Annex 26

CHAPTER 14.5.

CHLAMYDOPHILA ABORTUS INFECTION

(ENZOOTIC ABORTION OF EWES, (OVINE CHLAMYDIOSIS)

Article 14.5.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE), also known as ovine chlamydiosis or ovine enzootic abortion, is an *infection* of domestic sheep and goats by the bacterium *Chlamydophila abortus*.

~~For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the following information should be considered with regard to the *incubation period* for enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE).~~ Susceptible *animals* become infected through ingestion of infectious materials. In lambs and non-pregnant ewes, the *infection* remains latent until conception. Ewes exposed to *infection* late in pregnancy may not exhibit signs of *infection* until the subsequent pregnancy. Countries should take account of these risk factors.

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

Article 14.5.2.

Recommendations for the importation of sheep and/or goats for breeding

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

1. have remained since birth, or for the previous 2 years, in *establishments* where no EAE has been diagnosed during the past 2 years;

2. showed no clinical sign of EAE on the day of shipment;

3. were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the 30 days prior to shipment.

Article 14.5.3.

Sheep flocks and/or goat herds free from EAE infection

To qualify as free from EAE *infection*, a sheep *flock* or goat *herd* shall satisfy the following requirements:

1. it is under official veterinary *surveillance*;

2. all sheep and goats showed no clinical evidence of EAE *infection* during the past 2 years;

3. a statistically valid number of sheep and goats over 6 months of age were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the past 6 months;

4. all sheep or goats are permanently identified;

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5. no sheep or goat has been added to the *flock* or *herd* since 30 days prior to the *flock* or *herd* test referred to in point 3 above unless:

   a) either the additions were isolated from other members of the *flock* or *herd* in the *establishment* of origin for a minimum period of 30 days and then were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results, before entry into the new *flock* or *herd*; or

   b) they originated from an *establishment* of equal health status.

Article 14.5.4.

Recommendations for the importation of semen of sheep

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

1. the donor *animals*:

   a) have been kept in *establishments* or *artificial insemination centres* free from EAE during the past 2 years, and have not been in contact with *animals* of a lower health status;

   b) were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results 2 to 3 weeks after collection of the semen;

2. an aliquot of the semen to be exported was shown to be free of ~~*Chlamydia psittaci*~~ *Chlamydophila abortus*~~, by culture techniques~~.

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