

CHAPTER 11.3.

BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS

Article 11.3.1.

General provisions

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

Article 11.3.2.

Country or zone free from bovine brucellosis

To qualify as free from bovine brucellosis, a country or *zone* shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) bovine brucellosis or any suspicion thereof is notifiable in the country;
- 2) the entire cattle population of a country or *zone* is under *official veterinary control* and it has been ascertained that the rate of brucellosis *infection* does not exceed 0.2 percent of the cattle *herds* in the country or *zone* under consideration;
- 3) the serological tests for bovine brucellosis are periodically conducted in each *herd*, with or without the ring test;
- 4) no *animal* has been vaccinated against bovine brucellosis for at least the past three years;
- 5) all reactors are slaughtered;
- 6) *animals* introduced into a free country or *zone* shall only come from *herds* officially free from bovine brucellosis or from *herds* free from bovine brucellosis. This condition may be waived for *animals* which have not been vaccinated and which, prior to entry into the *herd*, were isolated and were subjected to the serological tests for bovine brucellosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of 30 days between each test. These tests are not considered valid in female *animals* which have calved during the past 14 days.

In a country where all *herds* of cattle have qualified as officially free from bovine brucellosis and where no reactor has been found for the past five years, the system for further control may be decided by the country concerned.

Article 11.3.3.

Herd officially free from bovine brucellosis

To qualify as officially free from bovine brucellosis, a *herd* of cattle shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) it is under *official veterinary control*;
- 2) it contains no *animal* which has been vaccinated against bovine brucellosis during at least the past three years;
- 3) it only contains *animals* which have not showed evidence of bovine brucellosis *infection* during the past six months, all suspect cases (such as *animals* which have prematurely calved) having been subjected to the necessary laboratory investigations;
- 4) all cattle over the age of one year (except castrated males) were subjected to serological tests with negative results on two occasions, at an interval of 12 months between each test; this requirement is maintained even if the entire *herd* is normally tested every year or testing is conducted in conformity with other requirements established by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country concerned;
- 5) additions to the *herd* shall only come from *herds* officially free from bovine brucellosis. This condition may be waived for *animals* which have not been vaccinated, come from a *herd* free from bovine brucellosis, provided that negative results were shown following a buffered *Brucella* antigen test and the complement fixation test during the 30 days prior to entry into the *herd*. Any recently calved or calving *animal* should be retested after 14 days, as tests are not considered valid in female *animals* which have calved during the past 14 days.

Article 11.3.4.

Herd free from bovine brucellosis

To qualify as free from bovine brucellosis, a *herd* of cattle shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) it is under *official veterinary control*;
- 2) it is subjected to either a *vaccination* or a non-*vaccination* regime;
- 3) if a live vaccine is used in female cattle, *vaccination* should be carried out between three and six months of age, in which case these female cattle should be identified with a permanent mark;
- 4) all cattle over the age of one year are controlled as provided in point 4 of the definition of a *herd* of cattle officially free from bovine brucellosis; however, cattle under 30 months of age which have been vaccinated using a live vaccine before reaching six months of age, may be subjected to a buffered *Brucella* antigen test with a positive result, with the complement fixation test giving a negative result;
- 5) all cattle introduced into the *herd* come from a *herd* officially free from bovine brucellosis or from a *herd* free from bovine brucellosis, or from a country or *zone* free from bovine brucellosis. This condition may be waived for *animals* which have been isolated and which, prior to entry into the *herd*, were subjected to the serological tests for bovine brucellosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of 30 days between each test. These tests are not considered valid in female *animals* which have calved during the past 14 days.

Article 11.3.5.

Recommendations for the importation of cattle for breeding or rearing (except castrated males)

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

- 1) showed no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis on the day of shipment;
- 2) were kept in a *herd* in which no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis was officially reported during the six months prior to shipment;
- 3) were kept in a country or *zone* free from bovine brucellosis, or were from a *herd* officially free from bovine brucellosis and were subjected to a serological test for bovine brucellosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment; or
- 4) were kept in a *herd* free from bovine brucellosis and were subjected to buffered *Brucella* antigen and complement fixation tests with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment;

if the cattle come from a *herd* other than those mentioned above:

- 5) were isolated prior to shipment and were subjected to a serological test for bovine brucellosis with negative results on two occasions, with an interval of not less than 30 days between each test, the second test being performed during the 15 days prior to shipment. These tests are not considered valid in female *animals* which have calved during the past 14 days.

Article 11.3.6.

Recommendations for the importation of cattle for slaughter (except castrated males)

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

- 1) showed no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis on the day of shipment;
- 2) are not being eliminated as part of an eradication programme against bovine brucellosis;
- 3) were kept in a country or *zone* free from bovine brucellosis; or
- 4) were kept in a *herd* officially free from bovine brucellosis; or
- 5) were kept in a *herd* free from bovine brucellosis; or
- 6) were subjected to a serological test for bovine brucellosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment.

Article 11.3.7.

Recommendations for the importation of bovine semen

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

- 1) when the semen is from an *artificial insemination centre*, the testing programme includes the buffered *Brucella* antigen and complement fixation tests;
- 2) when the semen is not from an *artificial insemination centre*, the donor *animals*:
 - a) were kept in a country or *zone* free from bovine brucellosis; or
 - b) were kept in a *herd* officially free from bovine brucellosis, showed no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis on the day of collection of the semen and were subjected to a buffered *Brucella* antigen test with negative results during the 30 days prior to collection; or
 - c) were kept in a *herd* free from bovine brucellosis, showed no clinical sign of bovine brucellosis on the day of collection and were subjected to the buffered *Brucella* antigen and complement fixation tests with negative results during the 30 days prior to collection;
- 3) the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article 11.3.8.

Recommendations for the importation of *in vivo* embryos/ova

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the embryos were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7. and 4.9., as relevant.

Article 11.3.9.

Recommendations for the importation of *in vitro* produced embryos/ova

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

- 1) the donor females:
 - a) were kept in a country or *zone* free from bovine brucellosis; or
 - b) were kept in a *herd* officially free from bovine brucellosis and were subjected to tests as prescribed in Chapter 1.3.;
 - 2) the oocytes were fertilised with semen meeting the conditions referred to in Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.;
 - 3) the embryos/oocytes were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.8. and 4.9., as relevant.
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