Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Animal Products Notice

Companion Rabbits to Australia (OMAR)

AUPET21

Effective from 5 July 2021

Issued under the Animal Products Act 1999

New Zealand Government

TITLE

Animal Products Notice: Companion Rabbits to Australia (OMAR)

COMMENCEMENT

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 5 July 2021

REVOCATION

This Animal Products Notice revokes and replaces:

- RABANI.AU 9 FEBRUARY 2018 – COMPANION RABBITS 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, 25 June 2021

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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 companion rabbits from New Zealand to Australia.

Background

The Animal Products Act 1999 provides the controls and mechanisms needed to give and to safeguard official assurances or zoosanitary 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 authorised persons, recognised persons 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 companion rabbits to be exported from New Zealand to Australia and determines the form and content of the official assurance that must accompany the companion rabbits to be exported. The OMAR was issued after consultation with industry and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. It is based on the previous OMAR, *RABANI.AU 9 FEBRUARY 2018- COMPANION RABBITS TO AUSTRALIA,* and updated Australian Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) effective 16 June 2021.

Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

Exporters of companion rabbits 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 companion rabbits 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 companion rabbits may comply with these requirements and be given an official assurance (by way of a certificate), the importing country ultimately retains control over what companion rabbits it clears for entry.

Document History

Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
04 July 2021	All sections	• Examination of the coat for the presence of ticks • Removal of ivermectin as the specified drug for parasite treatment. • New OMAR format

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/omars/omars-live-animals-semen-embryos-organics/

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 *Companion Rabbits to Australia (Export Certificate)*. The export certificate is password-protected.

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

(1) This Notice applies to the export of companion rabbits from New Zealand to Australia. Companion rabbits are defined as domestic rabbits, species Oryctolagus cuniculus, which belong to a household in which there are no more than ten (10) rabbits more than six (6) months of age.

(2) This OMAR does not include companion rabbits exported to Queensland as it is illegal to keep rabbits as pets in Queensland.

1.2 Definitions

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

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

ISO means the International Organisation for Standardisation. This is an international standard which regulates the radio-frequency identification of animals by use of a microchip.

(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 Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products.*

1.3 Requirements for export

(1) Companion rabbits 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) All other rabbits on the premises of origin were inspected and found to be clinically healthy and free from evidence of infectious or contagious diseases and external parasites during the forty-eight (48) hours immediately prior to the rabbit(s) being exported.
b) Each rabbit for export is implanted with an ISO compliant microchip.
c) The design of the container(s) used to transport the animal(s) must comply with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal regulations.
d) The use of hay or straw as bedding during transport by air is not permitted. Treated wood shavings, sterilised peat and soft board may be used.
e) 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: COMPANION RABBITS (*Oryctolagus cuniculus)*

To: AUSTRALIA (excluding Queensland)

Exporting Country: NEW ZEALAND

Competent Authority: MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Sample

I. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Microchip Number	Location of Microchip	Description	Species	Sex	Age

Total number of rabbits: ……

II. SOURCE OF ANIMALS

Name and address of exporter: ……..

……

Premises of origin of rabbits: ……

……...

III. DESTINATION OF ANIMALS

Name and address of consignee: …….

……..

Means and identification of transport: …….

……..

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

I....., being an Official Veterinarian of the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, certify after due enquiry in regards to the animals identified in the zoosanitary certificate, that:

1. No case of the disease Tularaemia (*Francisella tularensis*) has been diagnosed in New Zealand in the two (2) years prior to certification.

2. So far as can be determined there is no evidence of the following diseases or infectious agents at the premises where the companion rabbit has resided during the twelve (12) months prior to export:
   - *Treponema cuniculi* (treponematosis)
   - *Encephalitozoon cuniculi* (encephalitozoonosis)
   - *Yersinia pestis* (sylvatic plague)
   - European brown hare syndrome
   - Rabbit enterocolitis

3. As far as can be determined, each rabbit for export has been continuously resident in New Zealand for six (6) months prior to export or since birth.

4. Each rabbit was at least six (6) weeks of age at the time of export

5. Each rabbit for export was examined by an Official Veterinarian during the forty eight (48) hours immediately prior to export and was found to be clinically healthy and free from evidence of infectious or contagious diseases and visible, palpable tumours and external parasites, and was fit to travel.

6. All other rabbits on the premises of origin were inspected and found to be clinically healthy and free from evidence of infectious or contagious diseases and external parasites during the forty eight (48) hours immediately prior to the rabbit(s) being exported.

7. Pre-export testing and treatment:

   a) [The rabbit for export has not been vaccinated for myxomatosis;]*

   OR

   [The rabbit for export was vaccinated for myxomatosis using an approved vaccine containing live Shope Fibroma virus or with an inactivated vaccine a minimum of six (6) months prior to export]*

(*Delete as appropriate)

Sample

b) During the four (4) days immediately prior to export, each rabbit was treated with an ectoparasiticide in accordance with manufacturer's directions:

Name of product: ……..

Active ingredient(s): …….

Dose rate: ……..

Date administered: ……

c) Within the 24 hours prior to export, each rabbit was inspected by an Official Veterinarian and was found to be free of ticks.

……

Signature of Official Veterinarian Official Stamp and Date
Ministry for Primary Industries

……

……

Name and Address

NOTE: The Official Veterinarian must sign, date and stamp each page of the veterinary certificate using a different colour ink to the paper and the print, and, where applicable, sign, date and stamp each page of the documents (e.g. laboratory reports) that form part of the extended health certification.

Sample