

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT (CHAP.7)

**VETERINARY CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
VETERINARY BIOLOGICS (7/7) -
VIRUSES OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS: LABORATORY
ISOLATES (2/2)**

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 VIRUSES of animal and birds) for specified purpose(s).

IV LABORATORY CERTIFICATION

Each container of isolate must be adequately labelled with the scientific names of the viruses (known or suspected), reference number, and name and address of the NParks/AVS accredited laboratory where the isolate was cultured, and accompanied with a certificate from the responsible laboratory manager giving a brief history of the isolate and stating that each isolate is free from the following viruses: Foot-and-Mouth disease, Rinderpest, African Horse Sickness, African Swine Fever, High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), or Duck Plague.

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 NParks/AVS 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, labels, and laboratory certification) 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 labeling and/or laboratory certification - 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 isolate shall provide a monthly report of the type of viruses isolated, including any agent included in the Animals and Birds (Disease) Notification to CAVS. Diseases listed in WOAHP list should be reported immediately. 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, micro-organisms 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 VIRUSES of animals and birds) at the Industry and Biosecurity Management.
- (iv) **VIRUSES** include prions, subunit viral particles, inactivated or otherwise.
- (v) Microorganisms include bacteria, mycoplasma, fungi, chlamydia, and rickettsia, living or dead.
- (vi) 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).
- (vii) The following viruses are not permitted to be imported: Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rinderpest, African Horse Sickness, African Swine Fever, High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), or Duck Plague except with special permission.
- (viii) Regulations are subject to change without notice.

APPLICATION/ENQUIRIES:
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