



Ref: CTO 2018 036 [G]

Equine Semen: EVA Testing

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to equine semen.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for equine semen in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Semen and Embryos from Horses (Equidae) (HORSSEMB.SPE)*:

The IHS requires that equine semen meets the *OIE Code* recommendations for equine viral arteritis (EVA). If stallions test seronegative for EVA, there are no further testing requirements for the semen before it can be exported. If stallions test seropositive for EVA, they can meet the following recommendations for the semen to be eligible for import:

"...donors were kept for the 28 days prior to semen collection in an establishment where no equid has shown any clinical sign of EVA during that period and showed no clinical sign of EVA on the day of semen collection; and

Have been subjected to a test for EVA carried out on a blood sample with a positive result and then:

Were subjected to a test for EVA with a negative result, carried out on semen collected within six months prior to collection of the semen to be exported..."

If the semen samples are tested as per the *Code* recommendations and negative results are returned, whether the stallion is seronegative or seropositive does not change the risk for EVA. Semen can still be considered eligible for import if semen testing is carried out in accordance with the above *Code* recommendations, without a serum test as the semen testing alone manages the risk effectively.

The reason for this direction is that the biosecurity risks associated with this commodity have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.