



Ref: CTO 2015 063 [G]

Dogs: 2ME-RSAT for *Brucella canis*

**CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of dogs which have been subjected to the 2ME-RSAT test for *Brucella canis* instead of the RSAT test.**

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Marnie Thomas, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for dogs to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard (CATDOG.GEN):

The test for *Brucella canis* must be carried out as described in the IHS, however the 2ME-RSAT test may replace the requirement for the RSAT test.

Richard Clough of IDC has indicated that the 2ME-RSAT is equivalent to the RSAT in that it has the same sensitivity. He also indicated that, "whenever we have a non-negative result, we add 2-ME (2-mercaptoethanol) to the RSAT reagents and the RSAT is repeated as the 2ME-RSAT. The 2-ME prevents non-specific clumping which can cause false-positives. Therefore, 2-ME increases the specificity of the assay." It is therefore a change in the test methodology which improves the specificity without decreasing the sensitivity.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.