



Review of Submissions

Draft Import Health Standard: Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants

Draft Risk Management Proposal: Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants

10 April 2018

Regulation & Assurance

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

Import Health Standard: Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants

10 April 2018

Approved for general release

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1 Introduction

The draft Import Health Standard: Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants was notified for consultation on 2 February 2018.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) received submissions from the following:

Department of Conservation, Rod Hitchmough 9 February 2018

Auckland Zoo, James Chatterton 4 February 2018

This document summarises the issues raised in the submissions, and presents the MPI response to each.

1.1 Acronyms Used in the Document

MPI	Ministry for Primary Industries		
IRA	Import Risk Analysis		

2 Summary of Amendments

As a result of comments made, the following is a summary of amendments to be made to the *Import Health Standard: Semen from Zoo Asian Elephants*.

Copies of all external stakeholder submissions in their entirety are presented in Appendix 1.

2.1 Semen extender

- (1) Clause 1.5(6) has been amended to “All products of animal origin, **other than egg yolk**, used in the collection, processing and storage of the semen must be sterile preparations or be screened for adventitious viruses with negative results.” The veterinary certificate has also been amended to reflect this.

3 Internal Submissions

According to MPI process an internal review period is available to staff of MPI to comment and recommend changes prior to public consultation on an import health standard. No internal submissions were received after the internal review deadline.

4 Review of Submissions

4.1 Department of Conservation, Rod Hitchmough

4.1.1 Elephant semen

The Department of Conservation advised that to the best of their knowledge the IHS does not increase risk to biodiversity values.

MPI Response

Noted.

4.2 Auckland Zoo, James Chatterton

4.2.1 Semen extender

Auckland zoo requested an amendment to be made to the IHS regarding using chicken egg yolk as a semen extender. For semen to be imported from Australia, the zoo has to use extenders containing fresh (frozen) chicken egg yolks. The current IHS and the new draft both state that:

(6) 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.

This therefore does not explicitly allow the use of chicken egg yolk and Auckland zoo would need to apply for dispensation for future elephant semen imports from Australia (as was done with the two recent imports).

In other IHS's for animal semen from EU and AU, egg yolk is permitted.

5.1 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the cervine semen were certified as either sterile preparations or as having been screened for adventitious viruses

or alternatively, from the IHS for equine semen from the EU:

6.3.14 Products of animal origin used in the processing of semen, including diluents, additives or extenders, must be obtained from sources which present no animal health risk or are so treated prior to use that such risk is prevented.

Auckland zoo spoke to the relevant specialist elephant vets in the EU, and the extenders that they typically use in the EU are proprietary/manufactured and therefore would be declared as sterile. However, imports from Australia will continue to require fresh chicken egg yolk in the extender.

MPI Response

Noted. MPI has amended the IHS accordingly.

5 Appendix 1: Copies of Submissions

5.1 Department of Conservation, Rod Hitchmough

From: Rod Hitchmough [<mailto:rhitchmough@doc.govt.nz>]
Sent: Friday, 9 February 2018 2:43 PM
To: Maike Thoene <Maike.Thoene@mpi.govt.nz>
Cc: Verity Forbes (Department of Conservation) <vforbes@doc.govt.nz>; Kate McInnes <kmcinnes@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft Import Health Standard for Semen from zoo Asian Elephants

Dear Maike

We have read the draft import standard for semen from zoo Asian elephants from Australia and the EU, and the associated risk management proposal, and advise that to the best of our knowledge the IHS does not increase risk to biodiversity values.

Regards

Rod Hitchmough (PhD)
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5.2 Auckland Zoo, James Chatterton

From: James Chatterton [<mailto:James.Chatterton@aucklandzoo.co.nz>]
Sent: Sunday, 4 February 2018 9:59 AM
To: Maike Thoene <Maike.Thoene@mpi.govt.nz>; Kevin Buley <kevin.buley@aucklandzoo.co.nz>
Cc: Warren Spencer <warren.spencer@aucklandzoo.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Draft Import Health Standard for Semen from zoo Asian Elephants

Hi Maike,

Kevin passed on the draft IHS for import of elephant semen, which now includes the EU as well as Australia.

I wonder if this redraft is a suitable time to request an amendment to be made to the IHS regarding chicken egg yolk as an extender. As you know, for semen to be imported from Australia, we have to use extenders containing fresh (frozen) chicken egg yolks. The current IHS and the new draft both state that:

(6) 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.

This therefore does not explicitly allow the use of chicken egg yolk and we would need to apply for dispensation for future elephant semen imports from Australia (as we have done with the two recent imports). I am mindful

that this dispensation application incurs additional work with each import (for MPI and Auckland Zoo), and so if it were possible to amend the IHS, then this would avoid the need to apply for dispensation each time in the future.

In other IHS documents for animal semen from EU and AU, egg yolk is permitted. So I wondered if it is possible for the elephant semen IHS to be amended in-line with these, so that chicken egg yolks are ok to use e.g. like in the IHS for cervid semen from the UK which states:

5.1 All products of animal origin, other than egg yolk, used in the collection, processing and storage of the cervine semen were certified as either sterile preparations or as having been screened for adventitious viruses

or alternatively, something like the IHS for equine semen from the EU:

6.3.14 Products of animal origin used in the processing of semen, including diluents, additives or extenders, must be obtained from sources which present no animal health risk or are so treated prior to use that such risk is prevented.

I have spoken to the relevant specialist elephant vets in the EU, and the extenders that they typically use in the EU are proprietary/manufactured and therefore would be declared as sterile. However, future imports from Australia will continue to require fresh chicken egg yolk in the extender.

Thank you for your assistance with this.

Nga mihi nui (kind regards)

James

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