

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT (CHAP.7)

**VETERINARY CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF  
VETERINARY BIOLOGICS (1/7) -  
MICROORGANISMS OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS: TYPE  
CULTURES/STRAINS (1/2)**

**I COUNTRY OF EXPORT**

Any country.

**II PURPOSE**

Laboratory diagnoses/tests/research & development.

**III IMPORT LICENCE**

Each consignment shall be accompanied by a valid import licence issued by the National Parks Board/Animal & Veterinary Service (NParks/AVS). The licence shall only be issued to laboratories licensed by NParks/AVS to possess veterinary biologics (specific **microorganisms** of animal and birds) for specified purpose(s).

**IV LABORATORY CERTIFICATION**

Each container of type culture/strain must be adequately labeled with the name of the bacteria/mycoplasma/fungi/chlamydia/rickettsia, reference number (or strain), and name and address of the NParks/AVS accredited laboratory where the microorganism was cultured.

**V DECLARATION FROM MASTER/CAPTAIN OF SHIP/AIRCRAFT**

Not required.

**VI QUARANTINE ACTION**

If any container is found to be broken, or contents leaked out at arrival, the consignment shall be thoroughly disinfected by the Quarantine Officer. The contents of the faulty container shall be transferred into a new container if possible before release, otherwise the contents shall be destroyed.

**VII APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE**

The licensed laboratory must submit a written import request to the Industry and Biosecurity Management at least 30 days prior to the arrival of the consignment. Following in-principle approval, application for an import licence may be made by the licensed laboratory or its agent through TradeNet.

**VIII NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL**

The importer/laboratory shall inform the Quarantine Office (by fax) as stated in the Import Licence at least five (5) working days before the arrival of the consignment or as soon as the consignment leaves the country of export to facilitate port clearance. Notification may also be made by the supplying accredited laboratory by fax to the Quarantine Office directly.

**IX VETERINARY INSPECTION**

On arrival at the port of entry in Singapore the un-opened consignment and accompanying documents (NParks/AVS import licence and/or CCP, and labels) shall be presented to and examined by the Quarantine Officer. If the consignment and documents are found to be in order, the consignment shall be released to the importer/laboratory.

**X REGULATORY ACTION**

- (i) **no or invalid label** - the affected container with contents to be detained pending clarification. If no satisfactory explanation is received in one week, the container with contents shall be impounded and sent to the Centre for Animal & Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) for evaluation or destruction.
- (ii) **no import Licence** - the consignment may be impounded, and the importer/consignee subject to prosecution.

- (iii) the laboratory importing the culture shall report any contaminants isolated from any culture to CAVS within one week of isolation of the contaminants. Failure to report may disqualify the laboratory from further imports, and the importer subject to prosecution.

**XI FEES**

- (i) Import Licence - - See Fee Schedule: Attachment-2.

**XII OTHER REQUIREMENTS/INFORMATION**

- (i) In accordance with the Animals and Birds Act, "veterinary biologics" means aggressions, serums, viruses, toxins, tuberculin, mallein, Johnin, abortin, vaccines, **MICROORGANISMS** either living or killed, and products of micro-organisms intended for use in the treatment or diagnosis of diseases of animals and birds.
- (ii) In accordance with Section 55 of the Animals and Birds Act, no person shall have in his possession any veterinary biologics or inoculate any animal or bird with any veterinary biologics unless he has been licensed in that behalf by the Director-General, Animal Health and Welfare.
- (iii) Laboratories may apply for a licence to possess veterinary biologics (specific **MICROORGANISMS** of animals and birds) with NParks/AVS.
- (iv) **MICROORGANISMS** include bacteria, mycoplasmas, fungi, chlamydia, and rickettsia, living or dead.
- (v) According to WOAHP recommendations, materials containing infectious agents of animals and birds must be carefully packed, to avoid any possibility of leakage. Screw-capped bottles should be used and should be additionally sealed with adhesive tape or paraffin wax. Materials in individually identified containers should be placed in larger strong outer containers and packed with enough absorbent material to protect from damage. For air transport, parcels should be placed in the pressurized hold of the aircraft. It is advisable to contact the laboratory in advance by telephone or preferably by fax, especially in the case of unusual requests. It is essential to do so where material is sent to a laboratory overseas. It is also recommended that the sending of biological products should be subject to the special rules concerning packaging stipulated for perishable biological material by the Universal Postal Convention established by the Universal Postal Union. (Reference should also be made to WOAHP's Animal Health Code, Chapter 1.5.6 - "Measures concerning international transfer of pathological material and biological products", and Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines - sampling methods, and safety in the veterinary microbiology laboratory).
- (vi) Regulations are subject to change without notice.

APPLICATION/ENQUIRIES:  
ANIMAL & VETERINARY SERVICE (AVS)  
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