



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

INTERIM INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY

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AUDIT REPORT
DECEMBER 2012

**Desktop review - the approval of offshore pre-export
quarantine facilities for importing horses to Australia**

No: 2012-13/01

Introduction

The Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IIGB) has responsibilities to evaluate and verify biosecurity systems and programs across the entire biosecurity continuum. In light of recent moves toward a risk return approach in biosecurity risk management it is appropriate to balance the IIGB's focus on PEQ facilities throughout the annual audit work program. The IIGB maintains discretion to inspect pre-export quarantine (PEQ) facilities on an ad hoc basis and has developed an audit methodology to examine the processes undertaken by DAFF Biosecurity in approving offshore pre-export quarantine facilities for importing horses to Australia.

Audit objective

The objective of this review was to undertake desktop audits to assess the approval processes for all current DAFF approved offshore PEQ facilities used for importing horses to Australia. Based on the audit methodology if issues are identified during the desktop audits the IIGB may conduct overseas inspections visits for the required PEQ facilities.

Fieldwork conducted

As part of the audit fieldwork the IIGB:

- held discussions with DAFF covering the individual aspects of the PEQ requirements for horses
- reviewed a selection DAFF inspection reports and associated documents, for specified PEQ premises
- reviewed the standard operating procedures (SOP)s, and associated documents, for specified PEQ premises
- reviewed standard templates used for developing SOPs
- assessed the approval processes DAFF has in place to ensure compliance with the PEQ approval conditions.

As at the 1st June 2012 all the current approved PEQ facilities (twenty) were selected and assessed as part of this review.

Findings and Recommendations

The IIGB noted that DAFF's approval processes to approve offshore pre-export horse facilities for importing horse to Australia are satisfactory. As a result no recommendations or findings were raised as part of this review.

(Signed)

Dr Kevin Dunn
Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity
4 December 2012