



Ref: CTO 2014 144 [G]

Horses: Imported into Australia - Hendra

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of horses from Australia that have been recently imported into Australia from other countries.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Marnie Thomas, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for horses coming from Australia that have recently been imported into Australia from other countries to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard for horses *HORANIIC.GEN* (22 May 2014):

2.17 Hendra and Nipah viruses

- (1) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the past 90 days in a country approved by MPI as free of Hendra and Nipah; or
- (2) The horses were kept since birth or for at least the past 90 days in premises where no case of infection in animals or humans has been reported during that time; and Hendra and Nipah are notifiable in the country of export; and horses were showing no clinical signs of infection with Hendra and Nipah virus at the final inspection prior to export.

Horses that have been imported into Australia from any country less than 90 days prior to export to New Zealand are allowed entry into New Zealand on the grounds that Hendra virus occurs in Australia only. The risk of horses contracting Hendra whilst in Australia is mitigated by veterinary certification stating premise freedom from Hendra for the time the horses were in Australia.

Australian veterinary certification for Hendra virus:

- 22.
 - a. Hendra virus infection is notifiable in Australia;
 - b. the horses were kept since birth or for at least [90] days prior to export (or since being directly imported from New Zealand) at premises where no case of Hendra virus infection in horses was reported during that time.

The number [90] must be deleted and replaced by the appropriate number of days on the veterinary certificate accompanying these horses from Australia with the change dated and signed.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked when the Australian veterinary certificate is updated accordingly.