

Protocol for Importation of Quarantine Material (Laboratory Mice and Rats)

1998 Conditions

Including transgenic and gene knockout strains

7th Revision 13 January 2005

6th Revision 8 July 2004

5th Revision 5 February, 2002

4th Revision- 5 March, 2001

3rd Revision -1 February, 2000

2nd Revision - 3 March, 1999

This protocol for the importation of quarantine material relates specifically to the laboratory mouse (*Mus musculus*) and the laboratory rat (*Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus*). All other laboratory animal species will require additional approval through Environment Australia (formerly Australian Nature Conservation Agency).

The protocol is not meant to be all inclusive, it is more a detailed outline of the appropriate steps necessary for the importation of rodents and subsequent housing in the animal facility. There are two principle issues that are covered by this protocol:

- Ensuring the safe arrival of laboratory animals in a state that minimises the stress and maximises the welfare of the animals.
- The controlled integration of the imported animals into the main population of the existing rodent colonies within the facilities, minimising any risk of contamination.

Researchers wishing to purchase rodents from facilities within Australia can follow the guidelines set out in this protocol that relate to the integration of imported animals into the existing rodent colonies. Please consult with the facility managers prior to confirming purchases from facilities other than Adelaide University's breeding facility at the Waite Campus.

Animals delivered to the animal facilities without prior approval from the facility managers will not be permitted in. They will be returned to the vendor or purchaser.

Protocol for Importation of Quarantine Material (Laboratory Rats and Mice)

- I. Provide a preliminary outline of your proposal to Laboratory Animal Services (primarily to ensure adequate agistment facilities will be available for quarantine).
- II. Apply for an AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service) '*Permit to Import Quarantine Material*'.
 - A. The '*Option B - Application to import live animals or reproductive materials*' is available from the AQIS web site:
http://www.affa.gov.au/corporate_docs/publications/pdf/quarantine/border/option_b.pdf
 - B. Information on how to fill in the form can be found at this site:
<http://www.affa.gov.au/content/publications.cfm?ObjectID=FA8F4F8B-7F1C-4E65-B6842822AD932B64>
 1. Section 9 requires details on the location/premises the animals will be held, ie. a post arrival quarantine facility.
 - a) The Waite Campus animal facility has the '*Approval of Place for Quarantine*' (approval number: S0216). The registered address is:
 - (1) University of Adelaide (Animal House)
Lab Animal Services, Waite Campus
URRBRAE SA
 - (2) The shipping address is:
The University of Adelaide
C/O Laboratory Animal Services
WAITE CAMPUS
Animal Biotechnology Building (8B)
Paratoo Road
URRBRAE SA 5064
 - C. To discuss your application/permit with an officer of AQIS, contact:
Dr Seng Koh
Principle Veterinary Officer
AQIS, Adelaide
Ph: 8305 9773
Fax: 8305 9823
Email: seng.koh@aqis.gov.au

The most recent AQIS policy on importation of rats and mice can be downloaded from the AQIS URL, <http://www.affa.gov.au/content/publications.cfm?objectid=e3622857-9fa1-4e48-804594ffa2e83e7f>, document number 99/3287 titled, '**QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE LABORATORY RATS AND MICE AND THEIR REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL**'

III. On receipt of a *'Permit to Import Quarantine Material'*:

- A. Notify Laboratory Animal Services of application approval
- B. Discuss agistment arrangements with facility manager and provide a copy of the health monitoring reports from the exporting facility. The health report must be from a submission made within **eight weeks** of estimated arrival time.
- C. Provide a copy of the AQIS 1998 'Quarantine Conditions for the Importation of Laboratory Rats and Mice' to the exporting institution highlighting the relevant conditions, (refer to II C. above)
they are:
 - 1. Animal Health Certificate
 - a) '2.1 There has been no clinical or other evidence of the following diseases or infectious agents in the donor colony during the 12 months prior to export:
 - (1) hantaviruses
 - (2) ectromelia virus'
 - (3) rabies
 - b) '2.2 The colony containing the animals for export is housed in accommodation which precludes access by wildlife, including rodents and insect vectors, and is free of infestation with ectoparasites.'
 - c) '2.3 In the 30 days prior to export, the animals to be exported and the animals in contact with them have remained clinically healthy and free from evidence of infection with those agents listed at 2.1.'
 - d) '2.4 Each animal for export has been examined by an Official Veterinarian within the 48 hours prior to loading and is free from evidence of infectious and contagious and ectoparasites. SPF animals in microisolators are exempt from such examination, but certification by an Official Veterinarian and the Veterinarian in charge of the donor colony attesting to these animals' SPF status must be provided.
 - e) **Each page of the Health Certificate should bear an Official stamp.**
- D. Obtain formal approval from LAS to proceed with importation
NOTE: imported animals will not be permitted into facilities without a health status report and formal approval.
- E. Liaise with LAS facility manager over timing of customs clearance and delivery to the facility

IV. Contact **World Courier** to arrange shipment of goods. **World Courier** provide a "door-to-door" service and will coordinate the entire process. **World Courier** will also act as Customs Broker for **Customs Entry*** of goods. It is important that all documents are provided in advance of departure from exporting facility,
(*Do not authorise release of animals from the exporting facility until Customs Entry has been approved. This will prevent animals being held over at Customs/Quarantine due to incomplete processing. World Courier will assist you in this step.)

Export/Import Coordinator,
World Courier
24 Catalina Drive
Tullamarine, VIC 3043
Australia
Ph: 1800 023 560
Tel: 61/3/9338 5711 | Fax: 61/3/9310 4606
E-mail: <mailto:wcmelops@worldcourier.com.au>
URL: <<http://www.worldcourier.com>>

Provide **World Courier** with copies of:

1. Adelaide University purchase order;
2. 'Permit to Import Quarantine Material' (Import Permit); **ORIGINAL**
3. Export Permit (if applicable);
4. Health Certificate (refer to III c));
5. Copy of an invoice (showing customs "value", not necessarily the price you pay) stating the consignment's value. This should be as low a figure as possible, i.e. \$50.

V. Fees and Charges*

- A. AQIS Fees
AQIS Import Permit Application \$260.00
- B. Live Animal Special Handling (Includes)
AQIS animal inspection
AQIS clearance
- C. Freight Charges (World Courier)
example only-Los Angeles to Adelaide
Base rate (July 2004) \$617.00 *
Per kilogram surcharge \$57.00
(* Includes the 1st kg of shipment weight). Live mice shipments attract a volumetric charge depending on size/numbers of shippers used. Applicable weight charges will be advised.
- D. Customs brokerage is not usually required but if needed charges may be added
*GST may only be applicable on shipments over 23 kg in weight.

VI. Arrival at facility

- A. animals will be housed in a PC2 quarantine room in the Animal Biotechnology Centre at the Waite Campus, approved by AQIS, by Laboratory Animal Services personnel;
- B. rodents will be housed in micro-isolators within the quarantine animal containment unit;
- C. research staff requiring access to quarantined animals will need to undergo training in quarantine procedures and be authorised by the facility manager.

D.
VII. AQIS health monitoring

- A. Under the AQIS importation of mice regulations, serological assays to determine the presence of specific antibodies in rodent sera are required if the imported animals are to be released from quarantine. Sampling to be carried out at a 99% confidence of detection at 20% prevalence level.
- B. Procedure for sampling is:
1. isolate imported animals in quarantine facility for a minimum of **30** days prior to testing ,
 2. infectious agents tested are:
 - a) Hantaan Virus
 - b) Ectromelia Virus
 - c) rabies
 3. assays performed by Veterinary Services Division (IMVS)
 - a) cost: \$18.00 per sample
 - b) blood sample (0.15ml) to be taken by trained persons
 4. sample size
 - a) population sizes under 40 will require all animals being tested,
 5. on receipt of negative results, a formal request to AQIS is made by LAS on your behalf seeking approval to release the imported animals from quarantine,

VIII. LAS Health Monitoring

- A. LAS requires health monitoring reports on the imported animals from the exporting facility that include the pathogens listed on appendix 1:
1. in addition to the health reports from the vendor facilities LAS requires compulsory testing of several pathogens:
 - a) refer to appendix 1
 2. if approval is granted for the release from quarantine (by AQIS) and the health monitoring by LAS demonstrates compliance to our facility standards, the animals will be relocated to the appropriate viral free holding room.

IX. Release from Quarantine*

- A. On receipt of negative results from the LAS specified health monitoring the animals will be introduced to the main viral free barrier facility at the Medical School or shipped direct to another animal facility. The animals will be transferred from micro-isolators to standard cages and removed from the animal quarantine containment unit.

B.
X. AQIS Register

A. A register of all imported rats and mice must be kept by a nominated responsible person. This shall be the investigator responsible for the importation unless otherwise specified.

1. the register shall detail:
 - a) original imported animals
 - b) offspring from breeding program
 - c) reductions due to:
 - (1) use in research
 - (2) deaths
 - (3) culls
 - d) dates of all changes to colony size

I encourage you to liaise closely with LAS personnel during the importation process and invite you to discuss your particular needs with us. I hope this information has been useful.

Andrew Bartlett

13 January 2005 Additional copies of this protocol available from
<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/animal_services/Policy&Procedure.htm>

Appendix 1

Health monitoring reports from vendor facilities should include the following pathogens. Animals imported with incomplete health reports will require further testing for the relevant pathogen. The specific pathogens will be determined on a case by case basis in consultation with Veterinary Services Division.

Compulsory serological testing will be required on the pathogens listed (in bold text)
Sampling to be carried out at a 95% confidence of detection at 40% prevalence level

Mouse QA

VIRAL INFECTIONS

Mouse Hepatitis Virus
Parvovirus
Rotavirus (EDIM)
Murine Cytomegalovirus
TMEV
Pneumonia Virus of Mice
Sendai virus
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus
Ectromelia virus
Reovirus type 3
Mouse Adenovirus (K87 & FL1)
Polyoma virus
Hantaan virus

BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

CAR Bacillus
Clos. piliformis (Tyzerr's)
M.Pulmonis
Staphylococcus aureus
Bordetella bronchiseptica
Citrobacter freundii
Corynebacterium kutscheri
Streptobacillus moniliformis
b-haemolytic streptococci
Streptococcus pneumoniae
Salmonella spp
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Haemophilus spp
Other organisms ass'd with lesions

PARASITOLOGICAL INFECTIONS

E. cuniculi
Arthropods
Gastrointestinal helminths
Giardia spp
Entamoeba muris
Other flagellates
Eimeria spp
Klosiella spp
Toxoplasma gondii
Spironucleus spp

Rat QA

VIRAL INFECTIONS

RCV/SDAV
Parvovirus
TMEV
Pneumonia Virus of Mice
Sendai virus
Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus
Reovirus type 3
Hantaan virus

BACTERIAL INFECTIONS

CAR Bacillus
Clos. piliformis (Tyzerr's)
M.Pulmonis
Staphylococcus aureus
Bordetella bronchiseptica
Citrobacter freundii
Corynebacterium kutscheri
Streptobacillus moniliformis
b-haemolytic streptococci
Streptococcus pneumoniae
Salmonella spp
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Haemophilus spp
Other organisms ass'd with lesions

PARASITOLOGICAL INFECTIONS

E. cuniculi
Arthropods
Gastrointestinal helminths
Giardia spp
Entamoeba muris
Other flagellates
Eimeria spp
Klosiella spp
Toxoplasma gondii
Spironucleus spp