

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
September 2013 Report

USA COMMENTS

INFECTIO N WITH EQUINE ARTERITIS VIRUS

Article 12.9.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine viral arteritis (EVA) is defined as a clinical syndrome ~~an infection~~ of domestic equids ~~with~~ caused by equine arteritis virus (EAV).

This chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by 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 EAV EVA health status, utilising appropriate biosecurity measures, with the objective of preventing the transmission of *infection*.

The *infective period* for EVA shall be 28 days for all categories of equids except the 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: The edits indicated are suggested for improved clarity.

Article 12.9.2.

Recommendations for the importation of uncastrated male equids

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *animals* showed no clinical sign(s) 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 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 months of age to a test for EVA:

EITHER:

- a) with a negative result,

OR

- b) with a positive result, followed at least 14 days later by a second test showing a stable or decreasing antibody titre;

and were immediately vaccinated against EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer; or

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 on a blood sample with negative results; and
- c) were then immediately vaccinated; and

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- d) were kept separated from other equids for 21 days following *vaccination*; and
 - e) were revaccinated regularly according to the recommendations of the manufacturer; or
- 4) have been subjected to a test for EVA 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 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 EAV with negative results, carried out on semen collected during the six months prior to shipment; or
 - c) were subjected to a test for EAV 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 recommendations of the manufacturer.

Article 12.9.3.

Recommendations for the importation of equids 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(s) of EVA on the day of 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 EAV EVA 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 recommendations of the manufacturer;

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.

General Comment: Article 12.9.3. – point 1a), Article 12.9.4. – points 1, 2, 3, 4, 4)a, 5)a, and Article 12.9.5. 1a), wherever there is reference to a “test for EVA” it should more correctly state “test for EAV infection”.

Recommendations for the importation of equine semen

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donors were kept for the 28 days prior to semen collection in an *establishment* where

no equid has shown any clinical sign(s) 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 months of age to a test for EAV EVA:

EITHER:

- a) with a negative result,

OR

- b) with a positive result, followed at least 14 days later by a second test showing a stable or decreasing antibody titre;

and were immediately vaccinated for EVA and regularly revaccinated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer; or

- 2) were isolated and not earlier than seven days of commencing isolation were subjected to a test for EAV EVA on a blood sample with negative results, immediately vaccinated for EVA, kept for 21 days following *vaccination* separated from other equids and regularly revaccinated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer; or
- 3) were subjected to a test for EAV EVA on a blood sample with negative results within 14 days prior to semen collection, and had been separated from other equids 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 EAV EVA 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 EAV EVA 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 EAV EVA 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 EAV EVA with negative results, carried out on semen collected within six months after the blood sample was collected, then immediately vaccinated, and revaccinated regularly; or
- 5) for frozen semen, were subjected with negative results either:
- a) to a test for EAV EVA 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 EAV 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.

Rationale: 1) Articles: 12.9.2, 12.9.3, 12.9.4. – In the first paragraph, first sentence of each article “clinical sign” should be written in the plural for improved clarity.

2) Articles: 12.9.3 and 12.9.5 – In both articles, testing for EAV in semen by VI and/or RT-PCR is much more common than breeding a putative carrier stallion to two test mares.

Article 12.9.5.

Recommendations for the importation of in vivo derived equine embryos

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor *animals* showed no clinical sign of EVA on the day of embryo collection; and

EITHER

- 1) were kept in an *establishment* where no *animals* have shown any signs of EVA for the 28 days prior to collection; and
 - a) were subjected to a test for EVA carried out on blood samples collected either once within 21 days prior to collection with negative result, or on two occasions at least 14 days apart within 28 days prior to collection, which demonstrated stable or declining antibody titres; or
 - b) were regularly vaccinated according to the recommendations of the manufacturer;

OR

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

AND

3) semen used to fertilise the oocytes complies with the requirements in Article 12.9.4.

— Text deleted.