

CHAPTER 14.4.

INFECTION WITH *CHLAMYDOPHILA ABORTUS* (ENZOOTIC ABORTION OF EWES, OVINE CHLAMYDIOSIS)

Article 14.4.1.

General provisions

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE), also known as ovine chlamydiosis or ovine enzootic abortion, is an *infection* of domestic sheep and goats by the bacterium *Chlamydophila abortus*.

Susceptible *animals* become infected through ingestion of infectious materials. In lambs and non-pregnant ewes, the *infection* remains latent until conception. Ewes exposed to *infection* late in pregnancy may not exhibit signs of *infection* until the subsequent pregnancy. Countries should take account of these risk factors.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 14.4.2.

Recommendations for the importation of sheep or goats for breeding

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

- 1) have remained since birth, or for the previous two years, in *establishments* where no EAE has been diagnosed during the past two years;
- 2) showed no clinical sign of EAE on the day of shipment;
- 3) were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the 30 days prior to shipment.

Article 14.4.3.

Sheep flocks or goat herds free from EAE infection

To qualify as free from EAE *infection*, a sheep *flock* or goat *herd* shall satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) it is under official veterinary *surveillance*;
- 2) all sheep and goats showed no clinical evidence of EAE *infection* during the past two years;
- 3) a statistically valid number of sheep and goats over six months of age were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results within the past six months;
- 4) all sheep or goats are permanently identified;
- 5) no sheep or goat has been added to the *flock* or *herd* since 30 days prior to the *flock* or *herd* test referred to in point 3 above unless:
 - a) either the additions were isolated from other members of the *flock* or *herd* in the *establishment* of origin for a minimum period of 30 days and then were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results, before entry into the new *flock* or *herd*; or
 - b) they originated from an *establishment* of equal health status.

Article 14.4.4.

Recommendations for the importation of semen of sheep or goats

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor *animals* showed no clinical sign on the day of the semen collection; and

- 1) have been kept in *establishments* or *artificial insemination centres* free from EAE according to Article 14.4.3. for the two years prior to collection, and have not been in contact with *animals* of a lower health status; or
- 2) have remained since birth, or for the two years prior to collection, in *establishments* where no EAE has been diagnosed and were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results two to three weeks after collection of the semen.

Article 14.4.5.

Recommendations for the importation of embryos of sheep or goats

Veterinary Authorities of importing countries should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the donor *animals* showed no clinical sign on the day of collection; and

- 1) have been kept in *establishments* free from EAE according to Article 14.4.3. for the two years prior to collection, and have not been in contact with *animals* of a lower health status; or
- 2) have remained since birth, or for the two years prior to collection, in *establishments* where no EAE has been diagnosed and were subjected to a diagnostic test for EAE with negative results two to three weeks after collection.

The embryos should be collected, processed and stored in accordance with Chapter 4.7.
