

Hi Everyone - latest update from MPI regarding Q Fever validation below , I am still waiting on DAWR and EMAI to respond to my questions relating to the possibility of not obtaining the required + / - results through the Pilot Program and what ramifications this could have:

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your phone call and follow-up email earlier this week.

On 17th April 2018, MPI Animal Imports received an email from the Australian government Department of Agriculture indicating they have contacted EMAI who are willing to perform an ELISA test validation on behalf of Alpacas Australia and the department.

The purpose of the email was to seek some assurance from MPI that “the validated test (if that is the result of the validation process) would then be acceptable to MPI for camelid export purposes.”

Our response was “At this point, MPI is unable to provide any assurance. Instead, if you provide us with details of the validation process, (including technical aspects) we are happy to consult our experts at the Animal Health Laboratory.”

Accordingly, a copy of the protocol was sent over and we forwarded it onto an expert in the New Zealand Animal Health Laboratory, which is located near Wellington, at Wallaceville. MPI Animal Imports also requested that the experts from the two laboratories communicate directly on the validation process. This is because MPI Animal Imports do not have the necessary expertise to either comment or evaluate any test validation process.

The design and structure of the test validation process is going to be decided upon solely by the agency that is conducting the validation and MPI is not able to influence this protocol. The MPI position is that the exporting country should submit the details of a validated test suitable for testing Q-fever in camelids that are being prepared for export to New Zealand.

Once MPI has received the details of a validated test, MPI will consider its suitability for the purpose of importing live camelids from Australia, and if MPI decides the test is suitable, it could be incorporated into an Import Health Standards for live camelids.

As you have indicated, MPI does not have a position on the fate of the animals that were tested positive for Q fever, other than that they will not meet the New Zealand import conditions.

I do hope this clarifies the MPI stand on the test validation process.

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