

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 2011 REPORT

USA COMMENTS

CHAPTER 8.2.  
AUJESZKY'S DISEASE

**Comment:** the United States is strongly opposed to the proposed approach of combining captive wild pigs with domestic pigs in both this chapter and in the chapter on Classical Swine Fever. Lumping captive wild pigs with domestic pigs is a very crude method of categorizing two very epidemiologically, functionally, and economically distinct swine populations. This proposed change brings captive wild pigs into the realm of domestic production. Managing wild pigs populations, even when “captive”, is extremely challenging and difficult at best. The United States strongly urges the OIE to keep the domestic commercial production pigs separate and apart from these captive pigs populations.

The very high health status of the US swine commercial production population has played a significant role in maintaining the domestic and international demand for our pork products. By contrast, captive wild pigs are often raised under very primitive conditions with the primary final objective of production for hunting. In addition, the official oversight of such captive wild population is either inconsistent or completely unknown in many countries. It is very unlikely that any *Veterinary Authority* will have accurate knowledge of its “captive” swine populations, is able to achieve the level of surveillance required to detect the presence of infection in the absence of clinical signs in these populations, or can provide the assurances that such captive wild populations are truly separated from the feral and wild pig populations to prevent transmitting CSF or AD. Captivity (fenced in) of a wild/feral population does not grant that population a higher health status than wild and feral pigs. Nor should the disease status of these captive wild pigs, which will often be lower, affect the health status of commercial production swine since they are two separate and distinct epidemiological populations. Surveillance and health status should be kept separate for the two populations.

As mentioned in our comments on the paper entitled “Development of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code to Address Wildlife”, the OIE must be guided by the principles it has embraced related to wildlife (i.e. assessing wildlife health, protecting biodiversity, further understanding disease ecology, and identifying emerging infectious diseases that could impact humans and domestic animals) which recognized that countries conducting disease surveillance in wildlife populations are more likely to understand the epidemiology of specific infectious diseases and zoonotic outbreaks. Countries that adopt these practices are better equipped and prepared to develop solutions that will protect humans, livestock, the environment, and wildlife. The OIE encourages all countries to develop and maintain wildlife disease surveillance systems, which complement and support human health and agricultural animal disease programs. However, linking such surveillance in wildlife to a country’s agricultural disease status is inconsistent with these principles.

The United States recognizes that there may be a need to include the “captive wild” pig population in the CSF and AD Code chapters because in certain parts of the world such pigs may be managed similar to domestic swine for the purpose of producing meat to fill some desired niche. To address this component, the United States recommends that the OIE develop a separate and specific Article within the CSF and AD chapters outlining the requirements for a “captive wild” CSF or AD free “herd”, and then specifying the recommendations for importing captive wild pigs and fresh meat and other products derived from captive wild pigs. This way a clear separation is understood between the truly commercial production domestic population and the captive wild population.

#### Article 8.2.1.

##### General provisions

Pigs are the natural host for Aujeszky’s disease (AD) virus, although it can infect cattle, sheep, cats, dogs and rats causing fatal *disease*. The definition of pig includes all varieties of *Sus scrofa*, both domestic and wild.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, AD is defined as an *infection* of domestic pigs ~~and~~ or captive wild pigs.

For the purposes of this chapter, a distinction is made between domestic pig and *captive wild* pig populations on the one hand, and wild ~~pig~~ and *feral* pig populations on the other hand.

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

A Member should not impose trade bans in response to a notification of *infection* with AD virus in wild and feral pigs according to Article 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

When authorising import or transit of the *commodities* covered in the chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 8.2.3., *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the AD status of the *exporting country* or *zone*.

#### Article 8.2.2.

##### Determination of the AD status of a country or zone

The AD free or provisionally free status of a country or *zone* can only be determined after considering the following criteria in domestic and wild pigs, as applicable:

1. AD is notifiable in the whole country, and all clinical signs suggestive of AD should be subjected to field and/or *laboratory* investigations;
2. an on-going awareness programme should be in place to encourage reporting of all *cases* suggestive of AD;
3. the *Veterinary Authority* should have current knowledge of, and authority over, all domestic and captive wild pigs in the country or *zone*;

4. the *Veterinary Authority* should have current knowledge about the population and habitat of wild and *feral* pigs in the country or *zone*;
5. appropriate *surveillance*, capable of detecting the presence of *infection* even in the absence of clinical signs, is in place; this may be achieved through a *surveillance* programme in accordance with Chapter 1.4.

Article 8.2.3.

### Safe commodities

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities* and any products made from these, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any AD related conditions, regardless of the AD status of the *exporting country* or *zone*:

1. *fresh meat* of domestic and wild pigs not containing offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera);
2. *meat products* of domestic and wild pigs not containing offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera);
3. products of animal origin not containing offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera).

Article 8.2.4.

### AD free country or zone

#### 1. Qualification

- a) A country or *zone* may be considered free from the *disease* without formally applying a specific *surveillance* programme (historical freedom) if the *disease* has not been reported for at least 25 years, and if for at least the past 10 years:
  - i) it has been a *notifiable disease*;
  - ii) an early detection system has been in place;
  - iii) measures to prevent the introduction of the AD virus into the country or *zone* have been in place;
  - iv) no vaccination against the *disease* has been carried out;
  - v) *infection* is not known to be established in wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~, or measures have been implemented to prevent any transmission of the AD virus from wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~ to domestic ~~and captive wild~~ pigs.
- b) A country or *zone* which does not meet the conditions of the above paragraph may be considered free from AD when:
  - i) animal health regulations to control the movement of *commodities* with the exception of those listed in Article 8.2.3. in order to prevent the introduction of *infection* into the *establishments* of the country or *zone* have been in place for at least two years;
  - ii) vaccination against AD has been banned for all domestic ~~and captive wild~~ pigs in the country or *zone* for at least two years unless there are means, validated to OIE standards (Chapter 2.1.2. of the Terrestrial Manual), of distinguishing between vaccinated and infected pigs;

- iii) if AD has never been reported in the country or *zone*, serological surveys, with negative results, have been conducted on a representative sample of all pig *establishments* in conformity with the recommendations in Chapter 1.4. at an acceptable level of confidence, no more than three years prior to qualification; the serological surveys should be directed at the detection of antibodies to the whole virus, and based on the breeding pig population or, for *establishments* that contain no breeding pigs, on a comparable number of fattening pigs; or
- iv) if AD has been reported in the country or *zone*, a *surveillance* and control programme has been in place to detect every infected *establishment* and eradicate AD from it; the *surveillance* programme should be carried out in conformity with the recommendations in Chapter 1.4. and demonstrate that no *establishments* within the country or *zone* have had any clinical, virological or serological evidence of AD for at least two years.
- v) In countries or *zones* with wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~, measures should be implemented to prevent any transmission of the AD virus from wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~ to domestic ~~and captive wild pigs~~.

## 2. Maintenance of free status

In order to maintain its free status, a country or *zone* should comply with the following requirements:

- a) periodic serological surveys directed at the detection of antibodies to the whole AD virus should be carried out on a statistically significant number of breeding pigs, in conformity with the recommendations in Chapter 1.4.;
- b) the importation of the *commodities* with the exception of those listed in Article 8.2.3. into the country or *zone* is carried out in conformity with the import conditions contained in the relevant Articles of the present chapter;
- c) the ban on AD vaccination remains in force;
- d) measures aimed at preventing the transmission of the AD virus from wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~ to domestic ~~and captive wild~~ pigs remain in force.

## 3. Recovery of free status

Should an AD *outbreak* occur in an *establishment* of a free country or *zone*, the status of the country or *zone* may be restored if either:

- a) all the pigs in the *outbreak* have been slaughtered; and, during and after the application of this measure, an epidemiological investigation including clinical examination, and serological and/or virological testing has been carried out in all pig *establishments* which have been directly or indirectly in contact with the infected *establishment* and in all pig *establishments* located within a prescribed radius from the *outbreak*, demonstrating that these *establishments* are not infected; or
- b) vaccination with gE- deleted vaccines has been applied and:
  - i) a serological testing procedure (differential ELISA) has been implemented in the *establishments* where vaccination has been applied to demonstrate the absence of *infection*;
  - ii) the movement of pigs from these *establishments* has been banned, except for immediate *slaughter*, until the above procedure has demonstrated the absence of *infection*;

- iii) during and after the application of the measures described in points i) to ii) above, a thorough epidemiological investigation including clinical examination and serological and/or virological testing has been carried out in all pig *establishments* which have been directly or indirectly in contact with the infected *establishment* and in all pig *establishments* located within a prescribed radius from the *outbreak*, demonstrating that these *establishments* are not infected.

#### Article 8.2.5.

### AD provisionally free country or zone

#### 1. Qualification

A country or *zone* may be considered as provisionally free from AD if the following conditions are complied with:

- a) animal health regulations to control the movement of *commodities* with the exception of those listed in Article 8.2.3. in order to prevent the introduction of *infection* into the *establishments* of the country or *zone* have been in place for at least two years;
- b) if AD has never been reported in the country or *zone*, a serological survey, with negative results, has been conducted on a representative sample of all pig *establishments* in conformity with the recommendations in Chapter 1.4. (but not at an acceptable level of confidence); the serological survey should be directed at the detection of antibodies to the whole virus, and based on the breeding pig population or, for *establishments* that contain no breeding pigs, on a comparable number of fattening pigs; or
- c) if AD has been reported in the country or *zone*, a *surveillance* and control programme has been in place to detect infected *establishments* and eradicate AD from these *establishments*, the *herd* prevalence rate in the country or *zone* has not exceeded 1 percent for at least three years (the sampling procedure described in point 1e) of the definition of ‘AD free establishment’ should be applied within the *establishments* of the country or *zone*), and at least 90 percent of the *establishments* in the country or *zone* are qualified free;
- d) in countries or *zones* with wild ~~and feral swine pigs~~, measures should be taken to prevent any transmission of the AD virus between wild ~~and ferals swine pigs~~ and domestic ~~and captive wild~~ pigs.

#### 2. Maintenance of provisionally free status

In order to maintain its provisionally free status, a country or *zone* should comply with the following requirements:

- a) the measures described in points 1b) and 1d) above should be continued;
- b) the percentage of infected *establishments* remains <1 percent;
- c) the importation of the *commodities* with the exception of those listed in Article 8.2.3. into the country or *zone* is carried out in conformity with the import conditions contained in the relevant articles of the present chapter.

### 3. Recovery of provisionally free status

Should the percentage of infected *establishments* exceed 1 percent in a provisionally free country or *zone*, the status of the country or *zone* is cancelled and may be restored only once the percentage of infected *establishments* has remained <1 percent for at least six months, and this result is confirmed by a serological survey conducted in conformity with point 1c) above.

Article 8.2.6.

### **AD infected country or zone**

For the purposes of this chapter, countries and *zones* which do not fulfil the conditions to be considered free or provisionally free of AD should be considered as infected.

Article 8.2.7.

### **AD free establishment**

#### 1. Qualification

To qualify as free from AD, an *establishment* should satisfy the following conditions:

- a) it is under the control of the *Veterinary Authority*;
- b) no clinical, virological or serological evidence of AD has been found for at least one year;
- c) the introduction of pigs, semen and embryos/ova into the *establishment* is carried out in conformity with the import conditions for these *commodities* contained in the relevant articles of the present chapter;
- d) vaccination against AD has not been carried out in the *establishment* for at least 12 months, and any previously vaccinated pigs are free from gE antibodies;
- e) a representative sample of breeding pigs from the *establishment* has been subjected, with negative results, to serological tests to the whole AD virus, applying a sampling procedure set out in conformity with the recommendations in Chapter 1.4.; these tests should have been carried out on two occasions, at an interval of two months; for *establishments* that contain no breeding pigs, the tests should be carried out only once on a comparable number of fattening or weaning pigs;
- f) *surveillance* and control programme has been in place to detect infected *establishments* located within a prescribed radius from the *establishment* and no *establishment* is known to be infected within this *zone*.

#### 2. Maintenance of free status

For *establishments* located in an infected country or *infected zone*, the testing procedure described in point 1e) above should be carried out every four months.

For *establishments* located in a provisionally free country or *zone*, the testing procedure described in point 1e) above should be carried out every year.

### 3. Recovery of free status

Should a free *establishment* become infected, or should an *outbreak* occur within a prescribed radius from a free *establishment*, the free status of the *establishment* should be suspended until the following conditions are met:

- a) in the infected *establishment*:
  - i) all the pigs in the *establishment* have been slaughtered, or
  - ii) at least 30 days after removal of all infected *animals*, all breeding *animals* have been subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, on two occasions, at an interval of 2 months;
- b) in other *establishments* located within the prescribed radius: a number of breeding pigs from each *establishment* has been subjected, with negative results, to serological tests to the whole AD virus (non vaccinated *establishments*) or to gE antibodies (vaccinated *establishments*), applying the sampling procedure described in point 1e) above.

Article 8.2.8.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD free countries or zones**

For domestic and captive wild pigs

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

1. showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of shipment;
2. come from an *establishment* located in an AD free country or *zone*;
3. have not been vaccinated against AD.

Article 8.2.9.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones**

For domestic and captive wild pigs for breeding or rearing

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

1. showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of shipment;
2. have been kept exclusively in AD free *establishments* since birth;
3. have not been vaccinated against AD;
4. were subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, within 15 days prior to shipment.

## Article 8.2.10.

**Recommendations for importation from AD infected countries or zones**

For domestic and captive wild pigs for breeding or rearing

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

1. showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of shipment;
2. were kept exclusively in AD free *establishments* since birth;
3. have not been vaccinated against AD;
4. were isolated in the *establishment* of origin or a *quarantine station*, and were subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, on two occasions, at an interval of not less than 30 days between each test, the second test being performed during the 15 days prior to shipment.

## Article 8.2.11.

**Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones or AD infected countries or zones**

For domestic and captive wild pigs for slaughter

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

1. a *surveillance* and control programme is in place in the country or *zone* to detect infected *establishments* and eradicate AD;
2. the *animals*:
  - a) are not being eliminated as part of an eradication programme;
  - b) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of shipment;
  - c) i) have been kept exclusively in AD free *establishments* since birth; or
  - ~~d~~—ii) have been vaccinated against AD at least 15 days prior to shipment.

[*Note: Appropriate precautions should be taken both by the exporting country and the importing country to ensure that the pigs are transported directly from the place of shipment to the abattoir for immediate slaughter.*]

## Article 8.2.12.

**Recommendations for importation from AD free countries or zones**For wild and feral pigs swine

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

1. showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of shipment;
2. were captured in an AD free country or *zone*;
3. have not been vaccinated against the *disease*;
4. were isolated in a *quarantine station*, and were subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, on two occasions, at an interval of not less than 30 days between each test, the second test being performed during the 15 days prior to shipment.

## Article 8.2.13.

**Recommendations for importation from AD free countries or zones**For semen of pigs

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

1. the donor *animals*:
  - a) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection of the semen;
  - b) were kept in an *establishment* or *artificial insemination centre* located in an AD free country or *zone* at the time of semen collection;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

## Article 8.2.14.

**Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones**For semen of pigs

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

1. the donor *animals*:
  - a) have been kept for at least four months prior to semen collection in an *artificial insemination centre* which has the status of AD free *establishment*, and where all boars are subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, every four months;
  - b) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection;

2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article 8.2.15.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD infected countries or zones**

#### For semen of pigs

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

1. the donor *animals*:
  - a) were kept in an AD free *establishment* for at least six months prior to entering the *artificial insemination centre*;
  - b) have been kept for at least four months prior to semen collection in the *artificial insemination centre* which has the status of AD free *establishment*, and where all boars are subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, every four months;
  - c) were subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, within 10 days prior to or 21 days after semen collection;
  - d) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article 8.2.16.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD free countries or zones**

#### For *in vivo* derived embryos of pigs

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

1. the donor females:
  - a) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection of the embryos;
  - b) were kept in an *establishment* located in an AD free country or *zone* prior to collection;
2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7. and 4.9., as relevant.

Article 8.2.17.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones**

#### For *in vivo* derived embryos of pigs

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

1. the donor females:
  - a) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection of the embryos;
  - b) were kept in an AD free *establishment* for at least three months prior to collection;
2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7.and 4.9., as relevant.

Article 8.2.18.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD infected countries or zones**

#### For *in vivo* derived embryos of pigs

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

1. the donor females:
  - a) showed no clinical sign of AD on the day of collection of the embryos;
  - b) were kept in an AD free *establishment* for at least three months prior to collection;
  - c) were subjected to a serological test to the whole AD virus, with negative results, within ten days prior to collection;
2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7.and 4.9., as relevant.

Article 8.2.19.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD free countries or zones**

#### For offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera) of pigs or products containing pig offal

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of offal or products containing pig offal comes from *animals* which come from *establishments* located in an AD free country or *zone*.

Article 8.2.20.

### **Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones or from AD infected countries or zones**

#### For offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera) of pigs

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of offal comes from *animals*:

1. which have been kept in an AD free *establishment* since birth;
2. which have not been in contact with *animals* from *establishments* not considered free from AD during their transport to the approved *abattoir* and therein.

## Article 8.2.21.

**Recommendations for importation from AD provisionally free countries or zones or from AD infected countries or zones**For products containing pig offal (head, and thoracic and abdominal viscera)

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

1. either the entire consignment of offal used to prepare the products complied with the conditions referred to in Article 8.2.20.; or
2. the products have been processed to ensure the destruction of the AD virus; and
3. the necessary precautions were taken after processing to avoid contact of the products with any source of AD virus.