



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Agriculture**

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**INTERIM INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF BIOSECURITY**

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## **Horse imports – Management of biosecurity risks**

**June to November 2014**

No. 2014–15/06

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## **Introduction**

1. In May 2014 the IIGB published a report '*Arrangements for oversight of horse biosecurity risk management*', that outlined the IIGB's future commitment to an ongoing cycle of review and assessment of the Department of Agriculture (the department)'s biosecurity risk management controls used for importing horses to Australia.

## **Background**

2. In July 2009, the Australian Government appointed an Interim Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IIGB) to enhance the integrity of Australia's biosecurity systems through the independent evaluation and verification of the performance of these programs across the biosecurity continuum – pre-border, border and post-border.

3. The department allocates significant resources to the on-going monitoring and improvement of the management of biosecurity risks related to the importation of horses. Accordingly, the IIGB pays close attention to the biosecurity risks associated with the importation of horses to Australia, as part of the annual work program.

## **Audit objective**

4. The objective of this desktop review was to assess the approval processes for all current department-approved offshore pre-export quarantine (PEQ) facilities used for the export of horses to Australia during the period June to November 2014.

## **Methodology**

5. For the period June – November 2014, the IIGB reviewed:

- horse import numbers including individual horse details, import permits, PEQ and post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) facilities used for each animal

- approval status for each PEQ premises in exporting countries, including information on all approved, expired and new applications
  - any PEQ facility audit reports and associated documents prepared by the department during the three months prior to the review period
  - the standard operating procedures (SOPs), and associated documents, for specified PEQ premises
  - details of any biosecurity incidents, including handling procedures, reported to the department in the three months prior to the review period.
6. As at the 1st June 2014, 19 offshore PEQ facilities were approved for exporting horses to Australia. All 19 PEQ facilities were assessed as part of this review.
7. No PAQ facilities were inspected during this review period.

## **Conclusion**

8. The IIGB notes that the department's biosecurity risk management procedures for importing horse to Australia appear to be satisfactory. Consequently, no recommendations or findings were raised as part of this review.

## **Next review cycle**

9. The IIGB's next review cycle for horse imports is scheduled to commence in January 2015.

**[signed]**

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20 January 2015