

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

ANIMAL QUARANTINE AND CERTIFICATION SERVICES (AQCS)

The purpose and scope of setting up of Quarantine Stations is to prevent the ingress of dangerous exotic diseases into the country through imported livestock and livestock products. The increased and faster international trade and travel exposed every country to the danger of infiltration of known and unknown transmissible diseases which have the potential of very serious and rapid spread, adverse socio-economic and human/animal health consequences.

There are many infectious diseases of livestock which are prevalent in other countries but luckily not present in India. It is, therefore, necessary that such exotic diseases do not gain entry into our country through movement of livestock and livestock product from across the borders. The entire procedure of keeping a watch on livestock disease is the responsibility of the Office of International Epizootics (O.I.E.) through its International Zoo Sanitary Code. For this purpose this organization has classified the prevalent disease as OIE listed diseases.

The speedy travel by air has reduced the travel time which used to be an effective barrier when the transport was done by sea. Even sea travel has become quicker now-a-days and so gone all the days when the travel used to be for many days which generally exceeded the incubation period of many acute diseases thus exposing the presence of an infection in the livestock during such travel. Hence, an efficient Animal Quarantine Organization is necessary for conducting checks at the International Airports/Seaports and land routes. Because livestock may covertly carry pathogens without showing overt signs of clinical disease, they must be held in quarantine for observation and testing to establish their pathogen free status before release.

Keeping this in view, Government of India initiated a central sector scheme namely "Animal Quarantine & Certification Services" (AQCS) during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) under which four Animal Quarantine stations were set up at Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata & Mumbai and now two more quarantine station at Hyderabad and Bangalore in 11th plan. The responsibility of preventing ingress of exotic diseases including zoonotic diseases and thereby safeguarding the health of country's livestock population lies solely with the Animal Quarantine and Certification services.

This programme envisages provision of an Internationally acceptable certification service for the livestock & livestock product exported to other countries from India confirming to the health requirements of the importing country or the health regulations prescribed in the International Zoo Sanitary code.

OBJECTIVES

1. To prevent the ingress of any Exotic Livestock Diseases into India through importation of livestock & livestock products as per the provisions of Livestock Importation Act (Act No. IX. of 1898) as amended by the Livestock Importation (Amendment) Act, 2001 (5.7.2001) and the regulations orders and SPS standards of the country issued thereunder.

2. To provide an internationally accepted certification service for augmenting export and to play important role to increase International trade of livestock and livestock products.
3. To inspect and register the plants/mills exporting the animal by-products.

Quarantine Stations in INDIA

1. New Delhi
2. Mumbai
3. Kolkatta
4. Chennai
5. Hyderabad
6. Bangalore

LABORATORIES ASSISTING AQCS

- HSADL (High Security Animal Disease Laboratory), Bhopal
(imported consignments of Livestock and Livestock products)
- NRCE (National Research Centre on Equines) , Hissar - (Horses)
- CDDL (Central Disease Diagnosis Laboratory) at IVRI (Indian Veterinary Research Institute), Bareilly
- RDDDLs (Regional Disease Diagnosis Laboratory)
- VETERINARY COLLEGES

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF ANIMAL QUARANTINE

IMPORT:

Saving the huge money, labour and time required in disease eradication programmes (sometimes eradication not sure) by preventing the entry of exotic diseases.

EXPORT:

- Important role in Increasing the demand of LS/LSP in the international market by quality certification of livestock and livestock products as per the requirement of importing country.

CATEGORIES OF Livestock (LS)/Livestock products (LSP) for IMPORT PURPOSE:

- Requiring import license from DGFT. (Restricted items)
- Requiring Sanitary Import Permit (SIP) from DAHDF. (Free items)
- LS/LSP prohibited in view of Disease status .

IMPORT PROCEDURES

Livestock and Livestock Products are imported as a baggage and cargo through Airport/Seaport and ICDs. The said consignments are referred by the customs for Animal Quarantine Clearance in compliance to import Quarantine health rules of the Government of India. The consignments are examined along with the accompanied health certificates and other relevant papers before allowing the entry into India.

In case the consignment is not fulfilling the health protocol laid down by Government of India then appropriate action is taken as per the rules in National Interest. The imported livestock are kept under quarantine for observation and testing as per the prescribed health protocol. The products are also checked and tested accordingly in compliance to the health protocol prescribed by Government of India.

Requirement of Documents/Procedure for filling application at AQCS office for Import/Export clearance of livestock and Livestock Products:

1. Documents required cum check list with Application Form for **IMPORT OF LIVESTOCK (pet under baggage rule for owners -Dog/Cat upto 2 number)**

DOG and CAT (As per Custom Circular no.15/2013 dated 8.4.13)

1. **Accompanied Baggage:** Ticket of the owner. **Unaccompanied Baggage:** Within 1 month after arrival of owner- copy of Pass Port along with immigration stamp.
Requirement of advance Custom permission: For owners sending the pet more than 1 month after their arrival or before arrival.
For all above: Required- Visa copy/other document to establish continuous stay abroad for at least two years with proof of transferring the residence to India. In case of doubt/procedural requirement advance Custom Permission may be asked to consider the pet under Baggage rule.
2. **Dog:** The official health certificate from the country of origin certifying that the dog is free from clinical sign and symptoms of all infectious and contagious diseases including Rabies, Canine Distemper, Parvo virus infection, Leptospirosis etc.
Cat: The official health certificate from the country of origin certifying that the cat is free from clinical sign and symptoms of all infectious and contagious diseases including Rabies, Distemper, Feline enteritis, Feline panleukopenia, leptospirosis etc.
3. The dog (three months of age and older) and Cat must be vaccinated against Rabies more than one month, but within 12 months prior to actual embarkation and all details shall be officially certified or mentioned in the official Health certificate. Also all other vaccination record/detail shall be officially certified or mentioned in the official Health Certificate.
4. The name of owner in the official health certificate must match with the name as mentioned in the ticket of owner to establish ownership.
5. The name and address of the owner in the country of origin and in the country of arrival (import) must be mentioned on the health certificate.
6. The declaration from the owner that the dog/cat is bonafide pet with no commercial interest, gift and breeding purpose.
7. No additional feed, bedding etc. be allowed during the journey.
8. Copy of airway bill/journey details of pet/Bill of entry with custom (If coming under cargo).
9. Any other document if required during examination of application.
10. Authorization letter if owner is not approaching directly.

Advance NOC can be issued within 7 days before arrival based on the self certified advance copies of all above documents. Original Health certificate will be

retained by AQCS at the time of examination of pet and issue of Provisional clearance. In case of doubt animal may be kept under Quarantine Observation. Final clearance will be issued after 30 days.

2. Documents required cum check list with Application Form for IMPORT OF LIVESTOCK (under DGFT Licence/ Sanitary Import Permit)- ALL LIVESTOCK EXCEPT PET (Dog/Cat upto two number with owner under baggage rule)

1. Copy of valid DGFT Licence/Sanitary Import Permit (SIP)
2. Bill of entry with Custom reference.
3. Official health certificate from the country of origin fulfilling all import health guidelines of India as per the Notification/supplied protocol with license or SIP/AQCS requirement as the case may be. The Identification detail/sheet no./passport no./origin detail shall be mentioned in health certificate/certified officially.
4. Laboratory Reports (not mandatory in each case).
5. The name and address of owner in the official health certificate must match with the Licence/SIP to establish ownership.
6. No additional feed, bedding etc. be allowed during the journey without permission.
7. Undertaking and declarations as per requirement.
8. Copy of airway bill/journey details of animal.
9. Any other document if required during examination of application.
10. Original Health documents are mandatory on arrival for Provisional clearance.
11. Authorization letter if owner is not approaching directly.

Advance NOC will be issued within 7 days of arrival based on the self certified advance copies of all above documents. Original Health certificate will be retained by AQCS at the time of Provisional Clearance on arrival. Final Clearance will be issued as per the applicable post import Quarantine rule/regulation.

3. Documents required cum check list with Application Form for IMPORT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

1. Copy of valid DGFT Licence/Sanitary Import Permit (SIP)
2. Bill of entry with Custom reference.
3. Official health certificate from the country of origin fulfilling all import health guidelines of India as per the Notification/supplied protocol with license or SIP/AQCS requirement as the case may be. The description of Livestock product shall be mentioned in health certificate/certified officially.
4. Country of origin certificate.
5. Laboratory Reports (if applicable).
6. The name and address of consignor and consignee along with other details in the official health certificate must match with the Licence/SIP.
7. Custom sealed samples/examination/sampling as the case may be.
8. Undertaking and declarations as per requirement.
9. Copy of airway bill/cargo details/invoice/packing list of consignment.
10. Any other document if required during examination of application.
11. Original Health documents are mandatory on arrival for Provisional Clearance/Final clearance/Testing/Examination as the case may be.

12. Authorization letter if owner is not approaching directly.

All attached documents with the application must be self attested.

EXPORT PROCEDURES

This programme envisages provision of an Internationally acceptable certification service for the export of livestock & livestock product to other countries from India confirming to the health requirements of the importing country and the health regulations prescribed in the International Zoo Sanitary code.

1. Documents required cum check list with Application Form for EXPORT OF LIVESTOCK

1. Copy of valid Import/Export Licence or Permit as the case may be. If no permit/licence is required than undertaking from the exporter/owner in this regard.
2. Official health requirement/format of the importing country. If no prescribed health requirement/format than undertaking from the exporter/owner in this regard.
3. Fulfilled health requirement of importing country including testing, treatment, vaccination etc. (if applicable).
4. Self certified copies of present health documents including vaccination record of the animal.
5. Undertaking and declarations as per requirement.
6. Documents of origin, if applicable/asked.
7. Copy of airway bill/journey details of animal.
8. Any other document if required during examination of application.
9. Authorization letter if owner is not approaching directly.

All attached documents with the application must be self attested.

Export Quarantine Certificate will be issued after physical examination/Quarantine observation of the animal as the case may be within 2-3 days before departure. If required the animal may be referred for detailed clinical examination including testing. If the animal is not healthy/fit Certificate will not be issued.

2. Documents required cum check list with Application Form for EXPORT OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

1. Copy of valid Import/Export Licence or Permit as the case may be. If no permit/licence is required than undertaking from the exporter/owner in this regard.
2. Official health requirement/format of the importing country. If no prescribed health requirement/format than undertaking from the exporter/owner in this regard.
3. Fulfilled health requirement of importing country including testing, treatment, fumigation etc. (if applicable/asked).
4. Registration certificate/Approvals of the exporting units.
5. Undertaking and declarations as per requirement.
6. Documents of origin of product, if applicable/asked.
7. Copy of airway bill/Bill of lading/Packing list/Invoice of the consignment.
8. Certificate/information from the local Government authorities and others wherever applicable.
9. Any other document if required during examination of application.
10. Authorization letter if owner is not approaching directly.

All attached documents with the application must be self attested. All application must be registered on/before the Bill of lading date. Certificate will be issued on or before the lading date.

RE-IMPORT

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Reason of re-import.
- Other products in the carrier.
- Loading/unloading en route.
- Shelf life of the product.
- Duration of stay in importing country.
- Place of holding in importing country.
- Health condition of the consignment.
- Fulfillment of pr-export requirements.
- Disease freedom status of importing country.

ACT & NOTIFICATIONS

Livestock Importation Act, 1898

AMENDMENTS

1. 'Livestock Importation (Amendment) Act', 1953.
2. THE LIVESTOCK IMPORTATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001
Called as- 'Livestock Importation (Amendment) Act', 2001.
Insertion of words "and livestock products" after the word "Livestock"
came into force-5th day of July 2001

NOTIFICATIONS ON IMPORT HEALTH GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES ON IMPORT LIVESTOCK & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS (visit www.dahdf@nic.in (Trade))

Some of the major notifications are as under:

1. 7.7.2001, S.O.655 (E) - Restriction of Livestock products.
2. 16.10. 2001, S.O.1043 (E) - Inclusion of aquatic animals & products under livestock products.
3. 5.9.2007, S.O.1496 (E) - Regulation for import of Bovine semen.
4. 28.3.2008, S.O. 794 (E) - Restriction of Livestock products.
5. 2.5.2008, S.O.1086 (E) - Regulation for import of Pet food.
6. 24.7.2009, S.O. 1825 (E) - Regulation for import of Raw hides.
7. 5.10.2012, G.S.R. 752 (E) - Regulation for import of Equines.
8. 10.6.2014, S.O. 1496 (E) - Livestock Import Procedure.

Import of pets under Baggage:

- Customs Circular No.94/2002 dated 23.12.2002, 15/2013 and 25/2013 upto two numbers per passenger at one time (no import license or import sanitary permit)

- **PETS : DOG AND CAT ONLY**

Common Facilities Available in Animal Quarantine Stations:

- Administrative Building with Office, Library, Computer Room, Conference Hall and stores
- Laboratory with facility to process and dispatch samples collected from imported animals in a complete sterilized manner to the Government approved laboratory for necessary testing. Also, to conduct routine test of blood, urine, faeces, skin scrapings etc. as or when required.
- Collection and shipment of samples to reference laboratory as approved by Government of India.
- Duty Rooms for visiting Veterinary Officer and Animal care takers.
- Animal sheds for keeping the animals during quarantine i.e. Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Sheep, Goats, Dogs, Cats, Laboratory Animals, Poultry/Other Birds, Misc./Zoo Animals etc.
- Isolation Shed
- Dispensary/Dressing Room
- Change over Room
- Post Mortem Room
- Incinerator
- Disposal Area
- Horse paddocks
- Loading and Unloading Platform
- Vehicle dip/wash
- Disinfection and fumigation facilities
- Back up power supply

Quarantine Station follow the following Protocol for the entry of visitors for genuine reasons in the Quarantine Stations

- * Entry only after following Dress Code & Quarantine Regulations.
- * Only Pass holders are allowed.
- * Eatables are not allowed in the Quarantine Zone.
- * Other than pass holders – entry after permission from Quarantine Officer.
- * Entry not the right of the pass holder/visitor, proper justification is required.
- * Smoking /Tobacco is strictly prohibited in the AQCS Campus.
- * Animal Attendant must follow the dress code.
- * Riding or playing with the animals is prohibited.
- * Veterinarian and Para vet (direct handlers) – Entry only after taking shower and change of dress.
- * Animal Owner, Veterinarian & Para vet must not visit any animal farm or contact any animal at least 24 hrs. before and after the visit.

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES AT AQCS STATIONS (except Hyderabad and Bangalore)

Sl.No.	Species (in Nos.)	AQCS, New Delhi	AQCS, Chennai	AQCS, Mumbai	AQCS, Kolkata
1	Cattle	48	48	14	38
2	Sheep & Goat	300	270	48	100
3	Dogs/Cats	10	10	16	3
4	Horses	20	20	20	-
5	Poultry/Birds	250	100	320	-
6	Pigs	100	60	48	100
7	Laboratory animals	500	400	-	-
8	Misc. animals (elephants, Camels etc.)	One shed with open space	-	-	-

ACCOMMODATION CHARGES FOR KEEPING ANIMALS AT AQCS STATIONS

Sl.No.	Item	Accommodation rates (Rs.per day)
1	All Equids including horse	750.00 per equids
2	Cattle/Buffalo	700.00 per cattle
3	Sheep/Goat (unit of 20) Per Head	1230.00 per 20 sheep/goats (Rs.290.00 per sheep/goat)
4	Dog/Cat/Small Carnivore	300.00 per Dog/Cat/Small Carnivore
5	Pig (unit of 5) Per Head	365.00 per 5 pigs (Rs.290.00 per head)
6	Birds (unit of 100)	2320.00 per 100 birds (Rs. 290.00 per bird)
7	Rabbit (unit of 10) Per Head	450.00 per 10 rabbit (Rs. 300.00 per rabbit)
8	Lab Animal Rat/Mice/others (unit of 10)	450.00 per 10 lab animal (Rs. 300.00 per lab animal)
9	Attender	250.00 per person

The above rate may be enhanced/increased by 10% every Year (1st January).

The electric charges for water cooler (Rs. 40/- per day) and AC (Rs. 450/- per day) will be charged as per consumption if required by importer. Acs and water coolers will be arranged and installed by the importer.



AQCS- Mumbai



AQCS- Delhi



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF QUARANTINE STATION



AQCS- Chennai