

SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE

REPLY FOR BELGIUM, FRANCE, GREECE, ITALY AND PORTUGAL

References are to Directive 92/119/EEC unless otherwise stated.

NB. Belgium has submitted a request to USDA directly for recognition of freedom from Hog Cholera (HC/CSF) and SVD on 29 May 1997.

INTRODUCTION

The EC may be divided into three groups with respect to SVD:

- 1. Those which have already been recognised as free by USA, ie Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK.*
- 2. Those with no case in the previous 12 months (in most cases for many years) ie Belgium, France, Greece and Portugal*
- 3. Those which have experienced one or more outbreaks during the last 12 months ie Italy.*

This application is on behalf of groups 2 and 3

Attention is drawn to Doc VI/1526/92 Rev 4 on a new strategy for animal (and plant) health within the context of the Single Market. This document describes the policy adopted in the Community to allow trade in animals and animal products while maintaining a high health status, in the absence of veterinary checks at the internal borders of the EC ie between Member States. This policy is based on increased checks at the origin (the farm or plant), random checks at destination, and use of a computerised system for notification of movements of animals and certain products (ANIMO). In the event of the occurrence of an epizootic disease such as HC, this is controlled by applying the rules foreseen in the Directive applicable to that disease, on a regionalisation basis, with additional measures put in place by the Commission where deemed necessary.

Specific control measures to be applied to animals and animal products in intraCommunity Trade and for imports have been laid down in Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 90/675/EEC, 91/496/EEC AND 94/278/EC.

1. Has SVD ever occurred in your country? If yes, please answer the following questions.

Yes

- a. What type of program was used to eradicate the disease?

Eradication was carried out by compulsory slaughter and destruction by burning or burial of all susceptible species on the affected holding, and on any dangerous contact holdings. Contaminated material is also destroyed. Movement restrictions were imposed in the surrounding infected and surveillance zones.

This policy is a legal requirement under the provisions of Council Directive 92/119/EEC in all EC Member States.

- b. What ongoing surveillance program is in effect to assure this disease does not exist?

See attached Country Reports from the 1996 Annual meeting of ECU National Reference Laboratories. (Results are from the surveys carried out in 1995)

*Belgium: 2934 tested, 39 positives (VNT)
France: 1507 tested, all negative (SNT)
Greece: 40 tested, all negative (VNT) (891 tested from 1/10/93 to date)
Italy 181225 sampled, 1214 seropositive, 475 faeces samples taken, 1 positive.
Portugal 449 samples, 2 seropositive. No virus isolated.*

2. If ever present in your country, when was the last case of SVD diagnosed?

<i>Belgium</i>	<i>1993</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>1983</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>1979</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<i>18/02/97</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>1995</i>

In Belgium the cases in 1993 were based on positive serology. No virus was identified or isolated.

3. Are laboratory procedures used for diagnosis in each suspicious case?

- a. Is there laboratory confirmation of each suspected case of such disease?

Diagnosis in a primary case is always confirmed by laboratory tests. During the course of an epizootic, disease may be confirmed without laboratory confirmation, but negative results must be checked by laboratory tests.

b. Are laboratory procedures used for diagnosis in each suspicious case?

Yes, where official investigations are unable to rule out the possible presence of SVD on clinical grounds.

The methodology for serological sampling is laid down in document VI/1794/96.

Interpretation of serological results.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced with so-called "Singleton Reactors". These are animals which have a high SN titre, but which never exhibit any signs of disease; there is no evidence of lateral spread in the holding. True Singleton Reactors are considered to be false positives. A strategy for investigation of such cases has been established (see doc VI/1794/96).

c. If an outbreak should occur, what method would be used for control?

1) Total depopulation with burial, burning, or rendering of infected herds?

Yes. Any carcasses which are rendered are subjected to 133 degrees C at 3 bar for 20 minutes.

(2) Would slaughter with carcass salvage (salvage of *apparently* healthy hogs from infected herds or exposed herds) be permitted in the abattoir?

No

(3) Is garbage feeding to swine permitted? If so, what restrictions, if any, are imposed?

The feeding of material from international means of transport is prohibited.

Garbage feeding is permitted under EC law, following heat treatment under official control under the provisions of Article 15 of Council Directive 80/217/EEC on control of hog cholera. Official authorisation is required to collect, transport and treat garbage intended for feeding to pigs. The processing premises must have separate facilities for treated and untreated swill. Special processing premises which have no pigs may also be authorised. Processed garbage may only be used on the premises where it is produced. Pigs from holdings where garbage feeding is permitted may only be sent for slaughter. Authorisation is not required for smallholdings using their own garbage, but the other conditions apply. Some Member States do not allow this derogation (eg France).

Garbage feeding is prohibited in Portugal.

Futhermore, EC legislation requires "heat treatment so as to ensure the destruction of swine fever virus" but does not define time and temperature (Article 15 of Directive 80/217/EEC).

Belgium requires 100 degrees C in the centre of the mass for at least 20 minutes.

Austria requires 95 degrees C for at least 30 minutes.

Germany requires 90 degrees C for at least 60 minutes or 121 degrees C for 20 minutes at 3 bar.

France requires 100 degrees C for at least 60 minutes.

- (4) What are the restrictions (quarantines, etc.) placed on swine exposed to communicable diseases?

Pigs which may have been exposed to SVD directly or indirectly are placed under official surveillance pending official investigation until such time as the presence of SVD can be ruled out. They must be confined to their living quarters. No pigs may be moved into or out of the premises. Appropriate measures are taken for meat, feed, waste, manure etc to prevent spread of disease. (Articles 4 and 9 and Annex II).

On confirmation, slaughter and disposal is carried out.

Similar rules apply in the case where pigs may have been exposed to HC, ASF or FMD.

- (5) Are epidemiological investigations to determine the source of infection routinely practiced?

Yes (Articles 4.2.f and 8)

4. What laws, regulations, and policies are in effect for swine diseases? Are there any specifically for SVD? Do they cover:

- a. Mandatory reporting? if so, by whom. and to whom? Penalties?

Mandatory reporting (Articles 3 and 4) by any person suspecting the presence of FMD or SVD to the competent authority of the Member State. Member States must also inform the Commission when the disease is confirmed (Directive 92/894/EEC). The Commission then informs the other Member States.

Penalties are at the discretion of the Member State. Compensation may be withheld and fines or imprisonment applied.

- b. What are the quarantine procedures in affected areas?

NOTE: Please submit copies of such laws, regulations, and policies (English translations required) with this completed questionnaire.

As laid down in Articles 4 to 16 and paras 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Annex II of Directive 92/119/EEC. These include standstill on movements, slaughter of all animals on the holding, tracing of origin and movements of the farm, measures to destroy or decontaminate feed etc.

5. What are the existing diagnostic capabilities for SVD?

- a. Laboratory facilities, names and locations.

See para 5 of Annex II of Directive 92/119/EC.

The EC Reference Laboratory is the BBSRC Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Surrey, UK

- (1). What security measures (such as air filtration) are used to prevent escape of biological agents in the laboratory?

The laboratories in all Member States concerned by this application except Greece meet the FAO minimum standards for FMD security. Greece has recently refurbished its laboratory in Athens to bring it up to these standards and is awaiting Community inspection.

- (2) Which laboratories (diagnostic, experimental) are permitted to work with this agent?

Only laboratories on the list mentioned above.

- b. What specimen collections are routinely followed? (Please outline.)

See para 3 of Annex II and recommendations from the Scientific Veterinary Committee (Doc VI/2303/91).

- c. What diagnostic methods are used?

- (1) Procedures (autopsy findings, blood assay etc)

All are used as appropriate.

- (2) Techniques (fluorescent antibody tests etc.)

See d (2)

d. Are all suspected vesicular diseases **also** tested for SVD?

(1) What test procedures are used?

(2) Is serotyping; performed?

Vesicular diseases in pigs are first treated as suspect FMD. Only after this is ruled out will SVD be considered. The samples to be taken and the tests to be carried out are those recommended by the Scientific Veterinary Committee in Doc VI/2303/91 attached. Monoclonal antibody panels and DNA analyses are used to assist in the epidemiological assessment.

6. What are the import laws, regulations and policies relative to live swine, pork, pork products, and other swine products or byproducts?

NOTE Please send copies of such import laws, regulations and policies relative to swine and pork products. (English translation required).

See attached Directive 64/432/EEC for intraCommunity trade in live pigs and Directive 72/462/EC covering import of live pigs and pork products from third countries. This latter Directive is implemented by a series of country- and product-specific certificates. Directive 80/215/EEC lays down approved methods of treatment of meat products from zones or countries with SVD. Directive 92/118/EEC lays down animal health rules for import of products and by-products such as hides, sera, milk products etc. Directive 90/429/EEC lays down animal health rules for semen.

a. Describe the security measures employed at airports, seaports, ships, stores, passenger baggage, etc. to control importation of such swine materials.

There is a legal prohibition of products from non-approved third countries. Waste from international means of transport must be destroyed.

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