

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY EXPORT PROGRAM
February 2004

COUNTRY	COMMODITY	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
Argentina	Cattle semen	In November 2003 BA proposed changes to health certificate.	Awaiting response.
Argentina	Cattle embryos and sheep semen	In November 2003 BA sent correspondence to the veterinary authority, proposing changes to these health certificates.	Awaiting response.
Brazil	Cattle semen	In December 2003 the Brazilian veterinary authority (MAPA) advised that BA's proposed model health certificates were acceptable, with minor amendments. MAPA now recognises Australia's free status for TB and Brucellosis. In January 2004 MAPA provided new proposed health conditions – these are acceptable.	Consult with AQIS.
Canada	Bees	BA provided information on incursion of small hive beetle. Canada added specific conditions for small hive beetle.	Monitor developments.
Chile	Salmonid ova	In December 2003 Chile approved AQIS as the competent authority for the export of salmonid ova from a Tasmanian hatchery. Chile also approved AQIS as the competent authority for the export of live fish, molluscs and crustaceans from Australia.	Monitor trade and interest from other potential exporters.
China (Peoples Republic of)	Alpacas	BA proposed bluetongue requirements that would enable the export of alpacas from the NSW Southern Tablelands to China.	Awaiting response.
China (Peoples Republic of)	Cattle: Breeding	Ongoing representations to renegotiate bluetongue, IBR and BEF requirements. China has requested Australia fund a project for Chinese scientists to conduct ongoing visits of Australia to examine our bluetongue free zone.	Representations are continuing. Discussions on China's proposed bluetongue study in Australia are continuing.
China (Peoples Republic of)	Breeding sheep and goats	Ongoing negotiations, with little progress. In January 2004 BA gave a detailed proposal to China following industry and AQIS consultation.	Awaiting response. BA to continue representations to progress this issue.
China	Sheep and goat semen and embryos	BA has proposed changes to align them with other protocols. ACSIQ's visit to approve collection centres for a specified period did not eventuate due to their delay in signing these protocols.	Awaiting response.
China	Rabbits	In August 2003 BA completed questionnaire and returned it to China.	Awaiting response.
Costa Rica	Cattle semen and embryos	In December 2003 BA sent proposed import requirements to Costa Rican authorities.	Awaiting response.
Croatia	Feeder and breeder cattle	In February 2004 BA arranged follow-up through overseas posts to proposed changes to the health requirements.	Awaiting response.
Egypt	Slaughter sheep	In December 2003 Egypt suspended imports following the contamination incident at Portland. BA negotiated additional feed certification in January 2004.	Market now reopened. Monitoring trade.

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EU	Ruminants	Access is blocked by the EC not recognising Australia's bluetongue zone. Ongoing representations on bluetongue and on zoning principles. The EC recently commented on the zoning paper.	Preparing a response to EC comments on zoning. Representations on bluetongue are continuing.
Fiji	Feeder cattle	In October 2003 BA provided comments on a draft protocol.	Awaiting response.
Indonesia	Breeding cattle	BA is seeking less strict requirements. Indonesia advised minor changes in July 2003, but did not accept BA's earlier suggested changes.	Representations are continuing
Indonesia	Feeder and slaughter cattle	Representations are continuing on Indonesia's proposal to permit the use of natural HGPs in cattle, hence banning synthetic ones. BA has provided material on the safety of HGPs and attended an international seminar in Jakarta in July 2003 focusing on the human health aspects of the use of HGPs in cattle. In December 2003 BA convened a meeting with industry to advance post-seminar strategies.	Continue representations and monitor developments.
India	Breeding cattle	Alleged reactors to BVD and bovine malignant catarrh found in dairy cattle after arrival in India. BA visited in July 2002. Cattle are in post arrival quarantine pending resolution of a court dispute.	Monitor situation. Await court ruling. BA will seek agreement on principles to be followed by both countries before trade re-commences.
Japan	Breeding and feeder cattle	In June 2003, BA proposed changes to Johne's disease testing and Tb, brucellosis and leptospirosis requirements. Japan rejected most proposals but will consider alternatives for leptospirosis. In December 2003 BA sent another proposal, following industry consultation.	Awaiting response.
Japan	Cattle semen	Japan requested revision of BSE requirements and flagged further changes to other requirements that are very restrictive. In November 2003 BA only agreed to continue BSE country certification requirements.	Nil.
Japan	Bees	A response was sent to Japan MAFF requesting conditions for honeybees to be equivalent to those in place last year. In December 2003 conditions were finalised for queen bees.	Awaiting a response on honeybees. Monitoring situation.
Madagascar	Breeding cattle	In August 2003 BA wrote to the Madagascar on conditions for Australian breeding cattle – with follow up in November 2003.	Awaiting response.
Malaysia	Breeder cattle	In October 2003 BA sent proposed changes to the health certificate – with follow up in December 2003.	Awaiting response.
Malaysia	Sheep and goats	In August 2003 BA proposed changes to the health requirements. One treatment (DHS) was waived.	Awaiting response to other suggested changes.
Mauritius	Sheep and goats	Response sent in September and October 2003 BA sent information to Mauritius following their expression of interest.	Awaiting response.

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Mexico	Feeder and breeder cattle	BA visited Mexico in July 2003 to present bluetongue zoning information and general health protocol issues. Mexico agreed to health requirements in November 2003 that allow cattle to be sourced from anywhere in Australia and held in, and exported from, the bluetongue virus free zone.	Trade can commence.
Mexico	Breeding and slaughter sheep	Discussions continuing, including during BA's visit in July 2003. Mexico has agreed in principle with science-based health requirements.	Negotiations are continuing.
New Caledonia	Cattle: Embryos	Veterinary authority has fully accepted proposed amendments to health conditions (August 2003).	Nil.
New Caledonia	Cattle: semen	Comments being prepared on proposed health conditions (Nov 2003).	Preparing response.
Peru	Sheep and goat embryos	Peru finalised health conditions in October 2003.	Monitor developments.
Peru	Cattle: Embryos	In July 2003 BA sent a letter to Peru with amendments to conditions.	Awaiting response.
Saudi Arabia	Sheep	Saudi rejected the shipment on the Cormo Express after alleging unacceptably high levels of scabby mouth lesions.	Australia has suspended further shipments to Saudi, pending the negotiation of satisfactory arrangements that would prevent a recurrence of this incident.
South Africa	Sheep and goat: Embryos	RSA sent proposed health protocols for the import of sheep and goat embryos from Australia for comment. BA responded to their proposals with some suggested changes.	Awaiting response.
South Korea	Bees	A Korean delegation visited in February 2003 and officially advised BA in April 2003 that the suspension of live bee imports will continue indefinitely. BA is pursuing arrangements for caged queens and sent information to Korea in November 2003.	Awaiting response.
South Korea	Camels	BA finalised health requirements and the export of camels in September 2003.	No further action.
South Korea	Feeder cattle	Reports of several bluetongue antibody positive cattle from the USA in quarantine in Korea resulted in their facilities being unavailable for Australian cattle and created difficulties for the validity of pre-export test results. In February 2004, BA proposed revisions to the health requirements that would minimise disruption to Australian exporters.	Awaiting response.
South Korea	Horses	BA has requested Korean officials to reconsider the requirement that Australian horses do not reside in Queensland for 60 days prior to export. Information on Hendra virus has been provided, with further information sent in September 2003.	Awaiting response.
Thailand	Draught buffalo	In October 2003 BA sent a letter to the Thai veterinary authority proposing changes to import requirements.	Awaiting response.

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Thailand	Feeder cattle	Representations continue on proposed changes to the protocol, most recently in October 2003.	Awaiting response.
Thailand	Breeding cattle and buffalo	Representations continue on proposed changes to the protocol, most recently in October 2003.	Awaiting response.
United Kingdom (UK)	Alpacas	In January 2003 BA sought clarification from the UK of an EC Directive that has blocked trade. Draft new EC legislation aims to harmonise rules for ungulates (including alpacas) from third countries with the result that alpacas from Australia will no longer be imported. BA has responded to EC's proposed Directive.	Representations continuing, including on EC acceptance of Australia's zoning of bluetongue.
European Union (EU)	Live Carp	The UK has rejected a request for imports from a Victorian lake due to concerns over EHNv (exotic to the UK) – Australia contends carp are not susceptible. In May 2003, the EC released draft EU harmonised rules for imports of live fish that are consistent with the UK decision. BA has written to the EC seeking advice on an experiment to test carp susceptibility to EHNv. BA has also sought UK approval to test another population of carp in South Australia not associated with EHNv.	Awaiting response from EC and UK authorities.
United States of America (USA)	Disease: Bovine Tuberculosis (Tb) and Bovine Brucellosis (Br)	The US accepted Australia's bovine Tb and Br freedom in November 2002. It is undergoing the US rule-making process. In March 2003, BA requested US confirmation that testing donors for bovine Br and Tb are not required for ruminant genetic material from Australia. In response to US queries and their decision regarding sheep and goat embryos (see below), BA provided detailed information to the USA on our current Tb status in August 2003.	Awaiting publishing of final rule and US response on donor testing.
USA	Feeder cattle	The US has commenced its rule-making process on standards for private quarantine premises for ruminants. BA consulted with industry and provided a submission to USDA in October 2003.	Awaiting developments.
USA	Cattle semen	In May 2003 the US agreed to amend arbovirus conditions for bovine semen from Australia. The new conditions allow options other than serological testing of donor bulls.	US and Australian experts to jointly develop a suitable test for semen.
USA	Breeder cattle	In March 2003 BA made a further request to the US to amend the arbovirus certification in line with the feeder cattle health conditions. BA received revised health conditions from US in February 2004.	BA to follow up with USDA on the new identification requirements and an arbovirus amendment.
USA	Sheep and goat embryos and semen	In May 2003 the US agreed to amend the arbovirus certification for the export of sheep and goat embryos and semen from Australia.	BA to provide surveillance data for the causal agents of Tb and Br in sheep and goats.
USA	Honey bees	Australia has been seeking access to the US for honeybees since 1997. A proposed rule was published in August 2002 and BA commented that the proposed rule was unnecessarily restrictive.	Awaiting finalisation of rule making process. Advised in December 2003 by APHIS that there will be a delay in finalisation.

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Vanuatu	Cattle embryos	In December 2003 BA submitted comments on health conditions to Vanuatu's veterinary authority.	Awaiting response.
Vietnam	Breeding and feeder/slaughter cattle	Negotiations continue on requirements for bluetongue, tick fever vaccination, and testing for leptospirosis. BA has provided information on several occasions. BA hopes officials will visit Australia to negotiate the protocols. Further submission sent in January 2004.	Awaiting response. Delay expected due to Avian Influenza outbreak in Vietnam.
Vietnam	Pigs	In April 2003 BA requested removal of testing requirements for diseases exotic to Australia. Proposals were accepted in December 2003.	Monitor developments.