**USA COMMENTS IN RED FONT**

CHAPTER 12.6.

**INFECTION WITH EQUINE INFLUENZA VIRUS**

Article 12.6.1.

**General provisions**

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, equine influenza (EI) is defined as an *infection* of domestic and c*aptive wild* equids with equine influenza virus (EIV), i.e. influenza A viruses (H7N7 and H3N8).

This chapter deals not only with the occurrence of clinical signs caused by *infection* with ~~equine influenza virus (~~EIV~~)~~, but also with the presence of *infection* with EIV in the absence of clinical signs.

The following defines the occurrence of *infection* with EIV:

1) EIV, excluding modified-live virus vaccine strains following recent *vaccination*, has been isolated from a sample from a domestic or *captive wild* equid; or

2) ribonucleic acid or antigen specific to EIV has been detected in a sample from a domestic or *captive wild* equid showing clinical signs or pathological lesions suggestive of equine influenza or epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed *case* of equine influenza; or

3) seroconversion due to recent exposure to EIV virus, demonstrated by a significant increase in antibody titres which are not the consequence of *vaccination*, have been detected in paired samples from a domestic or *captive wild* equid showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with equine influenza, or epidemiologically linked to a suspected or confirmed *case* of *infection* with EIV.

~~For the purposes of this chapter, isolation is defined as ‘the separation of domestic equids from domestic equids of a different EI health status, utilising appropriate~~*~~biosecurity~~*~~measures, with the purposes of preventing the transmission of~~*~~infection~~*~~’.~~

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for EI shall be 21 days.

For the purposes of this chapter, a temporary importation refers to the introduction of horses into a country or *zone*, for a defined period of time, not exceeding 90 days, during which the *risk* of transmission of the *infection* is mitigated through specific measures under the supervision of the *Veterinary Authority.* Temporarily imported horses are re-exported at the end of this period. The duration of the temporary importation period and the destination after this period, as well as the conditions required to leave the country or *zone,* should be defined in advance.

When authorising import or transit of the *commodities* listed in this chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 12.6.2., *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the EI status of the equine population of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*.

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

Article 12.6.2.

**Safe commodities**

When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any EIV-related conditions, regardless of the ~~EI h~~ealth status of the ~~equine~~animal population of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*:

1) equine semen;

2) *in vivo* derived equineembryos collected, processed and stored in accordance with Chapters 4.8. and 4.10., as relevant ~~(under study).;~~

3) *meat* and *meat products* from equids that have been slaughtered in a *slaughterhouse/abattoir* and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results.

Article 12.6.3.

**Determination of the EI status of a country, a zone or a compartment**

The EI status of a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* can be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1) the outcome of a *risk assessment* identifying all risk factors and their historic relevance;

2) whether EI is notifiable in the whole country, an ongoing EI awareness programme is in place, and all notified suspect occurrences of EI are subjected to field and, where applicable, *laboratory* investigations;

3) appropriate *surveillance* is in place to demonstrate the presence of *infection* in the absence of clinical signs in domestic and c*aptive wild* equids.

Article 12.6.4.

**~~EI free c~~Country, zone or compartment free from EI**

A country, *zone* or *compartment* may be considered free from EI provided ~~the disease~~ that *infection* with EIV is notifiable in the whole country and it shows evidence, through an effective *surveillance* programme, planned and implemented in accordance with the general principles in Chapter 1.4., that no *case* of ~~EI~~ *infection* with EIV occurred in the past two years. The *surveillance* may need to be adapted to parts of the country, *zone* or *compartment* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data, movements of equids within and into the country, *zone* or *compartment*, *wild* equine populations or proximity to recent *outbreaks*.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI, in which *vaccination* is practised, should also demonstrate that EIV has not been circulating in the population of domestic, c*aptive wild,* *feral,* and *wild* equids during the past 12 months, through *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. In a country in which *vaccination* is not practised, *surveillance* may be conducted using serological testing alone. In countries where *vaccination* is practised, the *surveillance* should include agent identification methods described in the *Terrestrial Manual* for evidence of *infection*.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* seeking freedom from EI should apply appropriate movement controls to minimise the risk of introduction of EIV in accordance with this chapter and be in accordance with relevant requirements and principles described in Chapter 4.4. and Chapter 4.5.

~~If an~~ *~~outbreak~~* ~~of clinical EI occurs in a previously free country,~~ *~~zone~~* ~~or~~ *~~compartment~~*~~, free status can be regained 12 months after the last clinical~~ *~~case~~*~~, providing that~~ *~~surveillance~~* ~~for evidence of~~ *~~infection~~* ~~has been carried out during that twelve-month period in accordance with Chapter 1.4.~~

Article 12.6.4bis.

**Recovery of free status**

If a *case* of *infection* with EIV occurs in a previously free country, *zone* or *compartment*, free status can be regained 12 months after the last *case*, providing that *surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been carried out during that 12-month period, with negative results.

Article 12.6.5.

**Recommendations for the importation of domestic and captive wild equids for immediate slaughter**

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the domestic and *captive wild* equids showed no clinical sign of EI on the day of shipment.

Article 12.6.6.

**Recommendations for the importation of domestic and captive wild equids ~~for unrestricted movement~~**

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

1) came from an EI free country, *zone* or *compartment* in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated domestic equid, information on its *vaccination* status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

2) ~~came from a country,~~ *~~zone~~* ~~or~~ *~~compartment~~* ~~not known to be free from EI,~~ were subjected to pre-export isolation for 21 days and showed no clinical sign of EI during isolation nor on the day of shipment; ~~and~~

AND

3) were ~~immunised~~vaccinated in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer with a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual* and considered effective against the epidemiologically relevant virus strains, ~~between 21 and 90 days before shipment either with a primary course or a booster; information on their~~ *~~vaccination~~* ~~status should be included in the veterinary certificate or the passport in accordance with Chapter 5.12.~~in accordance with one of the following procedures:

a) between 14 and 90 days before shipment ~~either~~ with either a primary course or a booster; or

b) between 14 and 180 days before shipment, if they are older than four years of age~~, previouslyhaving~~ and have previously received ~~up to the date of this pre-shipment~~ *~~vaccination~~*~~,~~ at least four doses of ~~the same~~vaccine at intervals not greater than ~~180~~ 365 days.

**Rationale**: The United States supports the language change to “at intervals not greater than 365 days” based upon the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) recommendation that previously vaccinated adult horses considered to be at risk for influenza should be revaccinated annually (https://aaep.org/guidelines/vaccination-guidelines/risk-based-vaccination-guidelines/equine-influenza). The AAEP guidelines recommend a 180-day interval only if the horse is deemed by the attending veterinarian to be at “increased risk of exposure” for influenza, the horse may not have been deemed by the attending veterinarian to be at increased risk of exposure for influenza in previous years; therefore, we propose that it is appropriate to allow for the 365 day interval since this is consistent with the “baseline” recommendations. If a horse had not been previously vaccinated at least 4 times as recommended in 12.6.6 3) b), they could meet the recommendation in 12.6.6 3) a) by being vaccinated between 14 and 90 days prior to shipment with either the primary course or a booster.

Information on the *vaccination* status should be included in the *international veterinary certificate* or the passport in accordance with Chapter 5.12. as relevant.

~~For additional security, c~~Countries that are free ~~of~~ from EI or undertaking an eradication programme may also request that the domestic equids were ~~tested negative for EIV by~~subjected to an agent identification test for EI described in the *Terrestrial Manual* with negative results, conducted on samples collected on two occasions, ~~at 7 to 14 days~~four to six days after commencement of pre-export isolation and ~~less than 5~~ ~~prior to~~ within four days ~~before of~~ prior to shipment.

Article 12.6.7.

**Recommendations for the temporary importation of domestic ~~equid~~ ~~which will be kept in isolation (see Article 12.6.1.)~~ horses**

If the importation of horses on a temporary basis does not comply with the recommendations in Article 12.6.6., *Veterinary Authorities* of *importing countries* should ~~require the presentation of an~~ *~~international veterinary certificate~~* ~~attesting that the domestic equids~~:

1) require that:

a) the horses be accompanied by a passport in accordance with the model contained in Chapter 5.12. or be individually identified as belonging to a high health status *subpopulation* as defined in Chapter 4.17.;

OR

**Rationale**: The United States support the addition of “OR” between 12.6.7.1)a) and 12.6.7.1)b). Chapter 5.12 outlines the basic health requirements that should be included in the passport. These requirements include vaccination status for equine influenza and certification from disease exposure or displaying clinical signs. Chapter 4.17 provides requirements for individual horses that are considered part of the high health subpopulation for vaccination and freedom of clinical signs and disease exposure. Therefore, all requirements as outlined in 12.6.7.1)b) should be attested to in a passport or under the high health status subpopulation when used for importation. For countries that do not have a federally recognized passport system for domestic horses or do not currently have the infrastructure for high health status subpopulation, requirements outlined in 12.6.7.1)b) should be considered equivalent measures and mitigations for the importation of temporary horses.

b) the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the horses:

~~1~~i) came from a~~n EI free~~ country, *zone* or *compartment* free from EI, in which they had been resident for at least 21 days; in the case of a vaccinated domestic equid, information on its *vaccination* status should be included in the veterinary certificate;

OR

~~2~~ii) showed no clinical sign of EI in any premises in which the domestic equids had been resident for the 21 days prior to shipment nor on the day of shipment; and

~~3~~iii) were ~~immunised in accordance~~ vaccinated with ~~the recommendations of the manufacturer with~~ a vaccine complying with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*; information on their *vaccination* status should be included in the veterinary certificate or the passport in accordance with Chapter 5.12.;

2) ensure that during their stay in the country or *zone* domestic equids are kept separated from domestic and *captive wild* equids of a different EI health status through appropriate *biosecurity*.

~~Article 12.6.8.~~

**~~Recommendations for the importation of fresh meat of equids~~**

*~~Veterinary Authorities~~*~~should require the presentation of an~~*~~international veterinary certificate~~*~~attesting that the~~*~~fresh meat~~*~~came from equids which had been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections as described in Chapter 6.3.~~

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