

HOG CHOLERA DISEASE STATUS QUESTIONNAIRE

REPLIES FOR AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, LUXEMBURG AND PORTUGAL

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 HC:

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

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.

At present (3/7/97), the rules foreseen by Council Directive 80/217/EEC are in place to deal with outbreaks in Germany, Belgium and Italy. A Commission Decision (97/216/EC) has been introduced to give extra guarantees in the case of the Netherlands. This Decision permits the movement of pigmeat and pigmeat products from the Netherlands except from the 3km infected zone and the 10 km surveillance zone round each outbreak, but prohibits the sending of live pigs from the Netherlands

to any other Member State. Similar measures are in place for a part of Spain, as defined in Decision 97/285/EC.

Wild boar are or have been recently infected in some Member States.

Further information is provided under the section on serosurveys.

A. General

1. Has hog cholera ever occurred in your country? If so:

a. When was the last case of hog cholera diagnosed?

Group 2

<i>Austria</i>	<i>22/8/95</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>5/3/93</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>1985</i>
<i>Luxemburg</i>	<i>1987</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>1985</i>

Group 3

<i>Germany</i>	<i>26/5/97</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>2/7/97</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<i>10/6/97</i>
<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>12/6/97</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>19/6/97</i>

b. What methods were 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 80/217/EEC (attached) in all EC Member States.

c. Does hog cholera now exist or has it existed in neighboring countries?

Yes - in the following European countries:

Albania, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Croatia, Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Latvia

2. What laws, regulations and policies are in effect concerning swine diseases, particularly hog cholera? Note: Please submit copies (English translation required) with this completed questionnaire.

Council Directive 80/217/EEC on measures for the control of HC

Council Directive 80/1095/EEC on the eradication of HC

Council Directive 92/119/EEC on the control of SVD and other exotic diseases.

Council Directive 82/894/EEC on notification of animal diseases in the Community.
Council Directive 90/249/EEC on trade and imports of porcine semen.

3. Is feeding of garbage to swine permitted? If so, is this local or international garbage?

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

4. If garbage is fed, what restrictions apply?

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 Luxembourg and Portugal.

5. Do you require the garbage to be cooked? How long and at what temperature?

Yes. 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.

6. From what countries do you allow the importation of swine?

Decision 79/542/EEC lists third countries from which Member States may import swine, pork and pork products.

Trade is permitted from all EC countries except where prohibited because of the presence of certain diseases. These are as follows;

- a) parts of any Member State in which disease has been confirmed, in accordance with the provisions of the Directive relating to that disease, or
- b) parts of any Member State subject to a safeguard clause Decision in force by virtue of the presence of disease. Safeguard clause decisions are currently in force for the Netherlands and Spain for HC

7. What are your import requirements for swine?

Articles 3 and 4b of Directive 64/432/EC lay down the requirements for intra-Community trade in live pigs.

Articles 3 and 6 of Directive 72/462/EEC cover the general principles for import of live pigs, pork and pork products. This Directive is implemented by a series of country- and product-specific certificates.

See import certificates for Hungary (Decision 92/322/EEC) and the Czech Republic (Decision 96/186/EEC) as examples.

Imports are not allowed from countries which vaccinate against HC. Imports may be allowed from affected non-vaccinating countries for which a regionalisation decision has been taken.

8. Are pork products imported? What type of product(s), and what is (are) the country(ies) of origin? What are your import requirements for products?

See reply to questions 6 and 7. Both fresh pig meat and pigmeat products are imported, including canned products (Fc₃ and pasteurised) and salami-type products. Directive 72/461/EEC defines the animal health measures for trade in fresh meat. Directive 80/215/EEC lays down approved methods of treatment of meat products from zones or countries with HC. Directive 90/429/EEC lays down animal health rules for semen.

B. Vaccination Practices

1. Is the ownership or use of hog cholera vaccine allowed? If so:

Use of HC vaccine is prohibited in the EC.

a. What types of vaccine (live virus, modified live virus, killed) are used?

b. Who (herd owners, veterinarians, or others) may vaccinate?

c. When (routinely or in emergency situations) are vaccines used?

d. Are the uses of vaccine reported and records kept?

2. Is the administration of hog cholera serum permitted?

No

If so:

a. Under what conditions?

b. Who may administer?

3. Is the use of bovine virus diarrhea (BVD) vaccine permitted in swine?

No. BVD vaccine is authorised for use only in cattle.

4. Where are vaccines and serum produced, if used in your country?

5. If vaccination was practiced but has been discontinued, when was last used?

<i>Austria</i>	<i>never used</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>1/4/88</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>30/4/83</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>1/1/89 (old Federal States)</i>
	<i>1/1/90 (new Federal States)</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>1/1/88</i>
<i>Italy</i>	<i>1/1/90</i>
<i>Luxemburg</i>	<i>stopped before 1980</i>
<i>the Netherlands</i>	<i>15/7/86</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>1/7/89</i>
<i>Spain</i>	<i>1/7/88</i>

All EC Member States had ceased vaccination by 1/1/90.

C. Detection and Diagnosis.

1. What surveillance programs are in effect to detect sick swine?

List A diseases of swine (and other species) are compulsorily notifiable in the EC (Directive 82/894/EEC). Suspicion must be reported to the competent authority, which must ensure official investigation by an official veterinarian (Articles 3 & 4 of Directive 80/217/EC for hog cholera and Articles 3&4 of Directive 92/119/EEC for ASF and SVD. Veterinary laboratories are available to all Member States to investigate outbreaks of any animal disease. All are trained in the recognition and diagnosis of List A diseases.

2. Is reporting of sick swine mandatory? Explain procedure.

Yes, where official investigations are unable to rule out the possible presence of SVD on clinical grounds (see reply to question 1).

In France, sick pigs are also investigated under the Aujeszky's Disease eradication programme.

In Luxemburg, there is a health surveillance programme run by veterinarians. In the case where there is a high mortality, the practitioner must inform the State Veterinary Service.

In Belgium, owners of pigs are obliged to have a contract with a veterinarian, who must visit every 3 months at least. The veterinarian must be called each time there are sick pigs

3. Are laboratory tests for hog cholera run on all sick swine?

Yes - if HC (or other notifiable disease of pigs) is suspected. ASF is also considered as a possible differential diagnosis.

4. What laboratory tests are conducted for hog cholera?

The test protocols are defined in Directive 80/217/EC, Annex 1. Diagnosis may be by demonstration of viral antigen and by detection of antibodies. FAT and tissue culture is used for isolation, with monoclonal antibodies for typing of isolates. VNT or ELISA are used for detection of antibodies. The protocols for evaluation of test results and for differential diagnosis between HC and other pestiviruses and ASF are also laid down in the same Annex.

5. What laboratory is used for diagnosis of hog cholera?

National laboratories are listed in Directive 80/217/EC. These laboratories are responsible for coordinating the standards and diagnostic methods in other national laboratories in the Member State concerned.

Liaison between the national reference laboratories is the responsibility of the Institute for Virology of the Veterinary College, Hannover, Germany, which is the Community Reference Laboratory.

6. Are serum surveys conducted? If yes, how frequently and were hog cholera antibodies found?

A. Domestic pigs

Surveys are conducted annually. See Reports in the attached report of the Annual Meeting of Swine Fever Laboratories.

Belgium screens a limited number for HC as part of the Aujeszky's Disease screening programme.

See also reports on CSF situation from Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium.

B. Wild boar

A low number of affected wild boar are found in Austria, Italy, Germany and France.

AUSTRRIA *The three communes of Angern, Ringelsdorf and Drosing.*

Positive results were last obtained in July 1996. Restrictions were lifted in January 1997 (Angern) and May 1997 (Ringelsdorf and Drosing). Measures were applied which included intensified hunting of wild boar and serological and virological

testing of animals found dead or shot (Article 6 of Directive 80/217/EEC). See also Surveillance programme for 1997 detailed in Doc VI/1878/96 Rev 1

ITALY

19 positive out of 563 virological samples and 107 positive out of 2296 serological samples taken in 1995. See plan for eradication in Massa Carrara, Doc VI/8927/93 Rev 1.

GERMAN Meckelenberg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg and Rheinland-Palatinate

1995 Virology 169 positives out of 19.000
 Serology 3.400 positives out of 18.500

See Plans for control in feral pigs Doc VI/9066/96 Rev 1 and VI/1804/96

FRANCE Departments of Moselle and Bas-Rhin

Results of surveillance on wild boar

1 May to 31 October 1996

			No of samples	No of positives	% positives
Virology	Infected zone	Bas-Rhin	135	0	0
		Moselle	175	0	0
	Surveillance zone	Bas-Rhin	224	0	0
		Moselle	80	0	0
Serology	Infected zone	Bas-Rhin	52	27	51.9
		Moselle	160	60	37.5
	Surveillance zone	Bas-Rhin	62	5	8.1
		Moselle	75	11	14.7

See plan for CSF control in the Vosges, doc VI/1732/94

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