

## CHAPTER 8.12.

# RIFT VALLEY FEVER

### Article 8.12.1.

#### **General provisions**

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *infective period* for Rift Valley fever (RVF) shall be 30 days.

For the purposes of this Chapter, ruminants include camels.

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

The historic distribution of RVF is the sub-Saharan African continent, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula.

Countries or *zones* within the historic distribution of RVF or adjacent to those that are historically infected should be subjected to *surveillance*.

Epidemics of RVF may occur in infected areas after flooding. They are separated by inter-epidemic periods that may last for several decades in arid areas and, during these periods, the prevalence of *infection* in humans, animals and mosquitoes can be difficult to detect.

In the absence of clinical *disease*, the RVF status of a country or *zone* within the historically infected regions of the world should be determined by a *surveillance* programme (carried out in accordance with Chapter 1.4.) focusing on mosquitoes and serology of susceptible mammals. The programme should concentrate on parts of the country or *zone* at high risk because of historical, geographic and climatic factors, ruminant and mosquito population distribution, and proximity to areas where epidemics have recently occurred.

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

#### Article 8.12.1.bis

#### **Trade in commodities**

Commodities other than those listed below are not considered to have the potential to spread RVF when they are the subject of *international trade*.

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should comply with recommendations of this Chapter as relevant to the RVF status of the exporting country or *zone*:

1. *live ruminants*;
2. *meat and meat products* of domestic and wild ruminants.

3. milk and milk products. (under study)

Article 8.12.2.

**RVF infection free country or zone**

A country or a *zone* may be considered free from RVF infection when the *disease* is notifiable in animals throughout the country and either:

1. the country or *zone* lies outside the historically infected regions, and not adjacent to historically infections; or
2. a *surveillance* programme as described in Article 8.12.1. has demonstrated no evidence of RVF infection in humans, animals or mosquitoes in the country or *zone* during the past 4 years following a RVF epidemic.

The provisions of the last paragraph of Article 8.12.1. may need to be complied with on a continuous basis in order to maintain freedom from *infection*, depending on the geographical location of the country or *zone*.

A RVF infection free country or zone in which *surveillance* and monitoring has found no evidence that RVF infection is present will not lose its free status through the importation of permanently marked seropositive animals or those destined for direct *slaughter*.

Article 8.12.3.

**RVF infected country or zone without disease**

A RVF disease free country or zone is a country or *zone* that is not *infection* free (see Article 8.12.2.) but in which *disease* has not occurred in humans or animals in the past 6 months provided that climatic changes predisposing to *outbreaks* of RVF have not occurred during this time.

Article 8.12.4.

**RVF infected country or zone with disease**

A RVF infected country or zone with *disease* is one in which clinical *disease* in humans or animals has occurred within the past 6 months.

~~Article 8.12.5.~~

**~~Trade in commodities~~**

~~Commodities other than those listed below are not considered to have the potential to spread RVF when they are the subject of *international trade*.~~

~~Veterinary Authorities of countries shall consider whether there is a risk with regard to RVF infection in accepting importation or transit through their territory from other countries of the following commodities:~~

1. ~~live ruminants;~~
2. ~~meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants.~~

Article 8.12.6.

**Recommendations for importation from RVF infection free countries or zones**

for ruminants

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

1. were kept in a RVF free country or zone since birth or for at least 30 days prior to shipment; and
2. if the animals were exported from a free zone, either:
  - a) did not transit through an *infected zone* during transportation to the *place of shipment*; or
  - b) were protected from mosquito attack at all times when transiting through an *infected zone*.

Article 8.12.7.

**Recommendations for importation from RVF infection free countries or zones**

for meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the products are derived from animals which remained in the RVF infection free country/free zone since birth or for the last 30 days.

Article 8.12.8.

**Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries/zones without disease**

for ruminants

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

1. showed no evidence of RVF on the day of shipment;
2. met one of the following conditions:
  - a) were kept in a RVF infected country/zone free of *disease* since birth or for the last 6 months providing that climatic changes predisposing to *outbreaks* of RVF have not occurred during this time; or

OR

- ~~3.b)~~ were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine; or

OR

4. c) were held in a mosquito-proof *quarantine station* for at least 30 days prior to shipment during which the animals showed no clinical signs of RVF and were protected from mosquitoes between quarantine and the *place of shipment* as well as at the *place of shipment*;

AND

53. did not transit through an *infected zone* with *disease* during transportation of the *place of shipment*.

Article 8.12.9.

**Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries or zones without disease**

for meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

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

1. the products are derived from animals which:
  - a) remained in the RVF ~~disease-free country/zone~~ infected country or zone without disease since birth or for the last 30 days;
  - b) were slaughtered in an approved *abattoir* and were subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for RVF with favourable results;
2. the carcasses from which the products were derived were submitted to maturation at a temperature above +2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following *slaughter*.

Article 8.12.10. (under study)

**Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries / zones with or without disease**

for milk and milk products

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

1. was subjected to pasteurization; or
2. was subjected to a combination of control measures with equivalent performance as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products.

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