

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY, FISHERIES & BIOSECURITY
BIOSECURITY VANUATU

Animal Importation and Quarantine Act No.7 of 1988

SCHEDULE 80

CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO VANUATU OF IN VIVO-FERTILISED
FROZEN BOVINE EMBRYOS FROM NEW CALEDONIA

SECTION 1: IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

1. Import Health Standard

- 1.1. Pursuant to Schedule 80 of the Animal Importation and Quarantine Act No 7 1988, this document is the import health standard for the importation into Vanuatu of frozen bovine embryos from New Caledonia.
- 1.2. Obtaining quarantine clearance for each consignment of frozen bovine embryos imported into Vanuatu from New Caledonia is dependent on the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3. This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in Vanuatu's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Principal Veterinary Officer of Biosecurity Vanuatu.

2. Permit to Import

- 2.1. A permit to import must be obtained from Biosecurity Vanuatu office in Port Vila or Luganville
- 2.2. The importer shall supply the following information when seeking to obtain an import permit:
 - Name and address of exporter
 - Name and address of semen and embryo collection premises
 - Breed, age and identification of donor bulls and cows
 - Number of frozen bovine embryos to be imported
 - Name and address of farm(s) of origin of the donors
 - Name and address of importer
 - Name, address and telephone number of a person residing in Vanuatu nominated to be responsible for ensuring all import requirements are met following the embryos' arrival in Vanuatu
- 2.3. Each consignment must be accompanied by the import permit and complete veterinary certificate with all with all relevant attachments
- 2.4. Permits to import will be for a single consignment only

3. Importer's Responsibilities

- 3.1. The importer must ensure that the consignment complies with all stated import conditions.
- 3.2. The importer must make all arrangements for transport and obtain necessary transit authorities from any countries on the transport route
- 3.3. Details of transport and arrival times must be supplied to Biosecurity Vanuatu at the earliest opportunity and at least a day prior to the departure of the consignment from New Caledonia

- 3.4. The costs of Biosecurity Vanuatu in performing functions relating to the importation of frozen bovine embryos shall be borne by the importer or the importer's agent.
- 3.5. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining quarantine clearance and/or direction shall be borne by the importer or the importer's agent
- 3.6. It is the responsibility of the importer to arrange for any additional health certificate, treatment or testing of animals (eg. testing for inherited diseases or genetic defects like mannosidosis, Pompe's disease); to meet the requirements of any voluntary disease program being undertaken on the importing property.
- 3.7. If any embryos are damaged or destroyed during any period of control, compensation will not be paid by the Vanuatu Government.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. All the requirements in this import health standard must be met for the embryos to be eligible for import.
- 4.2. Each donor animal must remain resident on the embryo collection center where the collections are to occur for the whole of the 30 day period prior to the first collection of embryos for each consignment.
- 4.3. The embryos must be collected at an approved embryo collection premises by an embryo collection team. This team must be supervised by an approved veterinarian.
- 4.4. The embryo collection team must be under periodic audit of its performance by the competent veterinary authority in New Caledonia. Any foreign member of the collection team would be an approved person as assigned by the competent authority of New Caledonia.

5. Identification

- 5.1. The identification of the donor animals and the date/s of collection must be shown on the veterinary certificates accompanying the embryos.
- 5.2. All straws / ampoules must be permanently marked with the identification and breed of the donor animals, the dates of collection and registration of the embryo collection team. If a code is used for this information, its decipher must accompany the consignment documentation.

6. Health Certification

- 6.1. The animal health certification requirements are stated in Section 2
- 6.2. The first part of the veterinary certificate (addressing the requirements in Section 2, Part 1) must be completed and signed by an Approved veterinarian who may be an Official veterinarian or a veterinarian approved by the competent veterinary authority in New Caledonia. In the case of the latter, each page of this section of the certificate is to be stamped and signed by an official veterinarian.
- 6.3. The second part of the veterinary certificate (addressing all requirements in Section 2, Part 2) must be prepared and signed by an Official veterinarian
- 6.4. The consignment shall be accompanied by the import permit and original completed health certification that meets the requirements of Section 2.
- 6.5. A copy of the embryo collection data, obtained at time of collection, in which total number of embryos is clearly stated, must accompany the consignment.
- 6.6. The importer must ensure that all documentation presented as required by the import health standard is original and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining quarantine clearance or cause the rejection of the consignment.

7. Transport to Vanuatu

- 7.1. The frozen embryos for export to Vanuatu must be transported in containers which have been sealed with an official seal of the Veterinary authority of the exporting country. The number of the seal must be recorded by the Official veterinarian in Part 2 of the veterinary certificate
- 7.2. The transport containers used must be suitable for storage of frozen embryos. The container must be of a design allowing it to be sealed with an official seal prior to export and precluding any ability to access the contents of the container without breaking the seal

8. Biosecurity Clearance

- 8.1. Upon arrival in Vanuatu the documentation accompanying the consignment will be inspected by a veterinary officer of Biosecurity Vanuatu
- 8.2. Providing the accompanying documentation meets all requirements noted under Section 2 and the consignment meets conditions of eligibility the consignment will be released to the importer. Biosecurity Vanuatu reserves the right to impose post-import quarantine conditions on the consignment.

9. Definitions of Terms

9.1. Approved veterinarian

A veterinarian approved by the New Caledonia Government competent authority who is responsible for the surveillance and certification as to the health status of the exporting farm/ semen and embryo collection centre

9.2. Biosecurity

To prevent the entry of any biological agent that may be harmful to the livestock industry, public health, natural fauna of Vanuatu, or any other industry of Vanuatu.

9.3. Equivalence

Means acceptance by the PVO, or his/her authorized agent, that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status required by the official Vanuatu import health standard.

9.4. Farm of origin

The farm in which the animal(s) resided prior to entering pre-export quarantine at the semen/ embryo collection premises.

9.5. Herd of origin

The herd in which the animal(s) resided prior to entering pre-export quarantine at the semen/ embryo collection premises.

9.6. IETS

International Embryo Transfer Society

9.7. Import Permit

Official document issued by Biosecurity Vanuatu allowing the importation of a consignment and including conditions to ensure compliance with the biosecurity standards of Vanuatu.

9.8. Official Veterinarian

An official veterinarian means a veterinarian authorized by DAVAR, New Caledonia to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and/or animals and when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the chapter of the OIE *Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

9.9. OIE Code

The most current version of the Office International des Epizooties *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

9.10. Principal Veterinary Officer (PVO)

Is a Veterinarian in the full time employ of the Vanuatu Government charged with the responsibility of maintaining the biosecurity of Vanuatu as part of his/her duties.

9.11. Veterinary authority

The governmental authority of an OIE member country, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE code in the whole territory

10. Equivalence

Quarantine clearance will not normally be given to a consignment that does not meet the requirements of this import health standard in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter a consignment does not comply with the requirements of this import health standard. In such a case, an application for equivalence submitted **prior** to importation will be considered and may be given at the discretion of the PVO if the following information is provided by the exporting country's government veterinary authority:

- The clause(s) of the import health standard that cannot be met and how this occurred.
- The reason(s) why the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and/or what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status.
- The reason(s) why the veterinary authority believes this proposal should be acceptable to Biosecurity Vanuatu