



Ref: CTO 2017 028 [G]

Bovine semen: BTV PCR test

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to PCR testing bovine semen for bluetongue virus

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Lucy Johnston, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for testing bovine semen for bluetongue virus in relation to the import health standard [Bovine Semen, BOVSEMID.GEN]:

The IHS for bovine semen contains bluetongue virus requirements which align with the OIE Code recommendations.

Bluetongue real-time PCR is not one of the options in the OIE Code, but it is described by the OIE Manual and considered to be adequately sensitive to declare an individual animal freedom from infection prior to movement. While that statement is specifically in regard to testing blood, the Manual indicates that the test can be used on other tissues as well. In granting an equivalence to test semen, the semen test must be conducted at a lab that is approved by the competent authority and the test must be validated or provide 90% or greater efficiency of detection from assay comparison.

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

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