



# Wildflower Alpacas Export and Quarantine Services

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**Australia currently has Importing Country Requirements (Protocols) in place for New Zealand, USA, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand (on a case by case basis only) and has Japan and China Protocols under development at present.**  
**STEVE RIDOUT – Wildflower Alpacas**

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**W**e consolidate shipments which allows for multiple importers and exporters to use the same crate when exporting. It enables all importers and exporters to share the costs evenly.

Predominately alpacas sold from Australia are exported to New Zealand and Europe. Alpacas sold to Europe require to stay in New Zealand for a six month period before being eligible to travel on to Europe.

The Importers we use in New Zealand are reputable and experienced Alpaca Breeders, they are also registered Exporters in their own right, so we know the alpacas are going to receive the

best of care and remain on the one property for their stay in New Zealand before their European leg begins.

## SHIPMENT PLANNING STAGE

The planning stage requires the collection of information such as Name, IAR Number, date of birth, sex, last mating date, breeder details (property of origin) and the new owner, we can then commence an application for an import permit.

Health testing and quarantine requirements from the importing country determine the veterinary and DAFF procedures for the shipment. With this detail in place we can plan the isolation period,

testing times required throughout the isolation which ultimately determines the date of departure.

The space required on the aircraft is directly determined by the numbers travelling however careful consideration of age, sex, weight and size of the alpacas is paramount for the safe transport of the group. Airline schedules are also a determining factor on when an actual Quarantine starts. An airline booking is placed and flights confirmed.

The next step as licensed exporters is to submit our Notice of Intent to DAFF in Australia. This allows for our proposed quarantine timetable, animal identification list, facility inspection and Consignment Risk Management Plans to be approved and our Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) allocated to the export. We cannot commence quarantine procedures until final approval has been granted.



## QUARANTINE FOR NEW ZEALAND

We are now ready to receive the alpacas at the Isolation Facility in Strathbogie Victoria managed by Ian and Angela Preuss. The facility is centrally located within Victoria and easily accessible from South Australia and NSW.

When your alpaca arrives at the facility for quarantine, they are inspected by the Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV) assigned to the shipment with very strict rejection criteria in place. The alpacas **MUST** arrive prior to entering quarantine in good health

with no skin conditions, mites or lice, infections or injuries. Any of these conditions will not allow them to pass screening and be allowed to join the quarantine group.

A part of the NZ Protocol requires all alpacas to be bare shorn including head, tail and lower legs to ensure no mud, seeds,

weeds and mites/ticks are left in their fleece. During shearing they are completely checked over, nails and teeth checked and have a NZ Import Ear Tag inserted prior to entry into isolation.

The NZ protocol requires the alpacas to be isolated on an Inert Surface. The ground can be of concrete, crushed gravel or wooden boards. The bedding consists of heat treated wood shavings – NO hay or straw. The bedding is cleaned thoroughly during isolation and requires complete removal part way through the Isolation to be replaced and resprayed again for ticks/mites.

The alpacas are treated for endoparasites and ectoparasites a week prior to entering isolation and again on the day they enter isolation. They are tested for Salmonella and Q Fever and must return a zero faecal egg count to pass the health requirements for New Zealand. They are meticulously examined for ticks and mites before and during isolation and must be mite/tick free for departure.

All female alpacas are required to be ultrasound scanned during the isolation period to determine the gestation of their pregnancy. Pregnant females cannot travel if they are more than 250 days gestation on the date of departure. Every female regardless of age and pregnancy status is required to be scanned.

Alpacas can only be fed on heat treated export quality chaff and pelletised feed that is free of weeds and weed seeds.

## LET THE PAPERWORK BEGIN!

So whilst the alpacas are having all this fun in isolation, there is paperwork to do. The breeders who sold the alpacas will be required to complete a Property of Origin Declaration and a Waybill. You will require a Property Identification Code (PIC) for your property as a part of the process. We obtain a DPI (Department of



left from top:  
**Double tier crates loaded on 747-400 Freighter Aircraft.**  
**On arrival crates are separated on tarmac for ease of unloading.**  
**Empty 747 Freighter Aircraft prior to loading of freight.**

Primary Industry or State Equivalent) clearance on the property of origin to ensure no reportable diseases have occurred and that the property is not under any Quarantine restriction.

Facility Declarations need to be submitted to DAFF throughout Quarantine as well as Veterinary Declarations, Laboratory Results, Travel plans, stocking densities for both road transport and air transport and Aircraft Ventilation Declarations.

A facility sign in booklet is required for every movement (staff and visitors) in and out of the facility during the isolation period. Individual animal records are kept, it gives us the ability to track and monitor items such as weight gain, and ensuring the methodical process of animal checking occurs and is accurate.

The stocking density is calculated and based on the IATA guidelines, however we do also take into account females with cria at foot, pregnant females and of course the segregation of males. The crates are

built under strict airline requirements, fully lined to absorb faeces and urine. The crates are made of heat treated timber and can be in a single or double tier configuration.

All documentation is supplied to DAFF for approval prior to a Certificate to Export and Health Certificate being issued. The documentation will then be supplied to MPI NZ for an approval to enter before being allowed to depart Australia.

The alpacas are inspected on the day prior to departure, all veterinary paperwork is then completed and ready to be submitted. The alpacas' transport vehicle is specially treated to meet quarantine regulations prior to the alpacas being transported to the airport. On arrival a DAFF Veterinary Officer completes an inspection

of the alpacas and the documentation prior to being loaded. The method of loading from the transport to the crate is by the way of a purpose built loading ramp which has an adjustable height for the top tier of a two tier crate.

The alpacas are now ready to be loaded onto a 747-400 freighter aircraft to take them to NZ.

On arrival into Auckland Airport, the alpacas are taken to the Air New Zealand compound for MPI inspection. The top tier of the crates is separated from the bottom tier for ease of unload at ground level. Each animal is inspected by the attending MPI vet, ear tags and documentation checked and alpacas released to the Importer.

## NEW ZEALAND TO EUROPE

For alpacas bound for Europe, the procedures will start all over again in five months time using their sixth month in NZ as their Isolation period for Europe. We must now follow the European Union protocol for the animals to enter Europe.

Most shipments from NZ to Europe can be complex with up to five isolation properties in NZ joining the consolidation. We have had at times alpacas going to over a dozen different consignee's across many countries. Steve travels with the alpacas through to Europe, watering and feeding inflight to ensure they arrive in excellent condition. On arrival into Heathrow, he will unload the alpacas, attend arrival inspections, allow the alpacas to rest and feed before taking them onto mainland Europe. The road transport will take them to Dover, across to Calais, through Belgium, Holland and on to Germany.

As Custom's Duty is payable on any imported commodity, the Customs clearance role in Europe can be quite complex due to the amount of different destination Countries for the alpacas. We use a specialist Livestock Customs Broker in NZ and Europe to ensure all travel documents are correct to enable the alpacas to transit through several countries within Europe and to arrive at their ultimate destination.

Many great friendships have developed whilst delivering alpacas across the world, it's really enjoyable to hear how they have settled into their new homes not to mention the fantastic pictures of Alpacas frolicking in the European snow!

> For enquiries regarding export of alpacas from Australia or New Zealand please feel free to contact us at [s.ridout@bigpond.com](mailto:s.ridout@bigpond.com)



right from top:  
**Purpose built loading ramp enables us to load top tier of crates.**  
**High Hoist loading crates onto aircraft.**  
**On arrival in NZ the alpacas are unloaded and checked one by one.**