



# Risk Management Proposal

Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants

ELESEMEN.SPE

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## Disclaimer

This risk management proposal does not constitute, and should not be regarded as, legal advice. While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this document is accurate, the Ministry for Primary Industries does not accept any responsibility or liability whatsoever for any error of fact, omission, interpretation or opinion that may be present, however it may have occurred.

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Requests for further copies should be directed to:

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)  
Regulation & Assurance Branch  
Animal Imports  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
Email: [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz)  
Telephone: 04 890 0134

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# 1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- a) Show how options for the management of risk organisms in the semen of zoo Asian elephants from the European Union (EU) have been assessed.
- b) Provide recommendations for import requirements.

## 2 Background

This RMP includes the risk management decisions supporting the amendment of the current elephant semen import health standard (IHS) to include elephant semen from the European Union.

A risk management proposal (RMP) citing a rapid risk analysis (RRA) accompanied the issue of the MPI *Import Health Standard for Zoo Asian Elephants from Sri Lanka and Australia* in June 2013. In March 2017 the *Import Health Standard (IHS) for Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants from Australia*, developed from the same RRA, was issued. The March 2017 risk management proposal (RMP) explaining the risk management decisions that supported the March 2017 IHS can be found on the MPI consultation page: <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/draft-ihs-for-importing-semen-from-zoo-asian-elephants-from-australia/>

Auckland Zoo requested urgently the ability to import elephant semen from the United Kingdom, following unsuccessful attempts to import elephants under the current IHS for zoo Asian elephants from Australia or Sri Lanka, or elephant semen under the current IHS for semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia.

MPI notes that Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water and Resources (DAWR) has issued an assessment of the risks associated with elephant semen from Singapore, the United States, and Member Countries of the European Union. MPI's RRA for live elephants included, amongst others, all of these hazards. Hence, it is concluded that all the potential hazards in semen from zoo Asian elephants from the EU have been considered by MPI in the RRA for zoo Asian elephants from Sri Lanka and Australia.

In addition, the current IHS for elephant semen, and the draft amendment, only allow the importation of semen from zoo Asian elephants that have remained resident in a European zoo approved by the Official Veterinarian of that country, and hence meet the high biosecurity standards of the EU Member States and New Zealand.

In accordance with MPI processes, the draft IHS contains import requirements that manage the biosecurity risk of importing semen from zoo Asian elephants from the EU.

## 3 Objective

The objective is to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with the import of semen from zoo Asian elephants from the European Union, consistent with New Zealand's domestic legislation and international obligations.

## 4 Options assessment

MPI notes that Australia's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has issued an assessment of the risks associated with elephant semen from Singapore, the United States, and Member Countries of the European Union. The risk assessment considers only the following initial hazards:

- Foot and mouth virus
- Tuberculosis
- *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)
- Endotheliotropic elephant herpesvirus
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia

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- Elephant pox
  - Parasites

The MPI RRA for zoo Asian elephants from Sri Lanka considered these risk organisms amongst others in an initial hazard list. The MPI RRA and RMP for live elephants concluded that risk management measures were justified for the following organisms:

- Foot and mouth virus
- *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)
- *Mycobacterium bovis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Tuberculosis)
- *Bacillus anthracis*
- Rabies virus
- Internal and external parasites
- Weed seeds

### ***Bacillus anthracis***

*Bacillus anthracis* was considered in the risk assessment for semen for zoo Asian elephants from Australia, and was determined not to be a risk in the commodity.

### **Weed seeds**

Weed seeds were considered in the risk assessment for semen for zoo Asian elephants from Australia, and were determined not to be risks in the commodity.

### **Internal and external parasites**

Internal and external parasites were considered in the risk assessment for semen for zoo Asian elephants from Australia, and were determined not to be risks in the commodity.

### **Rabies**

Rabies is not considered to be a risk organism in semen from other animal species in MPI risk analyses, so is determined not to be a risk in the commodity.

### ***Mycobacterium bovis*, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis***

The RRA for zoo elephants from Sri Lanka determined that the importation of healthy zoo animals does not affect New Zealand's biosecurity or TB status. Testing requirements are for the importing zoo to determine.

### ***Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)**

The DAWR risk assessment for elephant semen determined that risk from surra in semen is very low or negligible, and in addition the disease has not been reported in EU Member States in the last decade. Hence, surra is determined not to be a risk in the commodity.

### **Foot and mouth virus**

The EU is free from foot and mouth disease virus.

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## 5 General requirements for all importations of semen

- (1) The semen must be collected from Asian elephants that are resident in EU Member State zoos, and have cleared all biosecurity requirements.
- (2) General biosecurity controls are required for semen collection and transportation:
  - a) The EU zoo where the semen donor resides, and where the semen collection will occur, is under permanent veterinary supervision, and a health monitoring programme is followed including necropsies, and microbiological and parasitological testing.
  - b) The registered veterinarian supervising the collection must follow proper disinfection procedures and hygiene techniques, and ensure all personnel involved in collecting and processing the semen are suitably trained.
  - c) The elephant semen must be in straws, ampoules or other sealed packaging.
  - d) All products of animal origin used in the collection, processing and storage of the semen must be sterile preparations or be screened for adventitious viruses with negative results.
  - e) All equipment used in the collection and transport of the semen must be new or suitable sterilised.