



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

1 September 2011

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2011/16

CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FINFISH INTO AUSTRALIA: AMENDED HEALTH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR GOLDFISH

This Biosecurity Australia Advice notifies stakeholders of amended health certification requirements for the importation of goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) for ornamental purposes. Recent research findings have confirmed that Australia's aquatic animal health status with regard to goldfish haematopoietic necrosis virus (GFHNV) has changed and is now present in Australia. The requirement that exporting countries declare that goldfish intended for Australia are free from the disease is to be removed from relevant importation conditions.

Recent research findings have indicated that goldfish haematopoietic necrosis virus (GFHNV) is present in domestic goldfish populations in Australia. It will no longer be necessary for goldfish exported to Australia to be certified free of the disease.

Import conditions for ornamental finfish, including exporting country health certification attesting to GFHNV freedom in goldfish consignments, were established following completion of the 1999 *Import Risk Analysis on Live Ornamental Finfish*, which found that GFHNV was exotic to Australia. Health certification attesting to freedom from the disease was therefore warranted. Since 1999, reports of domestic goldfish exhibiting clinical and histopathological signs indicative of GFHNV infection have been published. However, these findings were not associated with epizootics. The recent development of a molecular (polymerase chain reaction) method for GFHNV identification has enabled subsequent testing of domestic goldfish populations in farms and at wholesale and retail outlets in Australia. This work has established that GFHNV is now present in Australia. Following consideration of these findings, Animal Biosecurity Branch has reviewed importation conditions for goldfish and concluded that health certification requirements in relation to GFHNV should be discontinued.

The revised health certification requirements for goldfish are provided at Attachment 1. A revised model health certificate is provided at Attachment 2.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Animal Biosecurity Branch at animal@daff.gov.au. Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Animal Biosecurity Branch are available on the Department's website.

ANDREW CUPIT
A/g General Manager
Animal Biosecurity Branch

ATTACHMENT 1

HEALTH CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR FRESHWATER ORNAMENTAL FINFISH IMPORTED INTO AUSTRALIA

1. General requirements

- a. Each consignment of freshwater ornamental finfish must be accompanied by a health certificate, written in English and, where necessary, in a language understood by the certifying individual. The certifying individual must be authorised by the Competent Authority of the exporting country, have an appropriate knowledge of fish health and the export premises and attest that:
- the fish in the consignment have been inspected within 7 days prior to export and show no clinical signs of infectious disease or pests,
 - the export premises is currently approved for export to Australia,
 - the fish being held at the export premises exhibit no signs of significant infectious disease or pests and are sourced from populations not associated with any significant disease or pests within the previous 6 months,
 - all fish in the consignment have been in premises approved for export of freshwater finfish to Australia for the 14 days prior to export,
 - the fish have not been kept in water in common with farmed foodfish (fish farmed for human consumption including recreational fishing) or koi carp, and
 - adequate safeguards are in place to maintain certified fish health status until export.
- b. Certification must be based on a system of inspection, acceptable to the Competent Authority of the country of export, for it to be satisfied that there is no significant disease or pest problem in the export premises at the time of certification. The Competent Authority must also be satisfied that the premises is maintained at the standards required for approval for export of freshwater ornamental finfish to Australia (see Appendix 1).

2. Additional requirements for goldfish

- a. Each consignment of goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) must be accompanied by a health certificate stating that:
- the goldfish originate from a country, zone or export premises (the population) determined to be free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains) based on a program of monitoring and surveillance acceptable to the Competent Authority and consistent with criteria for health certification stated in Section 2(b) below;
 - the goldfish are exported from a country, zone or export premises determined to be free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains) based on a program of monitoring and surveillance acceptable to the Competent Authority, and consistent with criteria for health certification stated in Section 2(b) below; and
 - all goldfish in the consignment have been treated with an effective parasiticide (e.g. trichlorfon, formaldehyde, sodium chloride) during the 7 days prior to

export to Australia to eliminate infestation by the gill flukes *Dactylogyrus vastator* and *D. extensus*.

b. Criteria for health certification:

- Spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV): This certification must be based on negative test results during the two years prior to date of certification. The fish population from which the goldfish originate must be tested for SVCV using virus isolation and identification methods as described in the OIE '*Diagnostic Manual for Aquatic Animal Diseases*'. The frequency of testing and sample size are as stated below.
 - *Aeromonas salmonicida*: This certification must be based on negative test results during the two years prior to date of certification. The fish in the population from which the goldfish originate must be tested for *A. salmonicida* using standard bacteriological methods. Tissues tested should include skin lesions (if present), kidney, liver and spleen. Testing must be based on internationally accepted methods of isolation, culture and identification. The frequency of testing and sample size are as stated below.
- c. Certification of freedom from specified disease agents or pests applies to the country, zone or export premises from which fish are exported to Australia. If the fish originated from a country other than the exporting country within 6 months of export, certification attesting to the health of the source fish population must accompany all shipments.
- d. Countries, zones or premises declared free or in the process of establishing freedom from specified disease agents or pests, must take adequate precautions to prevent introduction of the disease agent or pest into the country, zone or premises, including via infected fish or water.
- e. Certification for SVCV and *A. salmonicida* must be based on a minimum testing frequency of twice a year (at approximately 6 month intervals) for each of the previous 2 years prior to issuing of the certificate. The number of fish sampled must ensure a 95% confidence level of disease agent/pest detection in a source fish population with an agent prevalence of 2%. The population size is defined as the number of fish of the same species that share a common water supply and originate from the same broodstock.
- f. After two years of surveillance with laboratory tests and in the absence of suspect clinical signs or suspect or positive test results, twice yearly testing must continue but the sample size at each inspection may be reduced to 30 fish of the species being exported (including broodfish when available), provided that all introductions of new fish to the population are sourced from fish populations that meet an equivalent or superior health standard.

ATTACHMENT 2

HEALTH CERTIFICATION FOR GOLDFISH EXPORTED TO AUSTRALIA

I, the undersigned, certify that:

- 1. I have within 7 days prior to export examined the goldfish (*Carassius auratus*) described on the attached invoice, and that they show no clinical signs of infectious disease or pests.
- 2. The export premises described below is approved as meeting standards under Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service *Conditions for the Importation of Live Freshwater Ornamental Finfish into Australia*.
- 3. All fish being held at the export premises exhibit no signs of significant infectious disease or pests and are sourced from populations not associated with any significant disease or pests within the 6 months prior to certification.

Invoice number: Exporter Name:
Address:
Phone No: Fax No: E-mail:
AQIS Import Permit number:
Number (tails of fish):

- 4. All fish in the consignment have been in approved premises in the exporting country for the 14 days prior to export.
- 5. The fish have not been kept in water in common with farmed foodfish (fish farmed for human consumption including recreational fishing) or koi carp.
- 6. The exporting country, zone or export premises is free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains) based on (a) the absence of clinical, laboratory or epidemiological evidence of these disease agents in the source fish population in the previous two years and (b) a system of monitoring and surveillance for the previous two years, as prescribed in Appendix 2a of the AQIS *Conditions for the Importation of Live Freshwater Ornamental Finfish into Australia*.
- 7. If any of the fish have been imported, the country/ies of origin is/are, and (an) endorsed copy/ies of the health certificate/s (issued by the country/ies from where the fish originate) is/are attached, attesting that the country, zone or export premises from which the fish originate is free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains).
- 8. All fish in the consignment have been effectively treated for gill flukes within 7 days prior to export by bathing in parasiticide, being
- 9. Adequate safeguards are in place to maintain this certified fish health status until export. Fish are effectively isolated in holding systems that prevent infection by direct contact with other fish or indirect contact via water, equipment or any other means.

Signature: Issued at:
Name: Date:
Official position: Stamp:
Address:
.....
Phone No: Fax No: E-mail:

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Phone No: Fax No: E-mail:

AQIS Import Permit number:

Number (tails of fish):

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5. The fish have not been kept in water in common with farmed foodfish (fish farmed for human consumption including recreational fishing) or koi carp.
6. The exporting country, zone or export premises is free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains) based on (a) the absence of clinical, laboratory or epidemiological evidence of these disease agents in the source fish population in the previous two years and (b) a system of monitoring and surveillance for the previous two years, as prescribed in Appendix 2a of the AQIS *Conditions for the Importation of Live Freshwater Ornamental Finfish into Australia*.
7. If any of the fish have been imported, the country/ies of origin is/are, and (an) endorsed copy/ies of the health certificate/s (issued by the country/ies from where the fish originate) is/are attached, attesting that the country, zone or export premises from which the fish originate is free from spring viraemia of carp virus (SVCV) and *Aeromonas salmonicida* (other than goldfish ulcer disease strains).
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Issued at:

Name:

Date:

Official position:

Stamp:

Address:

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Phone No: Fax No: E-mail: