



DAFF04/5682

18 August 2004

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/16

IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANTS FROM THAILAND

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with finalised Quarantine Requirements for the Importation of Elephants from Thailand. The requirements take into account stakeholder comments on the proposed requirements circulated in June 2004 under ABPM 2004/09. The conditions come into effect today.

ABPM 2004/09 of 22 June 2004 provided stakeholders with proposed quarantine requirements for the importation of elephants from Thailand, for comment. The proposed requirements were, in turn, based on a draft circulated in October 2003 (ABPM 2003/27) but were significantly amended in the light of stakeholder comments, a great deal more information on which to base assessment of disease risks, and a review by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) of the formatting used in their import conditions database (ICON) and Import Permits.

We appreciated detailed comments on the proposed requirements from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA Australia Inc) and AQIS. Taking into account these comments, the main changes are:

- . inclusion of transport requirements under Conditions of Administration, rather than under Certification,
- . requiring examination of faecal samples for *Fasciola* eggs in any case, with treatment if any samples are positive,
- . separate sections for post-arrival quarantine on Cocos (Keeling) Islands and on mainland Australia - requested by AQIS.

For one of the proposed requirements, it has proven impossible to erect an outer fence 200 metres from the elephant enclosure. This had been proposed to render any risk of surra transmission during pre-export quarantine negligible. As the outer fence will be not more than 50 metres out in one or more places, the final conditions require testing negative for surra by antibody ELISA during post-arrival quarantine on Cocos.

Next Steps

The revised requirements come into effect on 18 August 2004. 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.

DAVID BANKS
A/g Executive Manager
Biosecurity Australia

Contact officer: Warren Vant
Telephone no: (02) 6272 4436
Facsimile no: (02) 6272 3399
E-mail: warren.vant@daff.gov.au