



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

4 November 2005

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/15*

AMENDMENT TO IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR LIVE PIGEONS

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of amendments to the conditions for importation of live pigeons from approved countries. These conditions take effect immediately.

Background

In light of the emerging global spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza, Biosecurity Australia has issued amended conditions for the importation of live pigeons.

Importation of live pigeons is currently only permitted from the United Kingdom, France, the United States of America and Canada.

Recently, a consignment of pigeons imported into Spotswood Quarantine Station in Victoria contained a small number of birds that tested positive to antibodies against avian influenza. It must be emphasized that the birds were tested for avian influenza virus both in pre-export quarantine and in post-arrival quarantine, and were found to be virus negative.

Amendments to conditions

The amended conditions for importation of live pigeons are attached (Attachment A). The main changes to the conditions are:

- Certification of country freedom from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza in poultry; and
- Testing of all pigeons in pre-export quarantine both for virus (via cloacal swabs) and for antibody to avian influenza virus (in blood) with negative results. This requirement applies even when the exporting country certifies freedom from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza.

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder on our register, or if you wish to be removed from the stakeholder register, please provide details to the contact officer (below).

Information on Import Risk Analyses (IRAs) and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at <http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia>

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Biosecurity Australia Policy Memoranda 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

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* Please note Biosecurity Australia has introduced a single system of 'Biosecurity Australia Policy Memoranda' covering animal and plant issues. This replaces previous Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda and Plant Biosecurity Policy Memoranda.