed of timber were treated against insect infestation or fumigated prior to loading, as required by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
- 4.3 After due enquiry I am satisfied that during transport, the animal will have no contact with other animals not of the same export consignment.



.....
Signature Official Veterinarian
Ministry for Primary Industries

.....
Official Stamp and Date

.....
.....
Name and Address

Appendix 1 – Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
28 February 2025	All sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment of wording to match Australia's BICON conditions.• New OMAR template