

CHAPTER 11.9.

ENZOOTIC BOVINE LEUKOSIS

Article 11.9.1.

General provisions

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

For the purpose of this chapter, susceptible *animals* include cattle (*Bos indicus* and *B. taurus*).

Article 11.9.2.

EBL free country or zone

1. Qualification

To qualify as free from enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL), a country or *zone* should satisfy the following requirements for at least three years:

- a) all tumours, suspected to be lymphosarcoma, are reported to the *Veterinary Authority*, and are examined at a *laboratory* by appropriate diagnostic techniques;
- b) all cattle with tumours in which EBL has been confirmed or cannot be ruled out are traced back to the *herds* in which they have been kept since birth; all cattle over 24 months of age in these *herds* are subjected to an individual diagnostic test for EBL;
- c) at least 99.8 percent of the *herds* are qualified as EBL free.

2. Maintenance of free status

For a country or *zone* to maintain its EBL free status:

- a) a serological survey should be carried out annually on a random sample of the cattle population of the country or *zone* sufficient to provide a 99 percent level of confidence of detecting EBL if it is present at a prevalence rate exceeding 0.2 percent of the *herds*;
- b) all imported cattle (except for *slaughter*) comply with the provisions of Article 11.9.5.;
- c) all imported bovine semen and embryos/ova fulfil the requirements referred to in Article 11.9.6. and in Article 11.9.7., respectively.

Article 11.9.3.

EBL free compartment

1. Qualification

To qualify as free from EBL, a *compartment* should satisfy the following requirements:

All *herds* in the *compartment* have satisfied the requirements of Article 11.9.4., and;

- a) all cattle introduced into the *compartment* come from a free *herd*;
- b) all bovine semen and embryos/ova introduced into the *compartment* after the first test have fulfilled the conditions referred to in Article 11.9.6. and in Article 11.9.7., respectively;
- c) the *compartment* is managed under a common *biosecurity plan* complying with Article 4.3.3. and Article 4.4.3., which protects the cattle from contact with EBL virus, which might occur from introduction of infected cattle, cattle products or material and through practices such as *vaccinations* and other injections, collection of blood and other biological samples, dehorning, ear-tagging, pregnancy diagnosis, etc.;
- d) the *compartment* has been approved by the *Veterinary Authority* in accordance with Chapters 4.3. and 4.4.

2. Maintenance of free status

For a *compartment* to maintain its EBL free status, all *herds* in the *compartment* should remain free according to Article 11.9.4. and specific *surveillance* implemented according to Article 4.4.5. has not detected the agent.

3. Revocation and re-approval of free status

If in an EBL free *compartment* any cattle react positively to a diagnostic test for EBL as described in the *Terrestrial Manual*, the status of the *compartment* shall be revoked until all *herds* have recovered their free status according to Article 11.9.4. and the *compartment* has been re-approved according to Chapters 4.3. and 4.4.

Article 11.9.4.

EBL free herd

1. Qualification

To qualify as free from EBL, a *herd* should satisfy the following requirements:

- a) there has been no evidence of EBL either clinical, post-mortem, or as a result of a diagnostic test for EBL within the previous two years;
- b) all cattle over 24 months of age have been subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL on two occasions with negative results, at an interval of not less than 4 months during the preceding 12 months;
- c) cattle introduced into the *herd* after the first test have fulfilled the conditions of Article 11.9.5.;
- d) all bovine semen and embryos/ova introduced into the *herd* after the first test have fulfilled the conditions referred to in Article 11.9.6. and in Article 11.9.7., respectively.

2. Maintenance of free status

For a *herd* to maintain its EBL free status, the cattle in the *herd* over 24 months of age on the day of sampling should be subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL with negative results at intervals of no more than 36 months and the conditions referred to in points 1a), 1c) and 1d) above continue to be fulfilled.

3. Suspension and restoration of free status

If in an EBL free *herd* any cattle react positively to a diagnostic test for EBL as described in the *Terrestrial Manual*, the status of the *herd* shall be suspended until the following measures have been taken:

- a) the cattle which have reacted positively, and their progeny since the last negative test, should be removed from the *herd* immediately; however, any cattle within the progeny which has been subjected to a PCR test with negative results (under study) may be retained in the *herd*;
- b) the remaining cattle should have been subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL carried out as described in point 1b) above with negative results at least four months after removal of the positive cattle and their progeny.

Article 11.9.5.

Recommendations for the importation of cattle for breeding or rearing

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

- 1) come from a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from EBL; or
- 2) come from an EBL free *herd*; or
- 3) meet the following three conditions:
 - a) the cattle were kept in a *herd* in which:
 - i) there has been no evidence of EBL either clinical, post-mortem, or as a result of a diagnostic test for EBL within the previous two years;
 - ii) all cattle over 24 months of age have been subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL on a blood sample on two occasions with negative results during the preceding 12 months, at an interval of at least 4 months, or were tested on two occasions while segregated from the *herd* in an isolation unit approved by the *Veterinary Authority* at an interval of at least 4 months;
 - b) the cattle were subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL within 30 days prior to shipment with negative results;

- c) if less than two years of age, the cattle come from 'uterine' dams which have been subjected to a diagnostic test for EBL on a blood sample on two occasions at intervals of at least 4 months within the preceding 12 months, with negative results.

Article 11.9.6.

Recommendations for the importation of bovine semen

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

- 1) the donor bull was resident at the time of semen collection in an EBL free *herd*; and
- 2) if less than two years of age, the bull came from a serologically negative 'uterine' dam; or
- 3) the bull was subjected to diagnostic tests for EBL on blood samples on two occasions with negative results, the first test being carried out at least 30 days before and the second test at least 90 days after collection of the semen;
- 4) the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.5. and 4.6.

Article 11.9.7.

Recommendations for the importation of bovine embryos/ova

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the embryos/ova have been collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 4.7., 4.8. and 4.9., as relevant.
