Annex 26

CHAPTER 8.20.

**INFECTION WITH FRANCISELLA TULARENSIS (TULAREMIA)**

Article 8.20.1.

General provisions

The aim of this chapter is to mitigate the animal health and public health risks posed by tularemia. A wide variety of mammals, including humans, and some birds have been reported to be infected, but tularemia is primarily a disease of the orders Lagomorpha and Rodentia.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, tularemia is defined as an *infection* of lagomorphs and rodents (hereafter ‘animal hosts’) with *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *tularensis* or *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *holarctica*.

Hereafter ‘*Francisella tularensis*’ is used to collectively refer to both *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *tularensis* and *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *holarctica*.

The following defines the occurrence of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*:

1. *Francisella tularensis* has been isolated and identified as such in a sample from an animal host; or
2. nucleic acid or antigen specific to *Francisella tularensis* has been detected in a sample from an animal host showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*; or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected *case* or a human infected with *Francisella tularensis*, or giving cause for suspicion of association or contact with *Francisella tularensis*; or
3. seroconversion specific to *Francisella tularensis* has been detected in an animal host; or
4. antibodies specific to *Francisella tularensis* have been detected in a sample from an animal host showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*, or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected *case* or a human infected with *Francisella tularensis*, or giving cause for suspicion of previous association or contact with *Francisella tularensis*.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* for tularemia ~~(in hares, genus~~ *~~Lepus~~*~~)~~ shall be 15 days.

Standards for diagnosis ~~diagnostic tests~~, as well as information on the epidemiology, are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 8.20.2.

~~Tularemia free country~~ Country or zone free from tularemia

A country or *zone* may be considered free from tularemia when:

1. the *infection* has been notifiable in the entire country ~~it has been shown that tularemia has not been present~~ for at least the past two years;
2. for at least the past two years, *specific surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been in place in the entire country or zone, and there has been no *case* in the country or *zone*; ~~and when bacteriological or serological surveys in previously infected~~ *~~zones~~* ~~have given negative results.~~
3. appropriate *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* to prevent the introduction of *infection* have been in place; in particular, the importations or movements of animal hosts and other *commodities* into the country or *zone* have been carried out in accordance with this chapter or other relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code,* includingChapter 2.1. ‘Import risk analysis’;.

Article 8.20.2bis.

Recovery of free status

Should a *case* of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis* occur in a previously free country or *zone*, its status may be recovered one year after the *disinfection* and *disinsection* of the last affected *establishment*, provided that in the entire country or *zone,* *specific* *surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been carried and has demonstrated the absence of *infection*.

Otherwise, Article 8.20.2. applies.

Article 8.20.3.

~~Tularemia infected zone~~ Country or zone infected with Francisella tularensis

A country or *zone* should be considered as infected with *Francisella tularensis* when the conditions for freedom from tularemiaare not fulfilled.~~tularemia until:~~

1. ~~at least one year has elapsed after the last~~ *~~case~~* ~~has been confirmed;~~

~~AND~~

1. ~~a bacteriological survey on ticks within the infected~~ *~~zone~~* ~~has given negative results; or~~

~~regular serological testing of hares and rabbits from that~~ *~~zone~~* ~~have given negative results.~~

~~Article 8.20.4.~~

~~Trade in commodities~~

*~~Veterinary Authorities~~* ~~of tularemia free countries may prohibit importation or transit through their territory, from countries considered~~ *~~infected~~* ~~with tularemia, of live hares.~~

Article 8.20.5.

Recommendations for importation of hares from countries ~~considered~~ infected with Francisella tularensis~~tularemia~~

~~For live hares~~

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

1. showed no clinical sign of tularemia on the day of shipment;
2. were not kept in an ~~tularemia~~ infected *zone*;
3. have been treated against ~~ectoparasites~~ arthropod *vectors*; and
4. were kept in a *quarantine station* for ~~the~~ at least 15 days prior to shipment.