



2 August 2004

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/14
IMPORTATION OF HATCHING EGGS OF DOMESTIC HENS AND TURKEYS
OUTCOME OF REVIEW OF THE POST ARRIVAL QUARANTINE PERIOD

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the outcome of a review of the post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) period for imported hatching eggs of domestic hens and turkeys. Revised conditions for the importation of hatching eggs of domestic hens and domestic turkeys come into force today.

In February 2003, Biosecurity Australia received a request from the Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group, to reconsider the length of the PAQ period for chicks hatched from imported eggs. The Torrens Island Avian Quarantine Station Stakeholder Group is made up of users of the quarantine station and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Their request arose from a desire to achieve higher throughputs at the Torrens Island quarantine station in particular, in order to reduce the backlog of applications for space in the facility.

The request stated that reducing the PAQ period from 12 weeks post-hatch to 9 weeks post-hatch would allow an additional consignment to be accommodated, every 2 years.

Biosecurity Australia released a discussion paper for stakeholder comment in February 2004 (ABMP 2004/02), which considered the effects of the proposed changes on 12 diseases of quarantine concern, and made recommendations to reduce the PAQ period from 12 weeks post-hatch to 9 weeks post-hatch for domestic hens and turkeys.

Biosecurity Australia appreciated stakeholder comments and these were carefully considered in finalising the policy review. The revised "Conditions for the Importation of Fertile Eggs (Domestic Hen)" and "Conditions for the Importation of Fertile Eggs (Domestic Turkey)" are available on Biosecurity Australia's website www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustalia, or hard copies are available on request.

Next steps

The conditions will come into force today.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below). Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to ABPMs will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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