

F.No. L-110110/26/2019-Trade (E-14194)
भारत सरकार
Government of India
मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग
Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली -110 001,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001,
दिनांक / Dated the 31st March, 2021.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Regulation of import of live animals under the Livestock Importation Act, 1898 and amendments made from time to time – suggestions received from stakeholders - regarding.

For "Ease of Understanding and Doing Business" as well as streamlining the complete process of import of live animals into India by the importers, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were issued vide this Department's O.M. of even number, dated 15 July 2020.

2. The SOPs were displayed on website of the department and the comments were also invited from general public / stakeholders. SOPs are already in vogue and in practice at the implementation stage at ground level and finally it will evolve with the experience, feedback and the emergent requirement over the time. The comments / suggestions, received from the stakeholders / importers as under, have been examined which does not suggest any improvisation in these SOPs:

Sl. No.	Suggestions given	Department's Comments
1	Proof and attachment of other documents related to Custom may completely be deleted from SOPs.	The said reference related to Custom has been made for easy understanding of applicants so as to avoid any hindrance in post import clearance. Further, It has already been clarified that the concerned AQCS will inspect only those documents which pertain to veterinary health requirements. The other documents/ licenses, which are required vide various rules & regulations of Custom, shall be inspected by the Custom authorities.
2	Advance NOC should be replaced with "Advance Veterinary	In the format of Advance NOC, it has been clearly indicated that the



	clearance for import of live animals into India" as AQCS has no power to give import NOC.	permission is also subject to Custom clearance on arrival as per Custom Circular No. 15/2013 for assessment of TR status or 25/2013 for assessment of Re-import or under Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) licence.
3	Necessary changes may be done on SOPs and other forms inline of principle of veterinary assessment only. Testing criteria, testing profile may be clearly mentioned in scientific manner for post arrival quarantine observation issues on live animals.	The SOPs has been made as per existing Standard Indian Veterinary Health Protocols in this regard. These protocols are dynamic as per any change in OIE recommendations in this regard. An expert committee in the Department is reviewing various Indian veterinary health protocols time to time which are being published on official website for information of all stakeholders. Further, wherever DGFT license is required, the Indian protocols are being shared with applicant while communicating the Departmental recommendations to DGFT.
4	Suggestions have made related to various disease test in equine.	Presently, the SOPs have been made based upon existing veterinary protocols.
5	Submission of Application in Form through email should be exempted in case of import of multiple equines, as it would be impractical and time consuming for the Animal Quarantine Office to download and print the documents for scrutiny.	It has already been indicated in the O.M. dated 15.07.2020 that the communication with importers shall essentially be made through email in all cases to the extant feasible .
6	There should be a system in place for the Quarantine Office to book and confirm allotment of stables to a particular importer 30-35 days before the date of arrival of the shipment as the equines can be shifted to overseas pre-export quarantine facility according to availability of stables at the particular quarantine station.	The requirement of advance NOC from AQCS addresses the said issue for booking of quarantine space.
7	Clarification is required on Clause 1. regarding everyday examination record. Is the Physical Examination to be done by the Quarantine Officer or Importers Representative.	The record of every day examination of animal under quarantine, has to be maintained by the concerned AQCS, as same is mandated to AQCS.

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8	Suggestions have made related to various disease test in equine. Further, it has been requested that submission of test reports should not be mandatory at the time of obtaining NOC as some reports cannot be submitted 7 days in advance. The Pre-Export Health Certificate issued by the Exporting Country Veterinarian which mentions the date of testing should be acceptable for the purpose of issuing the NOC.	The submission of test report at the time of obtaining NOC may not be waive off. In the absence, infected animal may enter into the country.
9	This document does not affect bilaterally agreed health certificates, and bilaterally agreed certificates will be acceptable for dogs, cats, equine, bovine, and live poultry/day-old poultry / hatching eggs	The veterinary protocols as stated in SOPs are Indian standard protocols. However, bilaterally agreed veterinary health certificates will be acceptable, wherever applicable.
10	Congratulation to DAHD on the initiative that reinforces the "Ease of Understanding and Doing Business" in India. However clarification has been sought if the previously agreed certificates remain valid.	As stated in above para.
11	Not to prevent dog lovers from lawfully importing dogs into India for dog shows, as pets and for breeding, as there is a tremendous loss of revenue in terms of import and customs duties for the Government due to the ban on import of dogs.	The SOPs has been made considering "Ease of Understanding and Doing Business" and are not concerned with any change in import policy.
12	To impose a system of home quarantine on dogs imported for commercial purposes since before importing of the dogs to India, all thorough health checks are already conducted.	The suggestion is not relevant in view of above para.
13	Whether 7 days will be calculated from date of submission of all required documents or the initial information of journey submitted by the applicant.	As stated in SOPs, Applicant has to submit application minimum 07 days before embarkation. So that deficiency, if any, may be communicated in time.
14	In case quarantine of pet would be required at AQCS, it will be challenging to pet owner to transfer	In case of any need of quarantine of pet at AQCS in future, the concerned AQCS may guide and

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	the pet to quarantine station and to arrange pet's feed, water and attender.	facilitate to owner to arrange the necessary logistics as per guidelines in this regard.
15	In the flow chart, it is shown that provisional decision will be based on two subheading if the documents are proper or not. The decision is based upon checking whether imported pet or any other animal is imported as a TR case or under DGFT license. It contradicts the OM where it is said that the AQCS will only check the documents pertaining to health certificate of imported pets	AQCS has to check compliance of veterinary health certificate only to take provisional decision to issue advance NoC. In case of any deficiency in VHC, AQCS has to inform the same to applicant well in time.
16	For import of horses, testing requirement states that horses have not been vaccinated against AHS forty days immediately preceding the exportation, the same has not been mentioned in certificate of health.	The veterinary protocols as stated in SOPs are Indian standard protocols in this regard.
17	Purpose of import in Annexure 1.3 and 2.3	Same has been incorporated to ensure that pet to be imported is not for trading purpose.
18	What will be the SOP in case a person arrives with pet without advance NOC from AQCS? Should such pet be immediately deported back from the entry port itself to the country of origin at the cost of importer?	AQCS may issue order to deport the pet as per notification in this regard or if necessary, the quarantine of pet may be done at facility provided by Custom / concerned AQCS as per norms. However, if health certificate is as per Indian protocols, AQCS clearance will be given with a request to Custom for appropriate actions on importer as per Custom acts.

Gagan Garg
31-03-2021

(डॉ गगन गर्ग)

(Dr. Gagan Garg)

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- NIC, DAHD with a request to upload on the Department and AQCS's website.