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ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

DEFINITIONS:

Meat meal

Means any by-product of the meat trade consisting of meat, bone, fat or other tissue prepared as animal feed.

Case

Means an individual animal affected by BSE and confirmed by histological techniques.

Antemortem inspection

Means the inspection of animals before slaughter at abattoirs.

High risk factors

Means cattle and/or *meat meal* imported from a *country or zone with a high incidence of BSE*.

A Country or zone with a high incidence of BSE

is one in which:

either

1 the BSE incidence rate in the preceding 12 months was greater than 100 *cases* per 1 000 000 head of indigenous cattle over 2 years of age,

or

2 the BSE incidence rate in the preceding 12 months was less than or equal to 100 *cases* per 1 000 000, but greater than or equal to 1 *case* per 1 000 000 head of indigenous cattle over 2 years of age,

and

one or more of the criteria listed in the *Code* (Article 3.2.13.1.) are not met.

A Country or zone with a low incidence of BSE

is one in which there is an effective and continuous surveillance and monitoring system, in accordance with *Code* (Article 3.2.13.1.) and where the BSE incidence rate in the preceding 12 months is less than or equal to 100 *cases* per 1 000 000 head but greater than or equal to 1 *case* per 1 000 000 head of indigenous cattle over 2 years of age.

A BSE provisionally free country or zone

is one in which surveillance and monitoring do not comply with the *Code* (Article 3.2.13.1.) and where:

either

1 BSE has not been reported in indigenous cattle,

or

- 2 where the BSE incidence rate in the preceding 12 month period was less than 1 *case* per 1 000 000 head of indigenous cattle over 2 years of age.

Countries/zones with varying exposure to *high risk factors* may meet the requirements for provisional freedom. After consideration of the historic perspective of exposure to *high risk factors* differing import restrictions may be applied.

A BSE free country or zone

is one in which:

- 1 A risk analysis as described in Article 3.2.13.1. point 1) has been conducted and has shown that all potential risk factors for BSE have been addressed by the implementation of appropriate measures, and
- 2 either
 - i) there has been no *case* of BSE, and either the criteria in Article 3.2.13.1. points 2) to 5) have been met; or BSE is compulsorily notifiable and the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants has been enforced for at least 8 years.
 - or
 - ii) all *cases* of BSE have been shown to have occurred in imported cattle provided that the affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, have been slaughtered and completely destroyed, and either the criteria in Article 3.2.13.1. points 2) to 5) have been met; or BSE is compulsorily notifiable and the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants has been enforced for at least 8 years.
 - or
 - iii) the last *case* of BSE in indigenous cattle was reported more than seven years ago, the criteria in Article 3.2.13.1. points 2) to 5) have been met, BSE is compulsorily notifiable and the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants has been enforced for at least 8 years.

IMPORT POLICY:

Cattle (and other bovines)

May be imported from:

- 1 *BSE free countries* or *zones*, provided that the cattle (or other bovines) to be exported and their parents have lived only in *BSE free countries* or *zones*.
- 2 *BSE provisionally free countries* or *zones*, provided that the cattle (or other bovines) to be exported have not been exposed to *high risk factors*, and:

- i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
- ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned, and
- iii) the cattle for export
 - are permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin and are not the progeny of BSE suspect or confirmed females; and
 - either
 - were born, raised and had remained in herds in which no *case* of BSE has been confirmed for at least 7 years
 - or
 - were born after the ban on the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants.

Bovine semen

May be imported without restrictions relating to BSE.

Products which may be imported without restrictions relating to bse:

Milk and milk products;
 Protein free tallow (maximum level of impurities of 0.15% in weight);
 Dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat);
 Hides and skins, and
 Gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins.

Bovine embryos

May be imported from:

- 1 *BSE free countries or zones* if it can be certified that the female donors have lived only in *BSE free countries or zones*.
- 2 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones* provided that:
 - i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned, and
 - iii) the embryos for export are derived from females which:
 - . are permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - . are not the progeny of BSE suspect or confirmed females;
 - . were not suspected of being affected with BSE at the time of embryo collection; and
 - iv) the *embryos* were collected, processed and stored strictly in accordance with *Code* (Appendix 4.2.3.1.).
- 3 *Countries or zones with a low incidence of BSE* provided that:

- i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
- ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned, and
- iii) embryos for export were derived from females which:
 - . are permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - . are not affected by BSE;
 - . are not the daughters of BSE affected females;
 - . were not suspected of being affected with BSE at the time of embryo collection; and either
 - . were born and remained in herds in which no *case* of BSE was confirmed during the preceding 7 years
- or
- . were born after the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants.
- iv) the embryos were collected, processed and stored in accordance *Code* (Appendix 4.2.3.1.).

4 *Countries or zones with a high incidence of BSE* provided that:

- i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed, and
- ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned, and
- iii) embryos for export were derived from females which:
 - . are permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - . are not the progeny of BSE affected females;
 - . are not affected with BSE;
 - . were not suspected of being affected with BSE at the time of embryo collection; and either
 - . were born after the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants.
- or
- . have never been fed ruminant-derived *meat meal* and were born and remained in herds in which no *case* of BSE was confirmed during the preceding 7 years and which contains only cattle born on the farm or coming from a herd of equal status;
- iv) the embryos were collected, processed and stored strictly in accordance with *Code* (Appendix 4.2.3.1.).

Fresh meat (bone-in or deboned) and meat products from cattle

These commodities may be imported from:

- 1 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones*, provided the fresh meat and/or meat product is derived from cattle which have not been exposed to *high risk factors*, and:
 - i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed;
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned;
 - iii) *antemortem inspection* is carried out on all bovines, and

- iv) if BSE has been reported in the *country* or *zone* the fresh and meat products destined for export do not contain brain and spinal from cattle over 30 months of age which were born before the ban on the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants.
- 2 *Countries or zones with a low incidence of BSE* provided that:
- i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed;
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned;
 - iii) *antemortem inspection* is carried out on all bovines, and
 - iv) the fresh meat and meat products destined for export do not contain brain, eyes, spinal cord or distal ileum from cattle over six months of age which were born before the date the ban on feeding *meat meal* derived from ruminants to ruminants was effectively enforced.
- 3 *BSE high incidence countries or zones* if it can be certified that:
- i) affected animals and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed;
 - ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned;
 - iii) *antemortem inspection* is carried out on all bovines;
 - iv) the cattle from which the meat destined for export originates:
 - . were permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin;
 - . were not the offspring of BSE suspect or confirmed females; and either
 - were born after the date of the ban on feeding ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants;
 - or
 - were born and remained in herds in which no case of BSE had been confirmed during the preceding seven years.
 - v) the meat and meat products destined for export did not contain brains, eyes, spinal cords, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestine, dorsal root ganglia, trigeminal ganglia, bones nor nervous and lymphatic tissue exposed during the deboning process, and
 - vi) a system is in operation enabling the fresh meat and meat products destined for export to be traced back to the establishment from which they are derived.

Ruminant-derived *meat meal* and feedstuffs containing such meal

These commodities from *countries* or *zones* not free from BSE may not be imported for use in ruminant feed. Such commodities may be imported for other purposes if treated in accordance with *Code* (Appendix 4.3.3.1.) to inactivate BSE infective agents.

Specified risk materials

- 1 From *countries* or *zones* with a *high incidence of BSE*.

Bovine brains, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, thymus, spleen, intestine, dorsal root ganglia, trigeminal ganglia, bones, and derived protein products from cattle over six months of age, may not be imported.

- 2 From *countries or zones with a low incidence of BSE*.

Bovine brains, eyes, spinal cord and distal ileum, and derived protein products from cattle over six months of age, and born before the ban on the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants, may only be imported if the raw material was treated in accordance with *Code* (Appendix 4.3.3.1.) to inactivate BSE infective agents.

- 3 From *BSE provisionally free countries or zones*

Bovine brains and spinal cord and derived protein products from cattle over 30 months of age, and born before the ban on the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants, may be imported if the raw material was treated in accordance with *Code* (Appendix 4.3.3.1.) to inactivate BSE infective agents.

Gelatin and collagen prepared from bones

May be imported provided that:

- 1 The bones came from a *BSE free or provisionally free country or zone*.
- 2 The bones came from a *country or zone with a low incidence of BSE*; and
 - i) skulls and vertebrae (excluding tail vertebrae) have been excluded; and
 - ii) the bones have been subjected to a process including all the following:
 - . pressure washing (degreasing);
 - . acid demineralisation;
 - . either acid or prolonged alkaline treatment;
 - . filtration, and
 - . sterilisation at $\geq 138^{\circ}\text{C}$ for a minimum of four seconds, or using other methods that reduce the infectivity by at least $5 \log_{10} \text{LD}_{50}/\text{g}$.

Tallow (other than protein-free tallow)

May be imported if it can be certified that the animals from which the tallow is derived from:

- 1 *BSE free or provisionally free country or zone*;
- 2 *Countries or zones with a low incidence of BSE*; and
 - i) if prepared by fat melting, has not been prepared using bovine brains, eyes, spinal cord or distal ileum or protein products derived therefrom;
 - ii) if prepared from defatted bones:
 - . skulls and vertebral columns have been excluded;
 - . it has been processed using a method that reduces the infectivity by at least $5 \log_{10} \text{LD}_{50}/\text{g}$.

Tallow derivatives in cosmetics and in pharmaceutical products

May be imported if it can be certified that the tallow:

- 1 is derived from animals which:
 - either
 - come from a *BSE free or provisionally free country or zone*;
 - or
 - come from a *country or zone with a low incidence of BSE*;
 - and
- 2 has been produced by hydrolysis, saponification or transesterification using high temperature and pressure.

Biological materials for *in vivo* use, including cell lines, seed material and products for implantation

May be imported only from *BSE free or provisionally free countries or zones*.

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