

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

USA Comments

CHAPTER 15.2.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

Text as currently proposed:

Article 15.2.1.

General provisions

The pig is the only natural host for classical swine fever (CSF) virus. The definition of pig includes all varieties of *Sus scrofa*, both domestic and wild. For the purposes of this chapter, a distinction is made between domestic pig and wild pig (including feral pigs) populations.

For the purposes of *international trade* the *Terrestrial Code*, classical swine fever (CSF) is defined as an *infection* of domestic pigs.

Domestic pig is defined as 'all domesticated pigs, permanently captive or farmed free range, used for the production of *meat* for consumption, for the production of other commercial products or for breeding these categories of pigs.

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Pigs exposed to CSF virus prenatally may be persistently infected throughout life and may have an *incubation period* of several months before showing signs of *disease*. Pigs exposed postnatally have an *incubation period* of 2-14 days, and are usually infective between post-infection days 5 and 14, but up to 3 months in cases of chronic *infections*.

~~For the purposes of *international trade*, a Member should not impose trade bans in response to a notification of infection with classical swine fever virus in wild pigs according to Article 1.2.3. of the *Terrestrial Code* after the Member confirms that Article 15.2.2. is appropriately implemented.~~

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

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Suggested text:

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Rationale: Changes suggested reflect the change we recommended to the definitions of feral animal and wildlife in the **Glossary Chapter**. Feral animals are distinct from wild animals—specifically, feral animal means an animal of a domesticated species that now lives without supervision from, control by or dependence on humans. The change in the order of the sentences is suggested to improve clarity. We also recommend that the distinction between wild and feral pig populations be made throughout this chapter as appropriate.

Article 15.2.2.

...

Article 15.2.25.

Surveillance strategies1. Introduction

...

34. Serological surveillance

Serological *surveillance* aims at detecting antibodies against CSFV. Positive CSFV antibody test results can have five possible causes:

- a. natural *infection* with CSFV;
- b. ...

Comment/observation to the text being proposed for deletion from Article 15.2.25 items f) through i): The United States asks the OIE to provide the rationale for removing the highlighted text from Article 15.2.25. The text being proposed for removal is not specifically addressed in any other article. There needs to be sound criteria for reviewing the free status of a zone or country, especially if the OIE is now considering granting official status recognition for CSF.

~~The free status should be reviewed whenever evidence emerges to indicate that changes which may alter the underlying assumption of continuing freedom, has occurred. Such changes include but are not limited to:~~

- ~~f. an emergence or an increase in the prevalence of CSF in countries or *zones* from which live pigs or products are imported;~~
- ~~g. an increase in the volume of imports or a change in their country or *zone* of origin;~~
- ~~h. an increase in the prevalence of CSF in the domestic or wild pigs of adjacent countries or *zones*;~~
- ~~i. an increased entry from, or exposure to, infected wild pig populations of adjacent countries or *zones*.~~

Article 15.2.26.

...

Text as currently proposed:

Article 15.2.27.

Recovery of free status: additional surveillance procedures

In addition to the general conditions described in ~~the above-mentioned articles~~ this chapter, a Member seeking reestablishment of country or *zone* freedom from CSF should show evidence of an active *surveillance* programme to demonstrate absence of CSFV infection.

Populations under this *surveillance* programme should include:

- a. *establishments* in the proximity of the *outbreak*;
- b. *establishments* epidemiologically linked to the *outbreak*;
- c. *animals* used to re-populate affected *establishments* and any *establishments* where contiguous culling is carried out;

d. wild pig populations in the area of the *outbreak*.

In all circumstances, a Member seeking reestablishment of country or *zone* freedom from CSF ~~with vaccination or without vaccination~~ should report the results of an active and a passive *surveillance* programme, ~~in which~~ ~~the~~ pig population should undergoes regular clinical, pathological, virological, and/or serological examination, planned and implemented according to the general conditions and methods described in these recommendations. ~~The *surveillance* should be based on a statistically representative sample of the populations at risk. To regain CSF free status, the *surveillance* approach should provide at least the same level of confidence as demonstrated during the previous declaration of freedom.~~

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Rationale: The United States believes that the current proposed text does not allow for self-assessment or improvement of surveillance approaches. This may be the case if the original level of confidence was inadequate to detect disease. The suggested text addresses this weakness.