

## CHAPTER 14.4.

# INFECTION WITH *CHLAMYDIA 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 *Chlamydia 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 or goat flocks free from EAE infection

To qualify as free from EAE *infection*, a sheep or goat *flock* 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* since 30 days prior to the *flock* test referred to in point 3 above unless:
  - a) either the additions were isolated from other members of the *flock* 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
  - 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 in accordance with 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 in accordance with 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 4.8.

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NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 1992; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2019.