

Chapter 2.2.4 – Leptospirosis

Current OIE proposed text:

Article 2.2.4.2.

Veterinary Administrations of importing countries should require:

for domestic ruminants, equines and pigs for breeding [or rearing]

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

- 1) showed no clinical sign of leptospirosis on the day of shipment;
- 2) were kept in an *establishment* in which no clinical sign of leptospirosis was officially reported during the 90 days prior to shipment;
- 3) were injected twice with dihydrostreptomycin at a dose rate of 25 mg per kg of live body weight at an interval of 14 days; [the second injection being given on the day of shipment (this point is subject to updating);]
- [4) when required by the importing country, were subjected to a diagnostic test for leptospirosis with negative results].

Suggested text:

Article 2.2.4.2.

Veterinary Administrations of importing countries should require:

for domestic ruminants, equines and pigs for breeding [or rearing]

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

- 1) showed no clinical sign of leptospirosis on the day of shipment;
- 2) were kept in an *establishment* in which no clinical sign of leptospirosis was officially reported during the 90 days prior to shipment;
- 3) ~~were injected twice with dihydrostreptomycin at a dose rate of 25 mg per kg of live body weight at an interval of 14 days;~~ [the second injection being given on the day of shipment (this point is subject to updating);] were treated with an effective antimicrobial
- [4) when required by the importing country, were subjected to a diagnostic test for leptospirosis with negative results].

Rationale:

Although not specific to the proposed change made by the AHC Commission, this is a good opportunity to address the issue of dihydrostreptomycin use.

There is not a great deal of information in the literature to support the recommended treatment with dihydrostreptomycin. The treatment strategy seems to be based upon a 1979 paper published in the New Zealand Veterinary Journal entitled "Leptospirosis in pigs: the effectiveness of streptomycin in stopping leptospiruria."

In the United States (as is in other countries), dihydrostreptomycin is an antimicrobial that is no longer available. A paper published in the American Journal of Veterinary Research titled "Preliminary evaluation of antimicrobial agents for treatment of *Leptospira interrogans* serovar pomona infection in hamsters and swine" (1996) explores alternative treatment regimens. The article states that oxytetracycline, erythromycin, and tylosin administered at high dosages for 3 or 5 days are effective for treatment of persistent leptospirosis. Allowing an antibiotic such as oxytetracycline to be used for the treatment of Leptospirosis would be much safer and greatly simplify the export process.