



Ref: CTO 2015 067 [B]

Veterinary Certification for Bovine Semen from Canada

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors relating to the clearance of bovine semen from Canada according to the amended veterinary health certificate.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Matthew Stone, Chief Technical Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, give the following directions for bovine semen from Canada, which is now considered seasonally free with periodic incursions. The amended veterinary certificate contains measures, different from those in the current veterinary certificate and *IHS: Bovine Semen (BOVSEMIC.GEN)*.

The Risk Analysis team does not consider bluetongue virus to be a risk. Without *Culicoides*, it's considered that the virus cannot become established in this country. The IHS includes measures for the purpose of onward trade with Australia.

CFIA has indicated that they are no longer able to certify #17 of the current veterinary certificate because there are no control measures in place (zones are not established):

The semen collection centre has been maintained free from BTV in accordance with the CFIA Artificial Insemination Program and donors were kept in a BTV free zone for the 60 days prior to and during semen collection for export to New Zealand.

MPI and CFIA have agreed upon the following wording, which is in line with the Code:

The semen was collected prior to September 3, 2015, or between January 1 and May 15 (seasonally free period); or

Donors were kept in a vector-protected establishment for at least 60 days before commencement of, and during, collection of the semen; or

The semen was collected after September 3, 2015 or between May 16 and December 31; and

- Donors tested negative for BTV in accordance with the Code's Bluetongue Chapter test requirements for infected countries.

Table III of the current veterinary certificate includes a column for reporting BTV testing. Animal Imports has previously instructed border staff to ignore this column (as stated in BCPs) because the current certificate does not specify a time period for testing (it references the CFIA AI Program – a program that was assessed when the certificate was negotiated). The amended certificate's reference the OIE Code does not require border staff to check test dates. The bluetongue column should therefore be deleted from Table III.

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