

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

CHAPTER 14.5.

CHLAMYDOPHILA ABORTUS INFECTION

**(ENZOOTIC ABORTION OF EWES,
(OVINE CHLAMYDIOSIS)**

Article 14.5.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE), also known as ovine chlamydiosis or ovine enzootic abortion, is an infection of domestic sheep and goats by the bacterium *Chlamydophila abortus*.

~~For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the following information should be considered with regard to the incubation period for enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE). Susceptible animals become infected through ingestion of infectious materials. In lambs and non-pregnant ewes, the infection remains latent until conception. Ewes exposed to infection late in pregnancy may not exhibit signs of infection until the subsequent pregnancy. Countries should take account of these risk factors.~~

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 14.5.2.

Recommendations for the importation of sheep and/or goats for breeding

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. have remained since birth, or for the previous 2 years, in *establishments* where no EAE has been diagnosed during the past 2 years;
2. showed no clinical sign of EAE on the day of shipment;
3. were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the 30 days prior to shipment.

Article 14.5.3.

Sheep flocks and/or goat herds free from EAE infection

To qualify as free from EAE *infection*, a sheep *flock* or goat *herd* shall satisfy the following requirements:

1. it is under official veterinary *surveillance*;
2. all sheep and goats showed no clinical evidence of EAE *infection* during the past 2 years;
3. a statistically valid number of sheep and goats over 6 months of age were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the past 6 months;
4. all sheep or goats are permanently identified;

5. no sheep or goat has been added to the *flock* or *herd* since 30 days prior to the *flock* or *herd* test referred to in point 3 above unless:
 - a) either the additions were isolated from other members of the *flock* or *herd* in the *establishment* of origin for a minimum period of 30 days and then were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results, before entry into the new *flock* or *herd*; or
 - b) they originated from an *establishment* of equal health status.

Article 14.5.4.

Recommendations for the importation of semen of sheep

Veterinary Authorities of *importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the donor *animals*:
 - a) have been kept in *establishments* or *artificial insemination centres* free from EAE during the past 2 years, and have not been in contact with *animals* of a lower health status;
 - b) were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results 2 to 3 weeks after collection of the semen;
2. an aliquot of the semen to be exported was shown to be free of ~~*Chlamydia psittaci*~~ *Chlamydophila abortus*, by culture techniques.