



Australian Government

**Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service**

EQUINE BIOSECURITY

Current Import Arrangements

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Changes Post EI Outbreak

- A number of changes across the quarantine continuum - pre-export, border, post-arrival
- Some changes implemented immediately, others more recently, representing the Government's response to the Equine Influenza Inquiry
- Senior officer 'primarily responsible and accountable for the importation of horses into Australia'- Rec 1



Government Response to EI Inquiry

- Commissioner made 38 recommendations to strengthen quarantine measures (all agreed by the Government) covering:
 - Inspector-General of Horse Imports (Interim)
 - Pre-export requirements
 - Facilities at Airports and Quarantine Stations
 - Operating Procedures, Work Instructions for AQIS and non-AQIS personnel
 - Import Risk Analysis and other reviews
 - Recovery of Quarantine Expenses
- Implementation Project plan available at www.aqis.gov.au (look at *About AQIS, Equine Influenza Inquiry*)



Pre-export

Revised interim quarantine measures and updates post EI Inquiry:

- PEQ
 - PEQ Inspections by AQIS - criteria, reports, audits
 - AQIS approval of PEQs
 - Vaccination changes- new strains, timing now 2-6 months plus 14-21 days prior to entering PEQ
 - Showering in
 - Blood samples collected and stored
 - Nasopharyngeal swabs for absence of EI (2 in PEQ, 3 in PAQ)
- Prior to departure
 - Sufficient evidence to AQIS of compliance with conditions
- BA to review activities and events before import
- Interim Inspector-General to provide advice
- Import Risk Analysis



Airports and Quarantine Stations Facilities

- Expert Group to provide advice to AQIS on facilities at airports and quarantine stations regarding biosecurity containment, animal welfare and OH&S
- Upgraded facilities at the airports and quarantine stations including showers, fencing
- Biosecurity Australia and Interim Inspector-General to provide advice



Airport & Post-Arrival Quarantine

- Increased AQIS staffing, coordination and control for airport arrivals
- 24hr security at quarantine stations, AQIS supervision of entry/exit
- AQIS on-site supervision of private vets, farriers etc
- Nasopharyngeal swabs for EI detection (24hr, 5d and 3d prior to release)
- Enhanced intervention for T^o increases



Operating Procedures

- Updated operating procedures for AQIS and non-AQIS personnel
 - WIs, training, verification
- Roles and responsibilities clarified and documented
- Biosecurity Australia have inspected and reviewed operating procedures
- Interim Inspector-General inspecting & auditing operations and procedures from PEQ through to end of PAQ



Industry Consultation

- Noted specifically in several recommendations, implied in others
- WIs for non-AQIS personnel
- Horse Industry Consultative Committee formed
 - membership includes AQIS, horse industry reps, importers, AVA, airports, other areas of DAFF
- TORs, minutes and other information available at www.aqis.gov.au (look at *About AQIS, Equine Influenza Inquiry*)
- More changes in the future once reviews finalised:
 - facilities
 - legislation
 - import conditions
 - fee review

