



Ref: CTO 2016 047 [B]

Veterinary Certification for Horse Embryos from Australia

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors relating to the clearance of horse embryos from Australia according to the approved Department of Agriculture and Water Resources of Australia veterinary certificate

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Howard Pharo, Deputy Chief Technical Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, give the following directions for horse embryos from Australia relating to whether to give clearance in accordance with the approved veterinary certificate from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) of Australia. The approved veterinary certificate contains the following measures, different from those in the applicable Import Health Standard Semen and Embryos from Horses (Equidae) (HORSSEMB.SPE), issued 3 December 2015:

1. All required laboratory testing will be conducted at a NATA accredited laboratory using methods described in the OIE *Manual* instead of at a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority.

I consider that laboratory testing conducted at a NATA accredited laboratory to be equivalent because the DAWR has confirmed that the responsibility for approval of laboratories does not rest with the DAWR, but with Australia's National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA).

2. An amendment to clause 5: **After due enquiry**, all products and vaccinations (final dose of a primary or recommended booster) administered to meet specific disease requirements were administered according to the manufacturer's instruction **or as required** in a country approved to export to New Zealand.

I consider the amendments to provide the equivalent level of risk management since the DAWR would be unable to certify for vaccinations that have occurred in other countries and allowing horses to be vaccinated as per manufacturer's instruction or as required in a country approved to export to New Zealand when extensive vaccination records are present, manages the biosecurity risk.

3. An amendment to clause 24 i) ii. that allows revaccination as required and removes the vaccine details from the clause and moves that information to the accompanying Veterinary Certificate Table.

I consider the amendment to provide an equivalent level of risk management because allowing horses to be vaccinated as required in a country approved to export to New Zealand, instead of as per manufacturer's instructions, when extensive vaccination records are present manages the biosecurity risk. I consider the deletion of the product/vaccine details from the clause to be equivalent to the requirements of HORSSEMB.SPE because the details will be recorded in the accompanying table.

4. Removal of the contagious equine metritis requirement.

I consider the deletion to manage the risk with equivalent outcome because the DAWR has confirmed that Australia has not reported an occurrence of CEM since 1980, the disease is nationally notifiable, and all horses imported into Australia must undergo CEM testing as part of the biosecurity measures for horses from approved countries. Australia's CEM-free status is recognised in the veterinary certificate for horses from Australia under the IHS HORANIIC.GEN.

The above varied requirements are deemed by MPI as equivalent to the requirements in HORSSEMB.SPE. 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.