Ref: CTO 2017 050 [1]
Equine Semen: Laboratory Tests and Semen Collection Timing

CTO direction as to equivalent measures in relation to equine semen from Australia

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 equine semen from Australia in relation to the *Import Health Standard: Semen and Embryos from Horses (Equidae)* (HORSSEMB.SPE), issued 18 July 2017:

The nature of the non-compliance with the requirements in the applicable import health standard is:

Clause 2.2 for equine infectious anaemia (EIA) requires donors to be tested not less than 21 days after entry into the collection centre with a negative result.

Clause 2.3 for equine viral arteritis (EVA) requires donors to meet the OIE *Code* recommendations for managing EVA in equine semen which includes multiple testing options.

Shuttle stallions imported into New Zealand and Australia from approved countries must meet the import requirements which include testing for EIA and EVA with negative results to be granted biosecurity clearance. These stallions are maintained under quarantine conditions (21 days pre-export isolation (PEI) in the approved country of export, 14 days post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) in Australia or New Zealand) before entering directly into a semen collection centre. Because the stallions will be under quarantine conditions with negative EIA and EVA test results immediately before entry into the semen collection centre, tests performed for live horse imports into Australia and New Zealand will equally manage the risk. For semen from Australia, EIA test results are valid for up to 180 days providing the donor is continuously resident at the semen collection centre, and met the donor and centre requirements. Where stallions have EIA results that are negative and will be a few days over the 180 day limit by the end of the breeding season, as long has the stallion has remained in the semen collection centre for the entire period and meet the donor and centre requirements, the negative results may be used until the end of the stallion's breeding season.

Clause 1.7.2(1) for semen donor requirements requires donors to be resident for at least 28 consecutive days at the semen collection centre prior to collection of the semen for export. During this time semen donors must not be used for natural mating and must be isolated from animals not of equivalent health status.

These stallions are maintained under quarantine conditions (21 days PEI in the approved country of export, 14 days PAQ in Australia or New Zealand) before entering directly into a semen collection centre. During PEI and PAQ, horses must not be used for natural mating and are isolated from animals not of an equivalent health status. Upon entry into the semen collection centre, all stallions will be of equivalent health status. Because the stallions will have met Australia and New Zealand import requirements and will be under quarantine conditions and immediately before entry into the semen collection centre, the time spent in PEI and PAQ is considered equivalent to the 28 day isolation period in the collection centre prior to beginning semen collection.

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This direction allows for an Animal Imports Senior Adviser veterinarian to review testing records and determine if the testing schedules and results for live horse imports are equivalent to meet the semen requirements of HORSSEMB.SPE. 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.