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Embassy of Italy

Commercial Office

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Washington, D.C. 20009

February 26, 1998

Dr. John Cougill,
Staff Veterinarian,
Products Program,
National Center for Import and Export, VS
APHIS
4700 River Road, Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231

Dear Dr. Cougill,

The Italian Ministry of Health has asked this Embassy to forward to APHIS the enclosed report on the status of Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD) in Italy and the methodologies currently in use to eradicate said disease.

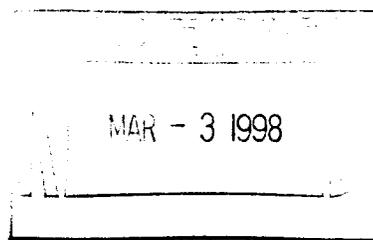
In view of the current conditions and the results achieved by the eradication plan and considering that the EU legislation on SVD does not ban the trade of live pigs, fresh pork meat and processed pork products originating from Italy to other Member States, the Italian Authorities deem that the territory of Italy could be recognized as free from SVD, with the exclusion of the following central-south Regions: Lazio-Campania-Basilicata-Calabria-Puglia and the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

We trust this information is of value to the removal process and we remain at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Mario Vattani
First Secretary
Economic and Commercial Affairs

Encl.



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Ministero della Sanità

SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE IN ITALY

1) ZOOSANITARY SITUATION

16 SVD outbreaks were recorded on 1997 on the entire National territory.

10 out of 16 occurred in the southern part of Italy, the remaining occurred in the central part of the country (Toscana and Umbria Regions) as it is possible to see in the table in annex 1.

With regard to the outbreaks declared in the southern part of Italy, most of them occurred in family type farms, where a very low amount of pig were reared. Some of these outbreaks (9-10-11-12 /97) were epidemiologically related with outbreak 97/8 (annex 1) that was recorded in the Toscana Region-Arezzo Province.

As far as the outbreaks in the centre of Italy are concerned, only one occurred in an intensive holding with 30638 pigs while the others were registered in small-size holdings (annex 1)

Neither seropositivity nor outbreaks were registered in 1997 in the northern part of Italy.

In all the outbreaks declared, measures provided by Directive 92/119 were enforced; among them:

- slaughtering of the pigs and disposal of the carcasses;
- declaration of a protection zone in a radius of 3 km at least and a surveillance zone with a radius of 10 km. at least
- within the protection and surveillance zones, prohibition of movement of susceptible species. In both zones all the pigs have to be submitted to a clinical control and a collection of blood samples if deemed necessary.
- the withdrawal of the measures provided for the protection and surveillance zones can be carried out at least 28 days after the last outbreak.

2) **SITUATION RELATED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ERADICATION PLAN**

Most of the Italian regions are accredited for SVD; these are as follows: (annex2)

-Valle d'Aosta-Piemonte-Lombardia-Liguria- Veneto -Trentino-Alto Adige-Emilia Romagna-Friuli-Toscana-Marche-Umbria-Molise.

Lazio Region is going to achieve the status.

At the moment the Regions where achievement of the status has not yet been reached are:

Puglia, Sicilia, Sardegna, Campania, Basilicata, Calabria

As it is possible to note the whole territory of the northern part is accredited for SVD, while some Regions in the centre and south of the country are still reaching the status.

3) **TYPE OF HOLDING RELATED WITH THE GEOGRAPHICAL TERRITORY OF ITALY**

Most of the intensive pig holdings are displaced in the northern part of Italy (annex3), this is due of the presence of a lot of establishment of processed pork products while in the south the family tipe-holdings prevail.

4) **SVD ERADICATION PLAN**

Swine Vesicular disease has been a compulsory notifiable disease since 1973

Since 1995 an eradication plan has been enforced in Italy to eradicate the SVD

The Commission Decision no. 94/695 of the 13 September approved the programme of eradication for the 1995. Subsequently the plan has been renewed for 1996/97/98.

The EU contributes of the 50% of the total amount per year

Main items of the eradication programme

a) How to achieve the status 'free of SVD'

The main task of the plan is to reach the accredited status of free of SVD of holdings within a Province, Region and then in the whole country.

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-For this purpose blood samples are collected from the all the pig breeding's holdings on the whole National territory for the detection of antibodies against SVD.

-the number of specimens taken for every holding is such to reveal a prevalence of \geq of 5% with a confidence of 95%;

-every holding have to carry out two serological tests at an interval of 28 days at least, in the event that turn out to be negative the holding is accredited.

Fattening herds can only receive pigs from accredited breeding holdings. Since 1996 sample of blood have been collected at the slaughterhouse from pigs coming from fattening holdings in order to control the accredited status.

-from non accredited holdings pigs can only be moved to the slaughterhouse;

-When 99% of the holdings within a Province are accredited the whole Province is accredited, subsequently when all the Provinces within a Region are accredited the Region is accredited. In the accredited Region pigs can only enter from others Regions only if originated from accredited holdings.

b) Maintenance of the status:

-the accredited Regions must carry out a collection of blood samples in 300 holdings including reproduction fattening and mixed ones.

-for each holding 12 blood samples must be collected.

-samples have also to be collected in the collection center used for national trade every three months

With regards to the pig's consignment coming from others Member States, these should be sampled trying to avoid any discrimination.

c) Detection of seropositive pigs

-When a seropositive result is obtained, samples of faeces are collected from the seropositive animals and from the structure of the holding. Furthermore blood samples are recollected from the positive animal

1) If the samples of faeces reveal the SVD virus an outbreak is declared and all the provision foreseen by Directive 92/119/CEE.(transposed in Italy by Ministerial Decree n.362) are enforced.

2) If the faeces don't reveal the presence of the SVD virus, all the breeding pigs should be sampled, all the animals resulted seropositive have to be slughtered within 72 hours. For fattening pigs measures will be arrange considering case by case.

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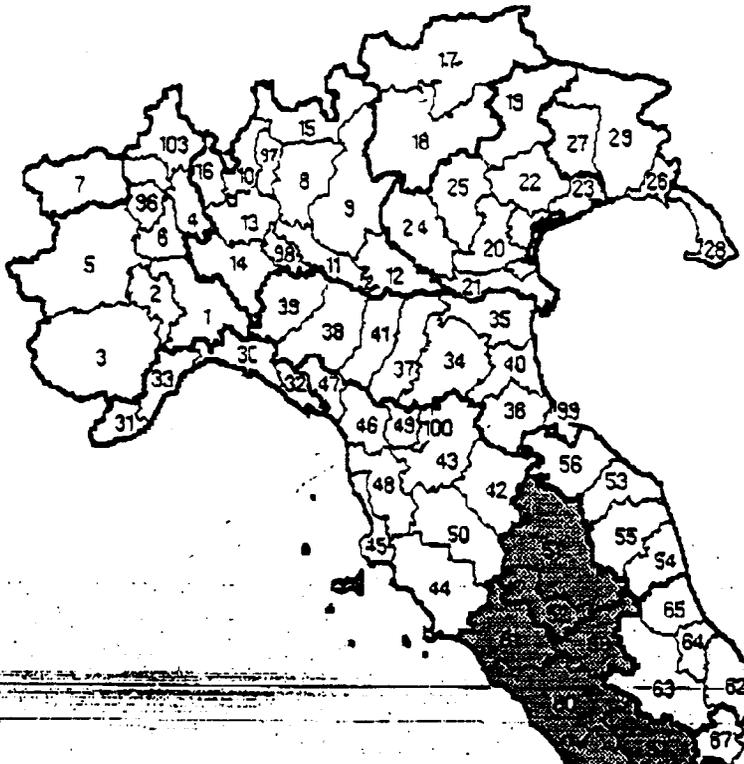
COMMENTS

Considering the current National animal health situation, and the results achieved by the eradication plan, and taking account that the community legislation didn't put any ban concerning the SVD of the trade of live pigs, fresh pork meat and processed pork products originating from Italy to others Member States, the Italian Authorities deem that the territory of Italy could be recognized as free of SVD excluded the following central-south Region: Lazio-Campania-Basilicata-Calabria-Puglia and the islands of Sicilia and Sardegna..



REGIONI ACCREDITATE MVS

ANNEX II



-  REGIONI NON ACCREDITATE
-  REGIONI CON POSITIVITA
-  REGIONI ACCREDITATE

ROMA,

TAB. 8 - CONSISTENZA DEL PATRIMONIO ZOOTECNICO PER PRINCIPALI SPECIE E PER REGIONE - ANNO 1994
(migliaia di capi)

REGIONI	in totale	BOVINI		SUINI	OVINI	CAPRINI	EQUINI
		di cui vacche da latte	altre vacche				
Piemonte	932,5	208,6	143,2	749,1	93,4	49,4	27,5
Valle d'Aosta	36,3	18,0	0,2	0,3	2,3	2,4	0,1
Lombardia	1.771,3	654,7	13,8	3.059,0	100,6	41,5	10,5
Trentino-Alto Adige	193,0	105,1	0,8	25,7	52,5	17,4	6,0
Veneto	1.069,3	243,3	7,9	559,5	34,6	10,4	18,6
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	139,0	49,6	2,8	188,6	3,3	10,1	2,7
Liguria	17,6	3,5	5,0	0,7	26,5	15,3	2,6
Emilia-Romagna	785,8	331,9	22,2	1.674,7	100,1	8,8	30,2
Toscana	132,0	24,1	30,0	233,6	810,7	19,4	30,7
Umbria	76,1	10,0	19,0	268,7	203,0	6,7	9,3
Marche	92,4	13,1	20,8	207,0	223,6	9,5	9,2
Lazio	299,9	106,7	50,4	174,7	1.207,0	61,1	36,1
Abruzzo	102,9	26,4	16,8	109,1	467,8	19,4	3,5
Molise	67,0	25,4	5,9	49,2	135,2	17,7	5,2
Campania	289,3	94,1	42,8	156,1	322,7	79,7	8,4
Puglia	193,3	82,7	16,0	30,9	395,6	79,3	8,4
Basilicata	85,3	24,5	19,0	80,1	468,4	176,0	13,2
Calabria	139,7	24,4	47,5	112,6	401,9	282,9	13,1
Sicilia	440,6	86,4	113,2	91,9	1.334,6	210,7	48,2
Sardegna	300,1	34,8	97,5	251,9	4.297,7	329,9	25,1
ITALIA	7.163,6	2.167,3	674,8	8.023,4	10.861,5	1.447,6	367,0

Fonte: ISTAT.