

CHAPTER X.X.

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS OF FARMED CERVIDAE

Article 1.

The recommendations in this Chapter are intended to manage the human and animal health risks associated with *Mycobacterium bovis* (*M. bovis*) infection in domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) farmed cervidae (red deer, wapiti, sika, samba, rusa, fallow deer, white-tailed, black-tailed and mule deer [*Cervus elephus*, *C. canadensis*, *C. nippon*, *C. unicolor unicolor*, *C. timorensis*, *Dama dama dama*, *Odocoileus virginianus borealis*, *Odocoileus hemionus columbianus* and *Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*]). The Chapter does not address the management of tuberculosis in wild cervid populations.

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

Article 2.

Country or zone free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae

To qualify as free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae, a country or *zone* should satisfy the following requirements:

1. *M. bovis* infection in domestic bovines and in farmed cervidae as specified in Article 1 is a *notifiable disease* in the country;
2. an on-going awareness programme should be in place to encourage reporting of all cases suggestive of tuberculosis;
3. regular and periodic testing of *herds* of farmed cervidae has demonstrated that *M. bovis* infection was not present in at least 99.8% of the *herds* and 99.9% of the farmed cervidae in the country or *zone* for 3 consecutive years;
4. a *surveillance* programme should be in place to detect bovine tuberculosis in the country or *zone* through ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection as described in Chapter 6.2.;
5. if the *surveillance* programme described in points 3 and 4 above has not detected *infection* with *M. bovis* in farmed cervidae for 5 consecutive years, *surveillance* may be maintained through ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection as described in Chapter 6.2.;
6. farmed cervidae introduced into a country or *zone* free from bovine tuberculosis should be accompanied by a certificate from an *Official Veterinarian* attesting that they come from a country or *zone* or *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis or comply with the relevant provisions in Article 4.

Article 3.

Compartment free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae

To qualify as a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae, the *Veterinary Authority* should be able to certify that the following requirements are satisfied:

1. all farmed cervidae:
 - a) showed no sign of bovine tuberculosis or lesions at ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection for at least 3 consecutive years;
 - b) over 6 weeks of age, have shown a negative result to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at an interval of a minimum of 6 months, the first test being performed at least 6 months following the *slaughter* of the last affected animal;
 - c) met one of the following conditions:
 - i) showed a negative result to an annual tuberculin test to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis; or
 - ii) showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 2 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of *herds* confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 1% of all *herds* in the country or *zone* during the last 2 years; or
 - iii) showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 3 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of *herds* confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 0.2% of all *herds* in the country or *zone* during the last 4 years; or
 - v) showed a negative result to a tuberculin test every 4 years to ensure the continuing absence of bovine tuberculosis if the annual percentage of *herds* confirmed as infected with tuberculosis is not more than 0.1% of all *herds* in the country or *zone* during the last 6 years;
2. farmed cervidae introduced into the *compartment* come from a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis. This condition may be waived for animals which have been isolated for at least 90 days and which, prior to entry into the *compartment*, were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a 6-month interval with negative results.

Article 4.

Recommendations for the importation of farmed cervidae for breeding or rearing

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

1. showed no signs of bovine tuberculosis on the day of shipment;
2. originate from a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae that is in a

country, *zone* or *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae; or

3. were subjected to the tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment and come from a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae; or
4. have been isolated for at least 90 days prior to entry into the *herd* were subjected to at least two tuberculin tests carried out at a six-month interval with negative results with the second tuberculin test performed during the 30 days prior to entry into the *herd*.

Article 5.

Recommendations for the importation of farmed cervidae for slaughter

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

1. showed no signs of bovine tuberculosis on the day of shipment;
2. originated from a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae or were subjected to a tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during the 30 days prior to shipment;
3. were not being eliminated as part of an eradication programme against bovine tuberculosis.

Article 6.

Recommendations for the importation of semen of farmed cervidae

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

1. the donor animals:
 - a) showed no signs of bovine tuberculosis on the day of collection of the semen;
 - b) were kept in an *artificial insemination centre* free from bovine tuberculosis in any species, in a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae, and which only accepts animals from a free *compartment*; or
 - c) showed negative results to tuberculin tests carried out annually and were kept in a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae;
2. the semen was collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4.5.

Article 7.

Recommendations for the importation of embryos/ova of farmed cervidae

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

1. the donor females:
 - a) and all other susceptible animals in the *herd* of origin showed no signs of bovine tuberculosis during the 24 hours prior to embryo collection;
 - b) originated from a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae in a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis; or
 - c) were kept in a *compartment* free from bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae, and were subjected to a tuberculin test for bovine tuberculosis with negative results during an isolation period of 30 days in the *establishment* of origin prior to collection;
2. the embryos/ova were collected, processed and stored in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 4.7., Chapter 4.8. or Chapter 4.9., as relevant.

Article 8.

Recommendations for the importation of fresh meat and meat products of farmed cervidae

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of meat comes from animals which have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections as described in Chapter 6.2.
