



INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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Official Notification by the Director of Veterinary
Hygiene of the Australian Commonwealth Department
of Health on the Exportation of Australian
Cattle, subject to a Certification
of Freedom from Bovine Pleuropneumonia
Issued 14th March 1968

Mr. K.S. McIntosh, Director of Veterinary Hygiene, Department of Health, Parkes, Canberra, Australia and a member of the South Pacific Commission Animal Health Advisory Group, which met in Wellington, New Zealand in March 1968, has issued the following notification. This refers to the Group's review of recommendations on animal quarantine made by the South Pacific Commission Plant and Animal Quarantine Conference in 1951 and its suggestions for their implementation; it refers in particular to Sections 27(a) and 27(b) Pages 5 and 6 of the Minutes of the Group's First Meeting.

Export of Australian Cattle

Certification of Freedom from Contagious
Bovine Pleuropneumonia

It will be recalled that statements were made on 3rd February, 1966 and 20th July, 1966 for advice to overseas countries which may wish to import cattle from Australia, suggesting certain measures to obviate any risk of such cattle being infected with Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.

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Since the issue of those statements the situation in Australia has undergone remarkable improvement as a result of the implementation of policies laid down by the National Committee for the Eradication of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.

It is therefore desired to cancel those statements and supersede them with this present statement.

The disease has not been found in any part of Western Australia or the Northern Territory during the past year.

It has been absent from Victoria since the eradication of the last case in January 1966. New South Wales has been free of the disease for over ten years. Tasmania has never experienced the disease. In South Australia there is a relatively small suspect area in the north east of the State, otherwise it has been free of infection for twelve years. In Queensland three single cases have been detected in the suspect area in the far north during the last twelve months, otherwise no sign of the disease has been found in the State. Queensland has established a number of Protected Areas covering most of the State and has strict conditions for the entry of cattle into these areas. In the South Eastern Protected area, there has been no case of the disease for the eight years of the existence of this special area.

In Western Australia the area south of the 26⁰ parallel of latitude has been free of the disease since 1942.

Under these favourable circumstances it is recommended that countries wishing to import cattle from Australia should include the following conditions of health certification in respect of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.

Cattle Imported for Immediate Slaughter

In the case of a country wishing to import live cattle for immediate slaughter and where such cattle will be kept in secure isolation surrounded by a fenced buffer area until slaughtered, it is not considered that any special certification would be necessary beyond a general health certificate.

Cattle Imported for Purposes Other than Immediate Slaughter

- (1) A declaration by the Australian exporter that the cattle have never been in that part of Queensland outside the South Eastern Protected area, any part of the Northern Territory other than

the Central Australia Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Free Area, that part of Western Australia north of the 26^o parallel of latitude or in the north eastern suspected area of South Australia.

- (2) A certificate by a Government veterinary surgeon -
- (a) that the cattle have been tested by the complement fixation test for contagious bovine pleuropneumonia on two occasions at an interval of not less than 21 nor more than 30 days, the last test being within 14 days of shipment; and that in all cases the tests were negative;
 - (b) that the cattle were kept isolated from other cattle at all times from the time of the first test until shipment;
 - (c) that, after due enquiry, he has no reason to doubt the truth of the exporter's declaration.

Countries wishing to import cattle from Australia are assured that, under these conditions we cannot discern any risk at all of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia being present in exported animals.

Please note that the greater part of the vast Australian continent, is entirely free of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and even in suspect areas the disease is almost extinct.

Note: The above recommendations differ from those made in my statement of 20th July, 1966 in that we now recommend that -

- (a) no special certification be required in respect of cattle from Victoria; and
- (b) that cattle may be imported with safety from the South Eastern Queensland Protected Area in addition to other areas previously recommended.

The following letter from the Commonwealth of Australia : Department of Health was received by the Secretary-General on 12th February 1969 and is appended to Information Circular No. 4 "A" for the information of Territories within the South Pacific Commission area.

6th February, 1969

The Secretary-General,
South Pacific Commission,
NOUMEA. NEW CALEDONIA.

Dear Sir,

Animal Health and Quarantine Precautions

Prior to the 1st February, 1969, all overseas aircraft entering Australia were stripped of quarantinable food items at the first port of call together with garbage. On 1st February, 1969, this procedure was varied to enable planes to travel to a terminal port in Australia before the unconsumed quarantinable food items were removed.

Representations have been made by the airways companies concerned for permission to keep on board such unconsumed quarantinable food items where an overseas plane is continuing its journey beyond Australia with only short stops of approximately 45 minutes in Australia.

For example, overseas aircraft coming in at Perth, to Sydney, and flying straight out to Nandi and New Zealand.

It has been agreed with the airways companies that planes flying through to Nandi should not be stripped and Mr. Garnett and Mr. Baker of the Fiji Department of Agriculture have been forewarned that this will be so as on and from 1st February, 1969. Similarly, New Zealand has been forewarned that aircraft will be travelling in this way beyond Sydney to New Zealand with unconsumed quarantinable food items still on board.

It would be appreciated if you could advise countries within the South Pacific Commission area where overseas planes touch down from Australia that as from 1st March, 1969 unconsumed quarantinable food items will not be removed in Australia from scheduled commercial passenger air flights.

Such Territories should, of course, take all precautions to incinerate the garbage from these planes and to be sure that unconsumed

quarantinable food items, especially of animal origin, must not be landed unless also incinerated as appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

(sgd.) K. S. McIntosh

Director of Veterinary Hygiene

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Noumea, February 1969

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| 1. Annual Conference of O.I.E. held in Paris 13-18 May 1968, Report of SPC Observer. September 1968. | Livestock
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| 2. South Pacific Commission Publications' Series - Recent Developments | Publications |
| 3. Study Visit to Noumea, Brisbane, Territory of Papua & New Guinea and British Solomon Islands Protectorate - Report of Mr. A.W. Allen | Tropical
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| 4. Official Notification by the Director of Veterinary Hygiene of the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health on the Exportation of Australian Cattle, subject to a Certification of Freedom from Bovine Pleuropneumonia. Issued 14th March 1968 | Plant and
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