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## **ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1996/42**

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT  
Director, Animal and Plant Health Branch, BRS  
Chief, CSIRO Division of Animal Health  
Principal VOs (Quarantine), all States, ACT & the NT  
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF

Manager, Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations  
Head, Foreign Diseases Unit, DPIE  
Australian Veterinary Association  
Federal Council of Australian Apiarists Association

### **CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF HONEYBEES**

Revised conditions for the importation of honeybees (AQPM 1996/39) were circulated for comment on 2 July 1996. Following consideration of the responses received to AQPM 1996/39 please receive the finalised conditions for the importation of honey-bees.

The majority of respondents to AQPM 1996/39 expressed concern that the removal of off-shore testing requirements from import conditions for bees would set a precedent for the removal of off-shore testing requirements from other import conditions. AQIS wishes to assure all correspondents that conditions for honey-bees will not be used as a precedent for the removal of off-shore testing requirements from import conditions for other livestock species. AQIS import conditions are based on diseases of concern, their epidemiologies and risk management techniques appropriate for the maintenance of quarantine security.

The finalised conditions include some amendments to the conditions circulated as AQPM 1996/39. The principal amendments made are noted below for your information.

- **Appendix 2, Item 4**  
*acceptance of health certification for hive freedom from disease rather than apiary freedom from disease*
- **Appendix 3, Item 14**  
*removal of the laboratory testing requirement of brood (in the nucleus colony) for AFB and EFB*

The operational performance of these conditions will be closely monitored and conditions may be suspended and reviewed in the event that significant inadequacies are identified. Please direct any comments and queries to the nominated contact officer.

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cc Veterinary Counsellors, Australian Embassies, Washington and Brussels  
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