

## **Veterinary Requirements for the Circulation of Bovine Animals and Swine**

*Issued pursuant to  
Section 25, Clauses 1, 11 and 13 of the  
Veterinary Medicine Law*

### **I. General Provisions**

1. These Regulations prescribe:

1.1. the veterinary requirements for the circulation of bovine animals (including the breeds *Bison bison* and *Bubalus bubalus*) and swine, except wild swine, with the European Union Member States (hereinafter – Member State);

1.2. the procedures for the registration of dealers; and

1.3. the procedures for the approval and registration of dealer's premises and assembly centres, the requirements for activities thereof, as well as the qualification requirements for staff.

2. Terms used in these Regulations:

2.1. animals intended for breeding – bovine animals and swine which are intended for breeding, for the acquisition of milk and meat, for work, demonstrations or exhibitions (except the bovine animals and swine referred to in Sub-paragraph 2.4 of these Regulations or participating in cultural and sports events);

2.2. animal holding – a separate enclosure for permanent or temporary keeping of bovine animals or swine in the territory of Latvia or another Member State;

2.3. herd – a bovine animal, a swine or a group thereof, which is kept in one animal holding as one epidemiological unit;

2.4. holding of origin – an animal holding in which bovine animals or swine are kept permanently prior to loading for taking to another Member State (except the assembly centre and dealer's premises);

2.5. animals intended for slaughter – bovine animals or swine, which are intended to be taken to the slaughterhouse directly, via an assembly centre or dealer's premises, after bringing in another Member State;

2.6. official veterinarian – an inspector of the Food and Veterinary Service (hereinafter – Service) or a veterinarian authorised by a competent veterinary authority of another Member State;

2.7. assembly centre – an animal holding, assembly point or market, in which bovine animals or swine from different holdings of origin are grouped together in order to create a consignment of animals intended for trading;

2.8. dealer's premises – an animal holding in which a dealer groups together bovine animals or swine from different holdings of origin in order to create a consignment of animals intended for trading; and

2.9. dealer – a natural person or a legal person who purchases and sells bovine animals or swine for commercial purposes, who has a regular circulation of bovine animals or swine

and who sells the purchased bovine animals or swine not later than within 30 days or transfers them from the holding of origin to another animal holding not within its ownership.

3. The implementation of these Regulations shall be monitored and controlled by the Service.

## **II. General Requirements for the Circulation of Bovine animals and Swine**

4. Bovine animals, swine and animal holdings, including holdings of origin, assembly centres and dealer's premises shall be registered in accordance with the regulatory enactments regarding the procedures for the registration of animals, herds and holdings and the marking of animals.

5. In order to create a consignment of animals for trading with other Member States, it shall be allowed to group together bovine animals and swine from different holdings of origin in an approved assembly centre and in approved dealer's premises.

6. Bovine animals and swine intended for slaughter which, after bringing in the territory of Latvia:

6.1. are taken directly to the slaughterhouse, shall be slaughtered within 72 hours after their arrival at the referred to slaughterhouse; or

6.2. are taken to an approved assembly centre or approved dealer's premises, shall be taken to the slaughterhouse and slaughtered within three working days after their arrival at the assembly house or dealer's premises referred to.

7. Bovine animals and swine shall be kept in an approved assembly centre or approved dealer's premises for not more than six days.

8. If a consignment of bovine animals or swine is brought out to another Member State, it shall have a veterinary (health) certificate completed in the *TRACES* system (integrated computerised veterinary system) and issued by the official veterinarian, which conforms with the following requirements:

8.1. it has been completed in accordance with the procedures specified in the regulatory enactments regarding the circulation of animals and food products of animal origin and the procedures for the issuance of veterinary (health) certificates;

8.2. it has been completed and issued on the date on which the examination referred to in Sub-paragraph 13.4 of these Regulations has taken place; and

8.3. it is valid for 10 days from the date of the examination referred to in Sub-paragraph 13.4 of these Regulations.

9. If bovine animals or swine are taken to another Member State:

9.1. from the holding of origin, the veterinary (health) certificate shall be completed by the official veterinarian of the holding of origin;

9.2. from an approved assembly centre, the veterinary (health) certificate shall be completed by the official veterinarian of the approved assembly centre on the basis of a document approved by the official veterinarian of the holding of origin, containing the information required for the completion of the veterinary (health) certificate; or

9.3. from approved dealer's premises, the veterinary (health) certificate shall be completed by the official veterinarian of the approved dealer's premises on the basis of a document approved by the official veterinarian of the holding of origin, containing the information required for the completion of the veterinary (health) certificate.

10. The official veterinarian who completes the veterinary (health) certificate shall ascertain the implementation of the additional guarantees specified in the regulatory enactments of the European Union.

11. It shall be permitted to carry a consignment of bovine animals or swine in transit from another Member State through the approved assembly centre located in the territory of Latvia (hereinafter – transit assembly centre), observing the following conditions:

11.1. the consignment of bovine animals or swine has a veterinary (health) certificate issued in the country of dispatch, which conforms with the requirements referred to in Paragraph 8 of these Regulations;

11.2. the official veterinarian of the transit assembly centre responsible for the consignment of bovine animals or swine shall complete and issue a veterinary (health) certificate, in which the veterinary (health) certificate number referred to in Sub-paragraph 11.1. of these Regulations shall be indicated; and

11.3. if a consignment of bovine animals or swine is being taken from the transit assembly centre, it shall have the original of the veterinary (health) certificate referred to in Sub-paragraph 11.2 of these Regulations and an approved copy of the veterinary (health) certificate referred to in Sub-paragraph 11.1 of these Regulations.

12. The veterinary (health) certificate referred to in Sub-paragraph 11.2 of these Regulations shall be valid for 10 days from the date of issue of the veterinary (health) certificate referred to in Sub-paragraph 11.1 of these Regulations.

### **III. Veterinary Requirements for the Circulation of Bovine Animals and Swine**

13. It shall be allowed to bring out to another Member State bovine animals and swine, which conform with the following requirements:

13.1. an identity check has been performed on them;

13.2. the swine have been marked in accordance with the regulatory enactments regarding the procedures for the registration of animals, herds and holdings and the marking of animals;

13.3. the bovine animals have been marked in accordance with the requirements specified in Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 July 2000 establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 820/97;

13.4. an official veterinarian has examined them within 24 hours prior to loading for bringing out to another Member State and has not detected any clinical symptoms typical of disease;

13.5. they are not intended for slaughter in accordance with a programme for combating infectious diseases and they have not been specified restrictions in accordance with the programme referred to;

13.6. during the period from removal from the holding of origin up to the arrival at the Member State of destination they have not been in contact with artiodactyla, which have a different health condition; and

13.7. they are not from a holding of origin or a place in which a prohibition or restriction has been specified due to reasons of animal health in accordance with the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union.

14. It shall be permitted to bring out to another Member State bovine animals and swine intended for breeding, which:

14.1. have been kept in one holding of origin for 30 days or since birth, if they are younger than 30 days; and

14.2. which are not from the holding of origin in which bovine animals or swine from third countries have been imported within the last 30 days unless the imported bovine animals or swine are held separately.

15. It shall be permitted to bring out to another Member State bovine animals intended for slaughter, which:

15.1. are from a herd of bovine animals which are free of tuberculosis (a herd which conforms with the requirements of the regulatory enactments regarding the procedures for the prevention and combating of such infectious diseases from which both animals and humans suffer). Within 30 days prior to the removal from the herd, a tuberculin-test has been performed on the bovine animals and negative results have been acquired. A tuberculin-test shall not be necessary for bovine animals which are younger than six weeks;

15.2. are from a holding of origin which is officially free of bovine enzootic leucosis (a bovine animal holding which conforms with the requirements specified in the regulatory enactments regarding the procedures for the prevention and combating of bovine enzootic leucosis). Within 30 days prior to the removal from the holding of origin the bovine animals have been examined for the determination of the presence of a leucosis initiator, using the immunodiffusion test (or *ELISA* test), and negative results have been acquired. An examination shall not be necessary for bovine animals which are younger than 12 months;

15.3. are from a herd of bovine animals which are free of brucellosis (a herd which conforms with the requirements of the regulatory enactments regarding the procedures for the prevention and combating of such infectious diseases from which both animals and humans suffer). Within 30 days prior to the removal from a herd the bovine animals are examined with a serum agglutination test or other method for the determination of the presence of a brucellosis initiator approved by the Standing Veterinary Committee of the European Union, and the result acquired is less than 30 international agglutination units per millilitre. An examination shall not be necessary for castrated bulls and bovine animals which are younger than 12 months.

16. It shall be permitted to bring out to another Member State bovine animals intended for slaughter, which:

16.1. are from a herd of bovine animals which is free from tuberculosis;

16.2. are from a holding of origin which is officially free of bovine enzootic leucosis; and

16.3. are from a herd of bovine animals which is free of tuberculosis; The requirement shall not apply to castrated bulls.

17. The examinations referred to in Paragraph 15 of these Regulations shall not be necessary if the territory of Latvia or part thereof, in which a holding of origin for bovine animals is located, has been approved by a decision of the European Commission as officially free of the specific disease or an approved disease surveillance programme for bovine animals is operating therein.

#### **IV. Requirements for an Assembly Centre**

18. An assembly centre shall conform with the following requirements:

- 18.1. it is under the supervision of an official veterinarian;
- 18.2. it is located in a territory for which no prohibition or restriction has been specified due to an infectious disease of bovine animals or swine in accordance with the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union;
- 18.3. it has a territory in which places appropriate for the storage of animal fodder, litter, manure and slurry, as well as for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and a system for the collection of wastewater have been installed. The referred to places and system are secure against leakage in order to avoid the pollution of the surrounding territory and the environment and to prevent the threat of the spreading of infectious diseases;
- 18.4. it has easy to clean and disinfect equipment for loading of bovine animals or swine into a vehicle and unloading therefrom, as well as premises equipped in accordance with the requirements for the welfare of bovine animals or swine for the keeping, feeding, watering and tending of bovine animals or swine;
- 18.5. it has premises or a place appropriate for bovine animal or swine examinations, premises appropriate for isolation and a room provided for the official veterinarian; and
- 18.6. it has equipment for the cleaning and disinfection of rooms, devices and vehicles.

19. The following requirements shall be observed in an approved assembly centre:

- 19.1. the territory referred to in Sub-paragraph 18.3 of these Regulations shall be used solely for the needs of the assembly centre and shall not allow free access of unauthorised persons and animals to the places for the storage of animal fodder, litter, manure and slurry, as well as to the places for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles and to the system for the collection of wastewater;
- 19.2. prior to the creation of each consignment of bovine animals or swine, the premises, devices and equipment referred to in Sub-paragraphs 18.4, 18.5 and 18.6 of these Regulations shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the instructions of the official veterinarian, using the method and product which ensures the elimination of the initiators of infectious diseases of animals;
- 19.3. bovine animals or swine which conform with the requirements specified in Chapter III of these Regulations shall be taken into the assembly centre;
- 19.4. prior to the taking in of bovine animals or swine into the assembly centre it shall be ascertained whether they have the documents approved by the official veterinarian of the holding of origin corresponding to the species and category, which confirm the conformity of the bovine animals or swine with the requirements of these Regulations;
- 19.5. the following information shall be stored for at least three years:
  - 19.5.1. the number of bovine animals or swine brought into the centre, the owner, individual identification numbers (for bovine animals) or the identification number of the herd of origin (for swine), the registration number of the holding of origin, the date of bringing in, the date of bringing out, the destination (name and actual address of the location) and the number of the veterinary (health) certificate issued;
  - 19.5.2. the number of the animal carrier certificate of such person which has transported the bovine animals or swine to the approved assembly centre and taken them from there;
  - 19.5.3. for carriage which exceeds eight hours – the number of the animal carriage permit of the vehicle, by which the bovine animals and swine are transported to the approved assembly centre and taken from there, as well as copies of the carriage journal;
- 19.6. the requirements specified in the regulatory enactments regarding the welfare of animals kept for farming purposes;

19.7. the requirements for the assembly centre specified in Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No. 1255/97 (hereinafter – Regulation No. 1/2005);

19.8. it shall be ensured that bovine animals or swine do not come into contact with artiodactyla which have a different health condition;

19.9. manure and slurry shall be stored, wastewater collected and the vehicle intended for carriage of animals shall be cleaned and disinfected in the place or system referred to in Sub-paragraph 18.3 of these Regulations, avoiding the pollution of the surrounding territory and the environment and preventing the threat of the spread of infectious diseases; and

19.10. bovine animals or swine shall be cared for by trained animal keepers in accordance with the requirements specified in the regulatory enactments regarding the keeping and welfare of bovine animals or swine.

## **V. Requirements for Dealers and Dealer's Premises**

20. A dealer shall observe the following requirements:

20.1. bovine animals or swine which conform with the requirements specified in Chapter III of these Regulations shall be traded;

20.2. the use of appropriate vehicles for carriage of bovine animals or swine shall be ensured;

20.3. he or she shall ascertain whether the bovine animals or swine have documents approved by the official veterinarian of the holding of origin in accordance with the species and category, which confirm the conformity of the bovine animals or swine with the requirements of these Regulations;

20.4. the dealer shall store the following information for at least three years:

20.4.1. the date of purchase of the bovine animals or swine, the number of the purchased bovine animals or swine, the owner, category, individual identification number (for bovine animals) or the identification number of the herd of origin (for swine), the registration number of the holding of origin, the date of sale of the bovine animals or swine, the number of bovine animals or swine sold, the purchaser (given name, surname or name and address), the final destination (the name and actual address of the location) and the number of the veterinary (health) certificate issued;

20.4.2. the number of the animal carrier certificate of the person who has transported the bovine animals or swine;

20.4.3. regarding carriage which exceeds eight hours – the number of the animal carriage permit of the vehicle for carriage of animals, by which the bovine animals or swine are transported, and copies of the transport journal.

21. Dealer's premises shall conform with the following requirements:

21.1. they are under the supervision of an official veterinarian;

21.2. they are located in a territory for which no prohibition or restriction has been specified due to an infectious disease of bovine animals or swine in accordance with the regulatory enactments of the Republic of Latvia and the European Union;

21.3. there is a territory by the dealer's premises in which places appropriate for the storage of animal fodder, litter, manure and slurry, as well as for the cleaning and disinfection of vehicles and a system for the collection of wastewater have been installed. The referred to places and system are secure against leakage in order to avoid the pollution of the surrounding territory and the environment and to prevent the threat of the spread of infectious diseases;

21.4. they have easy to clean and disinfect equipment for loading of bovine animals or swine into a vehicle or the unloading therefrom, as well as premises equipped in accordance

with the welfare requirements for bovine animals or swine for the keeping, feeding, watering and tending of bovine animals or swine;

21.5. they have premises or a place appropriate for bovine animal or swine examinations and rooms appropriate for isolation; and

21.6. they have equipment for the cleaning and disinfection of rooms, devices and vehicles.

22. The following requirements shall be observed in approved dealer's premises :

22.1. the territory referred to in Sub-paragraph 21.3 of these Regulations shall be used solely for the needs of the dealer's premises and shall not allow free access of unauthorised persons and animals to the places for the storage of animal fodder, litter, manure and slurry or to the places for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles or to the system for the collection of wastewater;

22.2. prior to the creation of each consignment of bovine animals or swine, the premises, devices and equipment referred to in Sub-paragraphs 21.4 and 21.5 of these Regulations shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the instructions of the official veterinarian, using the method and product which ensures the elimination of the initiators of infectious diseases of animals;

22.3. it shall be ensured that bovine animals or swine do not come into contact with artiodactyla which have a different health condition;

22.4. manure and slurry shall be stored, wastewater collected and the vehicles intended for carriage of animals shall be cleaned and disinfected in the place or system referred to in Sub-paragraph 21.3 of these Regulations, avoiding the pollution of the surrounding territory and the environment and preventing the threat of the spread of infectious diseases; and

22.5. bovine animals or swine shall be cared for by trained animal keepers in accordance with the requirements specified in the regulatory enactments regarding the keeping and welfare of bovine animal or swine.

23. The Service may allow a dealer to trade marked bovine animals and swine in the territory of Latvia which do not conform with the requirements of these Regulations, if they are taken directly to the slaughterhouse for slaughter as quickly as possible, in order to prevent the spread of disease. The referred to bovine animals or swine shall not come into contact with other animals, and they shall be slaughtered separately from other animals.

## **VI. Procedures for Registration of Dealers and Approval and Registration of Dealer's Premises and Assembly Centres**

24. In order to register a dealer, he or she shall submit a submission to the territorial unit of the Service. The following shall be indicated in the submission:

24.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of the performer of economic activity or the name and registration number in the Commercial Register; and

24.2. the address of the declared place of residence or the legal address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address.

25. In order to approve and register dealer's premises, in addition to the information referred to in Paragraph 24 of these Regulations, a dealer shall indicate the following in the submission:

25.1. the actual address of the premises, the telephone and fax number and e-mail address (if it is different from the address indicated in Sub-paragraph 24.2 of these Regulations); and

25.2. the type of activities for which he or she wishes to receive approval.

26. In order to approve and register an assembly centre, the performer of economic activity shall submit a submission to the territorial unit of the Service. The following shall be indicated in the submission:

26.1. the given name, surname, personal identity number and the address of the declared place of residence of the performer of economic activity or the name and legal address, telephone and fax number, e-mail address and registration number in the Commercial Register;

26.2. the name of the assembly centre (if any), the actual address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address of the actual location; and

26.3. the type of activities for which he or she wishes to receive approval.

27. In the case referred to in Paragraph 24 of these Regulations, the Service shall, within 10 working days after receipt of the submission, examine it, register the dealer and allocate it a registration number.

28. In the case referred to in Paragraphs 25 and 26 of these Regulations, the Service shall, within 10 working days after receipt of the submission, examine it and agree with the submitter on a date for the commencement of the procedure for approval of activities of the assembly centre or dealer's premises. The Service shall, on the specified date, perform an inspection at the assembly centre or dealer's premises and prepare a protocol.

29. If the assembly centre or dealer's premises do not conform with the requirements specified in Paragraph 18 or 21 of these Regulations, the Service shall take a decision to specify a time period of 10 working days for the elimination of the non-conformities. If the non-conformities indicated in the decision of the Service are not eliminated within the time period specified, the Service shall take a decision regarding the refusal to approve and register the assembly centre or dealer's premises.

30. If the assembly centre or dealer's premises conform with the requirements specified in Paragraph 18 or 21 of these Regulations, the Service shall take a decision regarding the approval, allocate an approval number, register the assembly centre or dealer's premises in the section "Approved Undertakings of Animal Trading" in the register of approved facilities under veterinary supervision (hereinafter – register) and issue a certificate of approval, if the submitter of the submission has requested it. The following shall be indicated in the certificate:

30.1. the given name, surname, personal identity number and the address of the declared place of residence of the performer of economic activity or the name, legal address and registration number in the Commercial Register; and

30.2. the name, actual address, type of activities of the assembly centre or dealer's premises for which the approval has been received and the approval number.

31. An assembly centre may be approved for the assembly of bovine animals or swine or for the assembly of only one species of animal (bovine animals or swine) of one category (for breeding or slaughter).

32. The performer of economic activity shall, within 10 working days, inform the Service in writing if:

32.1. the information referred to in Paragraph 24, 25 or 26 of these Regulations has changed; or

32.2. the assembly centre or dealer has suspended activities.



33. The Service shall, within 30 days, evaluate the information referred to in Paragraph 32 of these Regulations, perform an inspection at the assembly centre or dealer's premises, if necessary, and make the necessary amendments to the register.

34. The Service shall insert the list of the registered dealers, approved dealer's premises and assembly centres on the Internet homepage thereof and regularly update it.

## **VII. Requirements for Carriers and Vehicles**

35. A carrier and a vehicle which is used for carriage of bovine animals or swine shall be registered in accordance with regulatory enactments regarding carriage of animals and conform with the requirements specified in the referred to regulatory enactments and in Council Regulation No. 1/2005.

36. Prior to loading bovine animals or swine into a vehicle, the carrier shall ascertain whether they have the accompanying documents corresponding to the breed and category, and shall ensure that during carriage the bovine animals or swine do not come into contact with artiodactyla which have a different health condition.

37. A vehicle by bovine animals or swine are carried shall conform with the following requirements:

37.1. it has been constructed so that slurry, litter, manure or feed are not spilled or scattered during carriage;

37.2. it is cleaned and disinfected immediately after each carriage of bovine animals or swine and, if necessary, prior to each loading of bovine animals or swine. A method and product which ensures the elimination of initiators of animal infectious diseases shall be used for cleaning and disinfection.

38. The carrier shall store the following information for at least three years regarding each vehicle:

38.1. the number of the permit for carriage of animals;

38.2. the location (the registration number of the holding of origin or the approval number and address of the assembly centre or dealer's premises), the date and time of loading the bovine animals or swine;

38.3. the location, date, time of unloading the bovine animals or swine (the approval number and address of the assembly centre or dealer's premises) and given name and surname of the recipient;

38.4. the species, category and number of the carried animals, and information regarding the accompanying documents of animals (type, amount, number, place of issue, date of issue and the official veterinarian which has issued them);

38.5. information regarding the duration of carriage which has taken place; and

38.6. the date and location of cleaning and disinfection.

39. The requirements referred to in Paragraphs 37 and 38 of these Regulations shall not be applied if the bovine animals or swine are transported by the owner thereof, for a distance which does not exceed 65 kilometres from the place of departure to the final destination.

## **VIII. Monitoring and Control**

40. If the Service establishes that the requirements of these Regulations have not been observed, it shall apply measures for control and monitoring in accordance with the regulatory

enactments regarding the procedures for control and monitoring for trading with animals, animal sperm, ova and embryos with the European Union Member States and third countries.

41. If the Service establishes that the requirements of these Regulations or the requirements of other regulatory enactments regarding the health and welfare of animals have not been observed, it shall suspend the organised trade of the dealer with bovine animals and swine and suspend or restrict the activities of the approved assembly centre and approved dealer's premises in accordance with the requirements specified in the Veterinary Medicine Law.

### **IX. Closing Provisions**

42. Cabinet Regulation No. 301 of 13 April 2004, *Regulations Regarding Circulation of Bovine Animals and Swine (Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2004, No. 69)* is repealed.

43. These Regulations shall come into force on 1 January 2010.

### **Informative Reference to European Union Directives**

These Regulations contain legal norms arising from:

1) Council Directive 64/432/EEC of 26 June 1964 on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine; and

2) Council Directive 2008/73/EC of 15 July 2008 simplifying procedures of listing and publishing information in the veterinary and zootechnical fields and amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 77/504/EEC, 88/407/EEC, 88/661/EEC, 89/361/EEC, 89/556/EEC, 90/426/EEC, 90/427/EEC, 90/428/EEC, 90/429/EEC, 90/539/EEC, 91/68/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 92/35/EEC, 92/65/EEC, 92/66/EEC, 92/119/EEC, 94/28/EC, 2000/75/EC, Decision 2000/258/EC and Directives 2001/89/EC, 2002/60/EC and 2005/94/EC.

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