TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2011 REPORT

USA COMMENTS

CHAPTER 12.9.

EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS

General Comment and Request: Since there continues to be some differences of opinión among the experts on certain Articles of this chapter, the United States requests that the OIE organize or convene the small group of subject matter experts on Equine Viral Arteritis (via teleconference or other means) to address the issue under Articles 12.9.2 Point 2, and 12.9.4 Point 1.

Article 12.9.1.

General provisions

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

This chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by the aetiologic agent equine arteritis virus (EAV), but also with the presence of *infection* with ~~EAV~~ the virus 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~~ EAV health status, utilising 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 equids~~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: edits indicated are suggested for improved clarity

Article 12.9.2.

Recommendations for the importation of uncastrated male equids~~equines~~

Veterinary Authorities of *importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *animals* showed no clinical sign 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 between six and ~~nine~~ twelve months of age to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*;

Rationale: The United States considers that the window for testing and vaccinating colt foals of 6 to 9 months of age is too narrow. We request that this window be modified to 6 to 12 months to accommodate for the wide range of the ages of colt foals on many premises in any one year. Increasing the window from 9 to 12 months from will not increase the risk associated with this provision. It is internationally well accepted that 12-month-old colts are still well within the prepubertal stage of reproductive development and as such do not constitute a risk of becoming carriers of equine arteritis virus. Additionally, from a practical management viewpoint, it would greatly facilitate promotion of prophylactic vaccination of young colts against EVA, if blood testing and vaccination could be carried out on one occasion and not multiple occasions on a breeding farm.

EITHER:

a)~~,~~ with a negative result,

OR

b) with a positive result, followed at least 14 days later by a second test showing ~~carried out on two blood samples collected at least 14 days apart with~~a stable or decreasing titre;

Note 1: The United States continues to question the scientific basis of resampling and retesting seropositive colt foals a second time with a view to establishing that they have a stable or decreasing antibody titer to equine arteritis virus before they are "immediately vaccinated" against EVA. Modifying this provision by requiring only one blood test would in no respect enhance the risk of such animals serving as a source of virus since they are to be vaccinated immediately against the disease. If vaccination were excluded from this provision, then there would be logic to requiring a second blood test and confirmation of a stable or declining antibody titer.

and were~~,~~ immediately vaccinated ~~for~~ against EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's recommendations ~~instructions;~~ or

Rationale: Proper syntax in the English language is to vaccinate "against" a disease; also, the terminology used by the vaccine manufacturer is "recommendation" rather tan "instruction". Similar suggestions are indicated in the other Articles of this chapter where this language appears.

3. met the following requirements:

   a) were isolated; and

   b) not earlier than seven days of commencing isolation were 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 equids~~equidae~~ for 21 days following vaccination; and

   e) were revaccinated regularly according to the manufacturer's recommendations ~~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 six 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 six 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 six months after the blood sample was tested, then immediately vaccinated, and revaccinated regularly in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations ~~instructions.~~

Article 12.9.3.

Recommendations for the importation of equids~~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 sign 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 either once within 21 days prior to shipment with negative result, or 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 recommendations ~~instructions;~~

OR

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

Article 12.9.4.

Recommendations for the importation of equine semen

Veterinary Authorities of *importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the ~~animal~~ donor~~s~~ stallions were kept for the 28 days prior to semen collection in an *establishment* where no equid~~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 between six and ~~nine~~ twelve months of age to a test for EVA, as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual*;

Rationale: Please refer to our rationale under Article 12.9.2, Point 2.

Either:

a)~~,~~ with a negative result,

OR

b) with a positive result, followed at least 14 days later by a second test showing ~~on two blood samples collected at least 14 days apart with~~ a stable or decreasing titre;

and were immediately vaccinated for EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's instructions; or

2. were isolated and not earlier than seven 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 equids~~equidae~~ and regularly revaccinated according to the manufacturer's recommendations ~~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 equids~~equidae~~ not of an equivalent EVA status for 14 days prior to blood sampling 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 six 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 six 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 six months after the blood sample was collected ~~tested~~, then immediately vaccinated, and revaccinated regularly; or

   Rationale: A blood sample may not be immediately tested upon collection. The reference point should be the time of collection and not the time of testing.

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

   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.