

**By-law No. 3** : Measures to prevent the introduction of infectious and contagious animal diseases from abroad.

**Preamble :** The purpose of this By-law is to protect the national livestock against diseases of considerable socio-economic importance which could penetrate across the frontier.

1. It is prohibited to import any castrated or uncastrated male animal of the bovine, bufaline, equine, ovine or porcine species except :
  - a) in the case of uncastrated animals, if authorised by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department, for genetic improvement purposes or
  - b) in the case of castrated or uncastrated animals, if destined for immediate slaughter, in a slaughterhouse not more than 5 km distant from the frontier, with the permission of the DAHO/DVO given in advance; the DAHO/DVO will not grant such permission if there is an active outbreak of Rinderpest or Foot and Mouth disease reported or suspected on the other side of the frontier.
2. It is prohibited to import any female animal of the bovine, bufaline, equine, ovine or porcine species, except under the following condition.
  - a) a permit for importation has been granted in advance by the DAHO/DVO;
  - b) the animal is in apparent good health and originates from an area which is not affected by an outbreak of Rinderpest or Foot and Mouth disease;

- c) the animal is presented immediately upon importation to the representative of the DAHO/DVO for vaccination against Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth disease types, O, A, C, and Asia 1. The DAHO/DVO may also stipulate that the animal be vaccinated against Anthrax, Blackleg and/or Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, or in the case of pigs against swine fever and in the case of sheep against sheep pox.
  - d) The animal is kept in quarantine either in the farm of destination or in an official quarantine station during a period of 15 days or, if originating from the province of Assam during a period of 6 weeks, under the custody of the DAHO/DVO and at the expense of the importer.
  - e) In the case of horses, if the importation of the breed concerned has been approved by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department and if an import permit has been issued.
3. The DAHO/DVO will issue the permit referred to under para 2 above only if the importation is effected by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department or if the prospective importer is
- a) a registered and duly authorized livestock dealer, or
  - b) a resident of the frontier belt area, as defined in para 9 below.
4. It is prohibited to import any living poultry, or uncooked eggs except for consumption in the frontier area or if the import is effected under a special permit issued by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department, for genetic improvement purposes, and if the competent veterinary authority of the exporting country has certified that the birds or hatching eggs are free from pullorosis, Ranikhet disease and infectious bronchitis.
5. It is prohibited to import animal semen, living fish, fingerlings fry, or honeybees, except with a special permit issued by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department, and under conditions to be stipulated from case to case.
6. It is prohibited to import any fresh meat or unsterilised meat products except for consumption in the frontier area. The Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department may make exceptions and stipulate the relevant conditions, provided the area of origin is free from Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth Disease and the meat inspection certificate of the exporting country has been validated by the

Ministry of Development, Royal Government of Bhutan.

7. The Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department in cooperation with the Dzongkhag Administrations, will establish quarantine stations near to the frontier crossing points, at a distance of not less than 500 m from main traffic roads. The quarantine stations shall consist of a number of double fenced paddocks, large enough to accommodate the animals and sufficient in number to permit that no overlapping consignments must be placed within one paddock. There shall be sufficient water supply, independent in each section, shadow areas under trees or roofs, disinfectant mats at the entry, and a dung and waste water disposal system which effectively prevents the contamination of the environment or infection of livestock in the surrounding area.
8. If an outbreak of notifiable infectious or contagious disease should occur in the quarantine station, all animals in the section concerned will immediately be slaughtered without compensation. In the remaining sections, the quarantine period will be prolonged for a period of 21 days following the outbreak. The section affected will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and will not be utilized for a period of 6 months. No animals will be accepted to the quarantine station until 1 month after the outbreak.
9. In a belt of approximately 15 km depth along the frontier, special measures will be applied to prevent the penetration of contagious animal diseases across the frontier. The exact limits of this frontier belt will be defined by the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department, in consultation with the Dzongkhag Administration according to the feasibility of implementing the relevant control measures.
10. No living animal may be moved from the frontier belt to the rest of the country, unless the DAHO/DVO has issued a permit to that effect. The permit will be granted under the condition that the animals are in apparent good health, do not originate from a place which is under sanitary restriction because of an outbreak of a contagious disease, and
  - a) in the case of cattle and buffaloes: the animal has been vaccinated against Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth Disease types O, A, C, and Asia 1 not less than 9 days and not more than 3 months prior to movement; the reaction to tuberculin and brucella test has been negative.

- b) in the case of pigs; the animal has been vaccinated against Swine fever and Foot and Mouth Disease, with 3 quatrivalent cattle doses, not less than 9 days and not more than 1 month prior to movement.
  - c) in the case of sheep the animal has been vaccinated with quatrivalent Foot and Mouth disease vaccine not less than 9 days and not more than 1 month prior to movement; the DAHO/DVO may also stipulate sheep pox vaccination.
  - d) in the case of poultry the agglutination test for pullorosis has been negative, and the bird has been vaccinated against Ranikhet disease.
11. No fresh meat or unsterilized meat product may be moved from the frontier belt area, unless it has been obtained in an approved slaughter-house from an animal inspected ante-mortem and post-mortem by the DAHO/DVO or his representative and approved for human consumption without any restriction, or if the meat or meat product has been imported, if the certificate of the exporting Country has been validated in accordance with para 6 above.
  12. At the Police Road Check Points, the appropriate inspection will be made in order to enforce compliance with the provisions of para 10 and 11 above.
  13. The Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department, in cooperation with the Dzongkhag Administration, will elaborate and implement intensive periodical vaccination programmes in the frontier belt area against rinderpest and Foot and Mouth disease.
  14. In the case of a serious disease outbreak on the other side of the frontier, the Ministry of Development is empowered to take immediately any emergency action in the frontier belt area, which appears feasible and suitable to protect the national livestock.
  15. **Penalty** : The penalty for violation of the above By-law shall be Nu. 100/- in case of negligenc or ignorance. For deliberate and intentional violation, the fine shall be Nu. 500/- and in case of repeated deliberate violation, prison upto 3 months. In all cases, the animals and commodities which have been illegally imported or illegally moved from the frontier belt area, shall be confiscated without compensation.
  16. **Fees** : A fee of Nu. 1/- will be charged for every import permit issued under the provisions of this By-law. A fee of

Nu. 5/- per day will be charged to cover the cost of quarantine for an imported animal if quarantine takes place in an official quarantine station; no fee will be charged if the animal is quarantined in the farm of destination. No fee will be charged for compulsory vaccination in the frontier belt area, and no fee will be charged for permits to transport animals or products from the frontier belt area to the rest of the country.