

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS
COMMISSION

USA Comments- all suggested text in blue font

SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

CHAPTER 12.9.

EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS

Current text:

Article 12.9.1.

General provisions

The *infective period* for equine viral arteritis (EVA) shall be 28 days for all categories of equine except sexually mature stallion where the *infective period* may be for the life of the *animal*. Because the *infective period* may be extended in the case of virus shedding in semen, the status of seropositive stallions should be checked to ensure that they do not shed virus in their semen.

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

Proposed text:

Article 12.9.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the Terrestrial Code, equine viral arteritis (EVA) is defined as an infection of domestic and feral members of the family, *Equidae*.

This chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by equine arteritis virus (EAV), but also with the presence of infection with EAV in the absence of clinical signs. For the purposes of this chapter, isolation is defined as the separation of domestic equids from those of a different EVA health status, utilizing appropriate biosecurity measures, with the objective of preventing the transmission of infection.

The *infective period* for equine viral arteritis (EVA) shall be 28 days for all categories of equine except sexually mature stallion where the *infective period* may be for the life of the *animal*. Because the *infective period* may be extended in the case of virus shedding in semen, the status of seropositive stallions should be checked to ensure that they do not shed virus in their semen.

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

Rationale for the added text to Article 12.9.1 : The United States strongly recommends adding the text indicated above as double underlined. It provides further context to the provisions of this chapter and is consistent with the language used in other disease Code chapters.

Article 12.9.2.

Recommendations for the importation of uncastrated male equines

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *animals* showed no clinical signs of EVA on the day of shipment and during the 28 days prior to shipment and met one of the following requirements:

1. were isolated for the 28 days prior to shipment and were subjected, to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*, carried out on a single blood sample collected during the 21 days prior to shipment with negative result; or
2. ~~were subjected~~ colts between 6 and 9 months of age ~~to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*, carried out on two blood samples collected at least 14 days apart with stable or decreasing titre, immediately~~ were vaccinated for EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

Rationale to amending Article 12.9.2, Point 2:

The United States is not able to determine the scientific basis for the recommendation that uncastrated (intact) male equines of 6 to 9 months of age be blood sampled twice at least 14 days apart. The United States questions the purpose of demonstrating a stable or decreasing antibody titer in colts between 6 and 9 months of age if they are going to be immediately vaccinated for EVA and kept on a regimen of regular revaccination according to the manufacturer's instructions. Since uncastrated colts of this age are pre-pubertal, they represent no known risk of being persistently infected with equine arteritis virus. Furthermore, whether these young horses have either a rising, stable, or decreasing antibody titer to the virus is irrelevant since they are going to be immediately vaccinated against EVA and then regularly re-vaccinated as recommended. Requiring paired blood samples from this category of equid is redundant.

3. met the following requirements:
 - a) were isolated; and
 - b) not earlier than 7 days of commencing isolation were ~~tested, with negative results, with~~ subjected to a test for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* on a blood sample with negative results; and

- c) were then immediately vaccinated; and
 - d) were kept separated from other equidae for 21 days following vaccination; and
 - e) were revaccinated regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions; or
4. have been subjected to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*, carried out on a blood sample with positive results and then: either
- a) were subsequently test mated to two mares within 6 months prior to shipment which were subjected to two tests for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results on blood samples collected at the time of test mating and again 28 days after the mating; or
 - b) were subjected to a test for equine arteritis virus as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, carried out on semen collected during the 6 months prior to shipment; or
 - c) were subjected to a test for equine arteritis virus as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, carried out on semen collected within 6 months after the blood sample was tested, then immediately vaccinated, and revaccinated regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Rationale for additional text to Article 12.9.2, Points 4b and 4c

Between Points b) and c) need to add the word "or" as this was inadvertently left out. To be consistent with text elsewhere in this chapter, the qualifier "in accordance with manufacturer's instructions" should be added at the end of this clause.

Article 12.9.3.

Recommendations for the importation of equines other than uncastrated males

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *animals* showed no clinical signs of EVA on the day of shipment and were kept in an *establishment* where no *animals* have shown any signs of EVA for the 28 days prior to shipment; and

EITHER

- 1. were kept in an *establishment* where no *animals* have shown any signs of EVA for the 28 days prior to shipment; and
 - a) were subjected to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*, carried out on blood samples collected on two occasions at least 14 days apart within 28 days prior to shipment, which demonstrated stable or declining antibody titres; or
 - b) were regularly vaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

OR

Rationale: Formatting correction

2. were isolated for the 28 days prior to shipment and during this period the *animals* showed no signs of EVA.

Article 12.9.4.

Recommendations for the importation of semen

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the ~~animal donors~~ donor stallions were kept for the 28 days prior to semen collection in an *establishment* where no equine has shown any clinical sign of EVA during that period and showed no clinical sign of EVA on the day of semen collection; and

1. ~~were subjected colts~~ between 6 and 9 months of age ~~to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*, carried out on two blood samples collected at least 14 days apart with stable or decreasing titre, immediately~~ were vaccinated for EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

Article 12.9.4, Point 1

Again, the United States questions the scientific basis for twice blood sampling of un-castrated male equines 6 to 9 months of age. Please refer to our comments and rationale on this item under Article 12.9.2, Point 2.

2. were isolated and not earlier than 7 days of commencing isolation were subjected to a test for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* on a blood sample with negative results, immediately vaccinated for EVA, kept for 21 days following vaccination separated from other equidae and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions; or
3. were subjected to a test for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* on a blood sample with negative results within 14 days prior to semen collection, and had been separated from other equidae not of an equivalent EVA status for 14 days prior to blood sampling ~~from the time of the taking of the blood sample~~ until the end of semen collection; or
4. have been subjected to a test for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* carried out on a blood sample with positive results and then: either
 - a) were subsequently test mated to two mares within 6 months prior to semen collection, which were subjected to two tests for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results on blood samples collected at the time of test mating and again 28 days after the test mating, or
 - b) were subjected to a test for equine arteritis virus as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, carried out on semen collected within 6 months prior to collection of the semen to be exported; or
 - c) were subjected to a test for equine arteritis virus as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, carried out on semen collected within 6 months after the blood sample was tested, then immediately vaccinated, and revaccinated regularly; or

5. ~~were~~, for frozen semen, were subjected with negative results either:

Rationale: improved grammar

- a) to a test for EVA as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* carried out on a blood sample taken not earlier than 14 days and not later than 12 months after the collection of the semen for export; or
- b) to a test for equine arteritis virus as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* carried out on an aliquot of the semen collected immediately prior to processing or on an aliquot of semen collected within 14 to 30 days after the first collection of the semen to be exported.