

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2009

CHAPTER 8.11.

RIFT VALLEY FEVER

Article 8.11.1.

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.

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*.

When authorising import or transit of other *commodities* listed in this chapter, *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the RVF status of the ruminant population of the *exporting country* or *zone*.

Article 8.11.2.

Safe commodities

When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities* and any products made from them, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any RVF related conditions, regardless of the RVF status of the ruminant population of the *exporting country* or *zone*:

1. hides and skins;
2. wool and fiber.

Article 8.11.3.

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 8.11.1. 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 8.11.1. 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 8.11.4.

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 8.11.3.) 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 8.11.5.

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 8.11.6.

Recommendations for importation from RVF infection free countries or zonesfor 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 8.11.7.

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 8.11.8.

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

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

Article 8.11.9.

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 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 8.11.10.

Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries or zones with diseasefor 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. were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to shipment with a modified live virus vaccine;

OR

3. 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 mosquito attack between quarantine and the *place of shipment* as well as at the *place of shipment*.

Article 8.11.11.

Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries or zones with diseasefor meat and meat products of domestic and wild ruminants

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

1. are from animals which have been slaughtered in an approved *abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for RVF with favourable results; and
2. have been fully eviscerated and submitted to maturation at a temperature above +2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following *slaughter*.

Article 8.11.12.

Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries or zones with diseasefor *in vivo* derived embryos of ruminants

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

1. showed no evidence of RVF within the period from 28 days prior to 28 days following collection of the embryos;
2. were vaccinated against RVF at least 21 days prior to collection with a modified live virus vaccine;

OR

3. were serologically tested on the day of collection and at least 14 days following collection and showed no significant rise in titre.

Article 8.11.13.

(Under study) Recommendations for importation from RVF infected countries or zones with disease or from RVF infected countries or zones 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.