

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2012 REPORT

CHAPTER x.x.

**INFECTION WITH EPIZOOTIC HEMORRHAGIC
DISEASE VIRUS**

Article x.x.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is an *infection* of cervids, and cattle with one of several serotypes of epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV). *Outbreaks of disease* due to EHDV are sporadic and geographically restricted. EHDV is not regarded as a significant pathogen of livestock in many countries in which it is present.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for EHDV shall be 60 days.

In the absence of clinical *disease* in a country or *zone*, its EHDV status should be determined by an ongoing *surveillance* programme (in accordance with Article x.x.16.). The programme may need to be adapted to target parts of the country or *zone* at a higher risk due to historical, geographical and climatic factors, ruminant population data and *Culicoides* ecology.

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

Article x.x.2.

Safe commodities

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any EHDV related conditions regardless of the EHDV status of the ruminant population of the *exporting country or zone*:

1. *milk* and *milk products*;
2. *meat* and *meat products*;
3. hides, skins, antlers and hooves;
4. wool and fibre.

Article x.x.3.

EHDV free country or zone

1. A country or a *zone* may be considered free from EHDV when epizootic haemorrhagic disease is notifiable in the whole country and either:
 - a) a *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article x.x.16. has demonstrated no evidence of EHDV transmission in the country or *zone* during the past 2 years; or
 - b) an ongoing *surveillance* programme has demonstrated no evidence of *Culicoides* in the country or *zone*.

2. An EHDV free country or *zone* in which ongoing *vector surveillance* has found no evidence of *Culicoides* will not lose its free status through the importation of seropositive or infective *animals*, or semen, embryos or ova from infected countries or *infected zones*.
3. An EHDV free country or *zone* in which *surveillance* has found evidence that *Culicoides* are present will not lose its free status through the importation of seropositive *animals*

Article x.x.4.

EHDV seasonally free zone

An EHDV seasonally free *zone* is a part of an infected country or an *infected zone* for which for part of a year *surveillance* demonstrates no evidence either of EHDV transmission or of adult *Culicoides*.

Article x.x.5.

EHDV infected country or zone

For the purpose of this chapter, an EHDV infected country or *infected zone* is a clearly defined area where evidence of EHDV transmission has been reported during the past 2 years. Such a country or *zone* may contain an EHDV seasonally free *zone*.

Article x.x.6.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV free countries or zones

for cattle and cervids

Where EHDV is of concern, *Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the *animals* were kept in an EHDV free country or *zone* since birth or for at least 60 days prior to shipment; or
2. the *animals* were kept in an EHDV free country or *zone* for at least 28 days, then were subjected, with negative results, to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group and remained in the EHDV free country or *zone* until shipment; or
3. the *animals* were kept in an EHDV free country or *zone* for at least 7 days, then were subjected, with negative results, to an agent identification test and remained in the EHDV free country or *zone* until shipment;

AND

4. if the *animals* were exported from a free *zone* within an *infected country* either:
 - a) did not transit through an *infected zone* during transportation to the *place of shipment*; or
 - b) were protected from attack by *Culicoides* at all times when transiting through an *infected zone*

Article x.x.7.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV seasonally free zonesfor cattle and cervids

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

1. were kept during the seasonally free period in an EHDV seasonally free *zone* since birth or for at least 60 days prior to shipment; or
2. were kept during the EHDV seasonally free period in an EHDV seasonally free *zone* for at least 28 days prior to shipment, and were subjected during the residence period in the *zone* to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group with negative results, carried out at least 28 days after the commencement of the residence period; or
3. were kept during the EHDV seasonally free period in an EHDV seasonally free *zone* for at least 14 days prior to shipment, and were subjected during the residence period in the *zone* to an agent identification test with negative results, carried out at least 14 days after the commencement of the residence period

AND

4. either:
 - a) did not transit through an *infected zone* during transportation to the *place of shipment*; or
 - b) were protected from attack by *Culicoides* at all times when transiting through an *infected zone*

Article x.x.8.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV infected countries or zonesfor cattle and cervids

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

1. were protected from attack by *Culicoides* in a vector-protected *establishment* for at least 60 days prior to shipment and during transportation to the *place of shipment*; or
2. were protected from attack by *Culicoides* in a vector-protected establishment for at least 28 days prior to shipment and during transportation to the *place of shipment*, and were subjected during that period to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, with negative results, carried out at least 28 days after introduction into the vector-protected *establishment*; or
3. were protected from attack by *Culicoides* in an vector-protected *establishment* for at least 14 days prior to shipment and during transportation to the *place of shipment*, and were subjected during that period to an agent identification test with negative results, carried out at least 14 days after introduction into the vector-protected *establishment*; or
4. were demonstrated to have antibodies for at least 60 days prior to dispatch against all serotypes whose presence has been demonstrated in the source population through a *surveillance* programme in accordance with Article x.x.16.

Article x.x.9.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV free countries or zonesfor semen of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor *animals*:
 - a) were kept in an EHDV free country or *zone* for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, between 21 and 60 days after the last collection for this consignment, with negative results; or
 - c) were subjected to an agent identification test on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days (virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (PCR test) during, semen collection for this consignment, with negative results;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article x.x.10.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV seasonally free zonesfor semen of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor *animals*:
 - a) were kept during the EHDV seasonally free period in a seasonally free *zone* for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, with negative results, at least every 60 days throughout the collection period and between 21 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment; or
 - c) were subjected to an agent identification test on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days (virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (PCR test) during, semen collection for this consignment, with negative results;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article x.x.11.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV infected countries or zonesfor semen of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor *animals*:
 - a) were kept in a vector-protected *establishment* for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, with negative results, at least every 60 days throughout the collection period and between 21 and 60 days after the final collection for this consignment; or
 - c) were subjected to an agent identification test on blood samples collected at commencement and conclusion of, and at least every 7 days (virus isolation test) or at least every 28 days (PCR test) during, semen collection for this consignment, with negative results;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article x.x.12.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV free countries or zones

for embryos or oocytes of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor females:
 - a) were kept in an EHDV free country or *zone* for at least the 60 days prior to, and at the time of, collection of the embryos; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, between 21 and 60 days after collection, with negative results; or
 - c) were subjected to an agent identification test on a blood sample taken on the day of collection, with negative results;
2. the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7., 4.8. and 4.9., as relevant.

Article x.x.13.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV seasonally free zones

for embryos or oocytes of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor females:
 - a) were kept during the seasonally free period in a seasonally free *zone* for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the embryos or oocytes; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, between 21 and 60 days after collection, with negative results; or

- c) were subjected to an agent identification test on a blood sample taken on the day of collection, with negative results;
2. the embryos or oocytes were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7., 4.8. and 4.9., as relevant.

Article x.x.14.

Recommendations for importation from EHDV infected countries or zones

for embryos or oocytes of cattle and cervids

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

1. the donor females:
 - a) were kept in a vector-protected *establishment* for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the embryos or oocytes; or
 - b) were subjected to a serological test to detect antibody to the EHDV group, between 21 and 60 days after collection, with negative results; or
 - c) were subjected to an agent identification test on a blood sample taken on the day of collection, with negative results;
2. the embryos or oocytes were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7., 4.8. and 4.9., as relevant.

Article X.X.15.

Protecting animals from Culicoides attack

1. Vector-protected establishment or facility

Where movement of animals or collection of genetic material requires a vector-protected facility, the following criteria apply:

- a) Appropriate physical barriers at entry and exit points, for example, double-door entry-exit system;
- b) openings of the building are *vector* screened with mesh of appropriate gauge impregnated regularly with an approved insecticide according to manufacturers' instruction;
- c) *vector* surveillance and control within and around the building;
- d) measures to limit or eliminate breeding sites for *vectors* in the vicinity of the *establishment* or facility;
- e) standard operating procedures, including description of back-up and alarm systems, for operation of the *establishment* or facility and transport of animals to the place of *loading*.

2. During transportation

When transporting *animals* through EHDV infected countries or *infected zones*, *Veterinary Authorities* should require strategies to protect *animals* from attack by *Culicoides* during transport.

Risk management strategies may include:

- a) *loading*, transporting and *unloading animals* at times of low vector activity (i.e. bright sunshine, low temperature);
- b) ensuring *vehicles* do not stop en route during times of high vector activity (i.e. dawn or dusk, or overnight).

Article x.x.16.

Surveillance

This article is complementary to Chapters 1.4. and 1.5. and outlines the principles for EHDV *surveillance* applicable to Members seeking to determine the EHDV status of a country or a *zone*.

The impact and epidemiology of EHD differ widely in different regions of the world and therefore it is impossible to provide specific recommendations for all situations. It is incumbent upon Members to provide scientific data that explain the epidemiology of EHD in the region concerned and adapt the *surveillance* strategies for defining their infection status (free, seasonally free or infected country or *zone*) to the local conditions. There is considerable latitude available to Members to justify their infection status at an acceptable level of confidence.

Surveillance for EHD should be in the form of a continuing programme.

General provisions on surveillance for arthropod *vectors* are in Chapter 1.5.

More specific approaches to surveillance for *Culicoides* transmitted *Orbivirus infections* are described in Chapters 8.3 and 12.1. Passive surveillance for clinical cases of EHD in susceptible wild ruminants can be a useful tool for detecting *disease*, based on lesions of haemorrhagic disease combined with viral detection techniques.