

A.L. 287 ta' l-2008

**ATT DWAR IS-SERVIZZI VETERINARJI
(KAP. 437)**

**Regoli ta' l-2008 dwar Miżuri għall-Kontroll ta' Ċertu Mard
ta' l-Annimali u Miżuri Speċifiċi relatati
mal-Mard Vesikulari tal-Majjal**

BIS-SAHHA tas-setgħat mogħtija bl-artikolu 5 ta' l-Att dwar is-Servizzi Veterinarji, il-Ministru għar-Riżorsi u Affarijiet Rurali għamel dawn ir-regoli li ġejjin:-

1. (1) It-titolu ta' dawn ir-regoli huwa Regoli ta' l-2008 dwar Miżuri għall-Kontroll ta' Ċertu Mard ta' l-Annimali u Miżuri speċifiċi relatati mal-Mard Vesikulari tal-Majjal. Titlu, skop u applikabilità.

(2) L-iskop ta' dawn ir-regoli hu l-implimentazzjoni tar-regoli mnizzla taħt id-Direttiva tal-Kunsill ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 92/119/KEE li jintroduċu miżuri għal Komunità ġenerali, għall-kontroll ta' ċertu mard ta' l-annimali u miżuri speċifiċi relatati mal-mard vesikulari tal-majjal u jinkludu emendi magħmula mid-Direttiva tal-Kunsill 2007/10/KE rigward il-miżuri li għandhom jittiehdu f'żona ta' protezzjoni wara tifqigha tal-marda ta' l-infafet vesikulari fil-hnieżer, liema regoli jhassru u jissostitwixxu r-Regoli ta' l-2005 dwar Miżuri għall-Kontroll ta' Ċertu Mard ta' l-Annimali u Miżuri Speċifiċi relatati mal-Mard Vesikulari tal-Majjal. A.L. 366 ta' l-2005.

(3) Dawn ir-regoli jistabbilixxu l-miżuri ta' kontroll ġenerali li għandhom ikunu applikati fil-każ ta' tifqiegha ta' xi wahda mill-mard elenkati fi Skeda I.

2. Għall-ghan ta' dawn ir-regoli:-

Tifsir.

“animal” tfisser animal domestiku ta' l-ispeċi soġġetti li jkunu direttament milqutin bil-mard imsemmi, jew animal selvaġġ vertebrali li x'aktarx jipparteċipa fl-epidemjoloġija tal-mard, billi jagħmilha ta' *carrier* jew *reservoir* ta' infezzjoni;

“azjenda” tfisser stabbiliment (agrikolu jew le), li qiegħed f'Malta, fejn annimali huma miżmuma jew imrobbija;

“l-awtorità kompetenti” tfisser is-Servizzi Veterinarji f’Malta kif provdut taht l-artikolu 2 ta’ l-Att dwar is-Servizzi Veterinarji;

“il-Komunità” tfisser il-Komunità Ewropea kif stabbilità fit-Trattat li stabbilixxa l-Komunità Ewropea;

“konferma ta’ infezzjoni” tfisser id-dikjarazzjoni mill-awtorità kompetenti tal-preżenza ta’ xi wahda mill-mard elenkati fi Skeda I bażata fuq riżultati tal-laboratorju u fil-każ ta’ epidemija l-awtorità kompetenti tista’ tikkonferma wkoll il-preżenza tal-marda fuq il-baži ta’ riżultati kliniċi jew epidemjoloġiċi;

“il-Kummissjoni” tfisser il-Kummissjoni Ewropea fi hdan il-Komunità;

“perjodu ta’ inkubazzjoni” tfisser il-perjodu ta’ żmien li x’aktarx jghaddi bejn l-espożizzjoni għall-aġent tal-mard u l-bidu tas-sintomi kliniċi. It-tul ta’ dan il-perjodu għandu jkun dak indikat fi Skeda I għall-marda in kwistjoni;

“sid jew gwardjan” tfisser persuna jew persuni, kemm naturali kemm legali, li jkunu proprjetarji ta’ l-annimali, jew li jkunu inkarigati li jżommu l-istess annimali, kemm jekk għal kumpens finanzjarju kemm jekk le;

“Stat Membru” tfisser Stat li jkun Membru fi hdan il-Komunità Ewropea;

“veterinarju uffiċjali” tfisser il-veterinarju li jkun mahtur mill-awtorità kompetenti;

“vettur” jew “vektor” tfisser kull animal selvaġġ vertebrali jew invertebrali li jkun soġġett għat-trasmissjoni u firxa ta’ l-aġent tal-marda in kwistjoni b’mezzi mekkaniċi jew bioloġiċi.

Notifika lill-Awtorità Kompetenti f’każ ta’ suspett tal-mard.

3. Huwa obbligatorju illi l-preżenza suspetta ta’ xi wahda mill-mard immniżżla fi Skeda I tiġi notifikata minnufih lill-awtorità kompetenti.

Miżuri uffiċjali f’każ ta’ kontaminazzjoni jew infezzjoni suspettata.

4. (1) Meta annimali f’razzett ikunu mahsuba li huma infettati jew kontaminati b’xi wahda mill-mard elenkati fi Skeda I, il-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu minnufih jagħmel l-arrangamenti immedjati għal investigazzjoni uffiċjali sabiex jikkonferma jew jipprekludi l-preżenza tal-marda in kwistjoni u, partikolarment, għandu jiehu jew ikun ha kampjuni neċessarji għall-eżamijiet fil-laboratorju. Għal dak il-ghan l-annimali in kwistjoni jistgħu jiġu trasportati lejn il-laboratorji taht

superviżjoni ta' l-awtorità kompetenti, illi ghandha tiehu l-passi adatti biex tipprevjeni l-firxa tal-marda.

(2) Malli l-preżenza suspettata tal-marda tiġi notifikata, l-awtorità kompetenti ghandha tqiegħed ir-razzett taht sorveljanza uffiċjali u ghandha partikolarment tehtieġ illi:

(a) isir ċensiment u jiġu reġistrati l-kategoriji kollha ta' l-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibli u, fir-rigward ta' kull kategorija, l-ghadd ta' l-annimali diġà mejta, infettati jew soġġetti li jkunu infettati jew kontaminati; iċ-ċensiment għandu jinżamm aġġornat biex issir verifika ta' l-annimali mwielda jew mejta matul il-perjodu ta' suspett; l-informazzjoni fiċ-ċensiment għandha tinżamm aġġornata u tingħata meta mitluba u tista' tiġi spezzjonata f'kull żjara;

(b) l-annimali kollha ta' speċi suxxettibli fir-razzett għandhom jinżammu fil-kwartieri ta' abitazzjoni tagħhom jew jiġu konfinati f'post iehor fejn ikunu jistghu jiġu iżolati waqt li jiġi kunsidrat ir-rwol possibbli tal-vetturi meta dan ikun adatt;

(ċ) l-ebda annimal ta' speċi suxxettibli ma għandu jidhol fi jew jitlaq mir-razzett;

(d) l-moviment kollu:

(i) ta' persuni, annimali ta' speċi ohra li ma jkunux suxxettibli għall-marda jew vetturi għal jew mill-ażjenda,

(ii) ta' laham jew karkassi ta' l-annimali, jew ta' l-ghalf ta' l-annimali, tagħmir, skart, taqtir, żibel, demel, jew kull haġa li tista' tkun sugġetta għall-firxa tal-marda in kwistjoni;

(e) ikunu soġġetti għal awtorizzazzjoni mill-awtorità kompetenti li għandha tnizzel il-kundizzjonijiet għal prevenzjoni ta' kull riskju tal-firxa tal-mard; ikunu installati mezzi adatti ta' disinfezzjoni fl-entraturi jew fil-hruġ tal-bini jew postijiet li jkun fihom l-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibli u ta' l-ażjenda nnifisha.

(f) issir inkjesta epizootika skond regola 8.

(3) Sakemm il-mizuri uffiċjali elenkati f'subregola (2) jiġu fis-seħh, is-sid jew il-gwardjan ta' kull annimal li jkun suspettat li għandu l-marda, għandu jiehu l-mizuri adatti kollha biex jiżgura konformità ma' subregola (2), bl-eċċezzjoni ta' paragrafu (f) tiegħu.

(4) L-awtorità kompetenti tista' tapplika kull mizura msemija f'subregola (2) għal irziezet oħra fejn il-lokalità tagħhom, il-konfigurazzjoni tagħhom jew kuntatti mar-razzett fejn il-marda tkun suspettata jagħtu raġuni biex tiġi suspetta kontaminazzjoni possibbli.

(5) Il-mizuri msemija f'subregoli (1) u (2) m'għandhomx jitnehhew sakemm is-suspett tal-preżenza tal-marda ma jkunx eliminat mill-veterinarju uffiċjali.

Mizuri li għandhom jittiehdu f'każ ta' konferma tal-marda.

5. (1) La darba jkun uffiċjalment konfermat li waħda mill-mard elenkat fi Skeda I tkun preżenti fl-azjenda, l-awtorità kompetenti għandha tiżgura illi, b'żjeda mal-mizuri mnizzla f'regola 4 (2), il-mizuri li ġejjin għandhom ikunu applikati:

(a) l-annimali kollha ta' speċi suxxettibli fl-azjenda għandhom jinqatlu fil-post mingħajr dewmien. L-annimali li jkunu mietu jew ikunu ġew meqruda għandhom jew jinharqu jew jindifnu fil-post, jekk possibbli, jew jiġu meqruda ġewwa fabbrika għar-rimi ta' karkassi. Dawn l-operazzjonijiet għandhom isiru b'mod illi jkun imnaqqas ir-riskju ta' disseminazzjoni ta' l-aġent tal-marda;

(b) kull sustanza jew skart, bħal ikel ta' l-annimali, żibel, demel jew *slurry*, illi huwa soġġett li jkun kontaminat, għandu jkun meqrud jew trattat adegwament. Dan it-trattament, li jkun ġie ġestit skond l-istruzzjonijiet tal-veterinarju uffiċjali, għandu jiżgura li kull aġent jew vektor ta' l-aġent tal-marda, jkun inqered;

(ċ) wara li jsiru l-operazzjonijiet mnizzla f'paragrafi (a) u (b) ta' din ir-regola, il-bini użat biex izomm annimali domestiċi ta' speċi suxxettibli, il-madwar tagħhom, il-vetturi użati għat-trasport u kull tagħmir soġġett għall-kontaminazzjoni għandu jkun innaddaf u disinfettat skond regola 16; u

(d) għandha ssir inkjesta epizooloġika skond regola 8.

(2) Meta jsir xi dfin, dan għandu jkun fond biżżejjed sabiex jipprevjeni annimali karnivori milli jhaffru għall-karkassi jew skart imsemmi f'subregola (1)(a) u (b) ta' din ir-regola u għandu jsir f'art adatta biex tkun evitata kull kontaminazzjoni tas-saffi saturati bl-ilma jew hsara ambjentali.

(3) L-awtorità kompetenti tista' testendi l-mizuri mnizzla f'subregola (1) għal azjendi ġirien jekk il-lokalità tagħhom, il-konfigurazzjoni tagħhom jew il-kuntatt mar-razzett meta l-preżenza tal-marda tkun ġiet konfermata, tagħti raġuni għal suspett ta' kontaminazzjoni possibbli.

(4) It-tagħmir mill-ġdid tar-razzett għandu jkun awtorizzat mill-awtorità kompetenti, wara spezzjoni sodisfaċenti mill-veterinarju uffiċjali ta' l-operazzjonijiet tat-tindif u tad-disinfettar skond regola 16.

6. Meta annimali li jgħixu fis-selvaġġ ikunu infettati jew suspettati li huma infettati, l-awtorità kompetenti għandha tiżgura li tittiehed kul azzjoni adatta. L-awtorità kompetenti għandha tinforma lill-Kummissjoni Ewropea u lill-Istati Membri l-oħra, bil-miżuri li tkun hadet.

Annimali li jgħixu fis-selvaġġ.

7. (1) Fil-każ ta' azjendi li jikkonsistu f'żewġ unitajiet ta' produzzjoni separata jew aktar, l-awtorità kompetenti tista' tidderoga mir-reqwiziti ta' regola 5 (1) (a) fir-rigward ta' unitajiet ta' produzzjoni b'saħħithom ta' razzett infettat:

Azjendi b'żewġ unitajiet jew aktar ta' produzzjoni.

Iżda l-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu jkun ikkonferma li l-istruttura u l-qies ta' dawn l-unitajiet u l-operazzjonijiet magħmula fihom ikunu tali illi ikunu kompletament separati fir-rigward ta' abitazzjoni, żamma, impjegati, tagħmir u ikel, sabiex tkun prevenuta l-firxa ta' l-aġent tal-marda minn unità għall-oħra.

(2) Meta tiġi applikata s-subregola (1) ta' din ir-regola, ir-regoli li hemm f'Artikolu 18(2) tad-Direttiva tal-Kunsill ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 2003/85/KE dwar il-miżuri tal-Kommunità għall-kontroll tal-marda ta' l-ilsien u d-dwiefer li qegħda thassar id-Direttiva tal-Kunsill ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 85/511/KEE u d-Deċiżjonijiet tal-Kummissjoni 89/531/KEE u 91/665/KEE u qegħda temenda d-Direttiva tal-Kunsill ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 92/46/KEE għandha tapplika *mutatis mutandis*:

Iżda dawn ir-regoli jistgħu jiġu emendati għall-marda in kwistjoni skond il-htigiet tal-Kommunità Ewropea sabiex tittiehed in konsiderazzjoni n-natura speċifika tal-marda.

8. (1) L-inkjesta epizootoloġika għandha tittratta dwar:

Inkjesta epizootoloġika.

(a) iż-żmien li tkun eżistiet il-marda fir-razzett qabel ma tkun ġiet notifikata jew suspettata;

(b) l-origini possibli tal-marda fir-razzett u l-identifikazzjoni ta' rziezet oħra fejn hemm annimali oħra ta' speċi suxxettibli li setgħu ġew infettati jew kontaminati;

(ċ) il-moviment ta' persuni, annimali, karkassi, vetturi, tagħmir jew kull sustanza oħra li x'aktarx tkun ġarret l-aġent tal-marda minn jew għall-irziezet in kwistjoni;

(d) il-preżenza u distribuzzjoni ta' vetturi tal-marda kif adatt.

(2) Għandha tkun stabbilita unità ta' kriżi sabiex din tipprowdi koordinazzjoni shiha tal-miżuri kollha neċessarji biex tkun żgurata l-qerda tal-marda kemm jista' jkun malajr u għall-iskop li tagħmel l-inkjesta epizootoloġika.

(3) Ir-regoli li jikkonċernaw unitajiet ta' kriżi nazzjonali għandhom jitnizzlu skond il-htigiet tal-Kommunità Ewropea.

Meta rżieżet ohra jkunu tpoġġew taht sorveljanza uffiċjali.

9. (1) Meta l-veterinarju uffiċjali isib jew jikkunsidra fuq il-bażi ta' informazzjoni konfermata, li l-marda setgħet kienet ġiet introdotta minn irżieżet ohra għal ġor-razzett imsemmi f'regola 4 jew minn dak ir-razzett għall-irżieżet ohra bħala riżultat ta' moviment ta' persuni, annimali jew vetturi b'xi mod iehor, dawk l-azjendi l-ohra għandhom jitqegħdu taht sorveljanza uffiċjali skond regola 4 u dik is-sorveljanza m'għandiex tkun imnehhija sakemm is-suspett tal-preżenza tal-marda fl-azjenda tkun giet uffiċjalment eskluża.

(2) Meta l-veterinarju uffiċjali jirriżultalu jew jikkonsidra fuq bażi ta' informazzjoni konfermata, li l-marda setgħet kienet introdotta minn irżieżet ohra għal ġor-razzett imsemmi f'regola 5 jew minn dak ir-razzett għal go rżieżet ohra bħala riżultat tal-moviment ta' persuni, annimali jew vetturi b'xi mod iehor, dawk l-azjendi l-ohra għandhom jitqegħdu taht sorveljanza uffiċjali skond regola 4 u dik is-sorveljanza m'għandhiex tkun imnehhija sakemm preżenza suspetta tal-marda fl-azjenda tkun giet uffiċjalment eskluża.

(3) Meta razzett ikun soġġett għad-disposizzjonijiet ta' subregola (2), l-awtorità kompetenti għandha żżomm id-disposizzjonijiet ta' regola 4 fis-sehh f'dak ir-razzett għal minn ta' l-anqas l-perjodu massimu ta' inkubazzjoni li jappartjeni lil kull marda wara ż-żmien x'aktarx ta' introduzzjoni ta' l-infezzjoni kif stabbilita bl-inkjesta epizootoloġika magħmula skond regola 8.

(4) Meta l-awtorità kompetenti tikkonsidra illi l-kundizzjonijiet ikunu hekk jippermettu, hija tista' tillimita l-miżuri msemmija fis-subregoli (1) u (2) ta' din ir-regola għal dik il-parti tar-razzett u l-annimali miżmuma hemm la darba r-razzett huwa konformi mal-kundizzjonijiet li hemm f'regola 7, jew għall-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli biss.

Zona ta' protezzjoni.

10. (1) Meta d-dijanjosji ta' xi wahda mill-mard in kwistjoni tiġi uffiċjalment konfermata, l-awtorità kompetenti għandha tistabilixxi madwar ir-razzett infettat, zona ta' protezzjoni b'medda ta' mill-inqas

tlett kilometri li tkun f'zona ta' sorveljanza ta' medda ta' mill-inqas 10 kilometri:

Iżda l-introduzzjoni taz-zoni ghandha tkun konformi mal-fatturi ġeografiċi, amministrattivi, ekoloġiċi u epizootoloġiċi li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mal-mard in kwistjoni u l-faċilitajiet ta' monitoraġġ.

(2) Meta z-zoni jkunu jinsabu fit-territorju ta' Stat Membru ieħor, l-awtorità kompetenti ghandha tikkopera ma' l-awtoritajiet kompetenti ta' l-Istati Membri li jkunu konċernati li jistabbilixxu z-zoni kif hemm fis-subregola 1. Jekk ikun mehtieġ, iz-zona ta' protezzjoni u z-zona ta' sorveljanza ghandha tkun saret skond il-proċedura rilevanti tal-Kommunità Ewropea.

Id-deċiżjoni biex jinbidlu (b'mod partikolari biex jitnaqqsu jew jiżdiedu, kif adatt) il-konfini taż-żoni kif hemm fis-subregola (1) jew id-dewmien ta' miżuri ta' restrizzjoni tista' tkun deċiża mill-Kummissjoni Ewropea, u ghandha tiehu in kunsiderazzjoni:

- (a) is-sitwazzjoni ġeografika u l-fatturi ekoloġiċi tagħhom,
- (b) il-kondizzjonijiet metereoloġiċi,
- (c) il-preżenza, distribuzzjoni u tip ta' vektor,
- (d) ir-riżultati ta' l-istudji epizootoloġiċi magħmula skond ir-regola 8,
- (e) ir-riżultati tat-testijiet tal-laboratorju,
- (f) miżuri ta' kontroll attwalment applikati.

11. (1) L-awtorità kompetenti ghandha tiżgura li l-miżuri li ġejjin ghandhom japplikaw fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni; Miżuri li ghandhom jittiehdu fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni.

(a) l-irziezet kollha fiż-żona li ghandhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli ghandhom ikunu identifikati;

(b) ghandhom isiru visti perjodiċi lill-azjendi li jkollhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli, eżami kliniku ta' dawg l-annimali inkluz jekk ikun mehtieġ il-kollezzjoni ta' kampjuni għall-eżaminazzjoni fil-laboratorju; ghandhom jinżammu registri tal-visti u tas-sejbiet bil-frekwenza tal-visti li ghandha tkun proprzjonali mas-serjetà ta' l-epizootiku, fil-każ ta' irziezet li jkunu l-aktar fir-riskju;

(ċ) il-moviment u trasport ta' l-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli f'toroq pubbliċi jew privati, bl-esklużjoni ta' toroq ghas-servizz għall-irziezet, għandu jkun projbit; iżda, l-awtorità kompetenti tista' tagħti deroga minn din il-projbizzjoni għat-transitu ta' annimali bit-triq jew bil-ferrovija minghajr hatt jew waqfien;

(d) annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli għandhom jibqgħu fir-razzett fejn ikunu qegħdin jinżammu hlief għal dawk li jkunu se jiġu trasportati taht superviżjoni uffiċjali, direttament għall-biċċerija li tinsab f'dik iż-żona li fiha ssir il-qatla ta' emerġenza jew, jekk dik iż-żona m'għandhiex biċċerija taht superviżjoni uffiċjali, għall-biċċerija fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza indikata mill-awtorità kompetenti:

Iżda trasport bħal dak jista' jkun awtorizzat mill-awtorità kompetenti biss jekk isir eżami ta' l-annimali kollha ta' l-ispeċi suxxettibbli mill-veterinarju uffiċjali u li jkun ikkonferma li ebda annimal ma jkun suspett li hu infettat. L-awtorità kompetenti responsabbli għall-biċċerija għandha tkun infurmata bl-intenzjoni li se jintbagħtu annimali fiha.

(2) Il-miżuri applikati fiż-żona protetta għandhom jinżammu fis-seħh għal ta' lanqas il-perjodu massimu ta' inkubazzjoni skond il-marda in kwistjoni wara li l-annimali mir-razzett infettat ikunu tnehhew skond ir-regola 5 u l-operazzjonijiet ta' tindif u disinfezzjoni jkunu saru skond ir-regola 16.

(3) Minkejja subregola (2), meta l-marda tkun trasmessa minn inset vektor, l-awtorità kompetenti tista' tiffissa d-dewmien tal-miżuri u tista' tfassal dispożizzjonijiet għall-introduzzjoni possibbli ta' annimali ta' sentinella. F'dawn il-każijiet, l-awtorità kompetenti għandha minnufih tinforma lill-Kummissjoni u lill-Istati Membri l-oħra bil-miżuri li jkunu hađu. Meta jiskadi l-perjodu msemmi f'din ir-regola, r-regoli li japplikaw għaz-zona ta' sorveljanza għandhom japplikaw ukoll għaz-zona ta' protezzjoni.

Miżuri li għandhom jittiehdu fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza.

12. (1) L-awtorità kompetenti għandha tiżgura li l-miżuri li ġejjin ikunu applikati fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza:

(a) l-irziezet kollha li għandhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli, għandhom ikunu identifikati;

(b) il-moviment ta' annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli fuq toroq pubbliċi għandu jkun projbit hlief għall-iskop li dawn jitwasslu għall-mergħa jew għall-bini ta' l-annimali:

Iżda l-awtorità kompetenti tista' taghti deroga minn dik il-projbizzjoni għat-transitu ta' l-annimali bit-triq minghajr ma jsir hatt jew waqfin;

(ċ) It-trasport ta' l-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli f'żona ta' sorveljanza għandu jkun soġġett għall-awtorizzazzjoni mill-awtorità kompetenti;

(d) Annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli għandhom:

(i) jinżammu fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza għall-perjodu massimu ta' inkubazzjoni wara l-iktar każ riċenti li jkun reġistrat tal-marda;

(ii) wara dan, l-annimali jistgħu jitnehhew minn dik iż-żona biex ikunu trasportati taht superviżjoni uffiċjali direttament fil-biċċerija indikata mill-awtorità kompetenti fejn isir il-qtil ta' emerġenza;

(iii) jiġu trasportati wara li jkunu awtorizzati mill-awtorità kompetenti u wara li jsir eżami biss ta' l-annimali kollha ta' l-ispeċi suxxettibbli li hemm fir-razzett u jiġi konfermat li ebda animal ma jkun suspettat li huwa infettat.

Il-Veterinarju uffiċjali li jkun responsabbli għall-biċċerija għandu jkun avżat bl-intenzjoni li se jintbagħtu annimali fiha.

(2) Il-miżuri applikati fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza għandhom jinżammu fis-sehh għal perjodu ugwali għal dak il-perjodu massimu ta' inkubazzjoni wara li annimali mill-azjenda jkunu tnehhew skond ir-regola 5 u l-operazzjonijiet ta' tindif u disinfezzjar ikunu saru skond regola 16.

(3) Minkejja subregola (2) ta' din ir-regola meta il-marda tkun trasmessa minn insett vektor, l-awtorità kompetenti tista' tiffissa t-tul tal-perjodu tal-miżuri u tfassal disposizzjonijiet dwar possibiltà li jiġu ntrodotti annimali ta' l-ghassa. F'każijiet bħal dawn l-awtorità kompetenti għandha minnufih tinforma lill-Kummissjoni u lill-Istati Membri l-oħra, bil-miżuri li jkunu ttiehdu.

13. Meta projbizzjonijiet li jinsabu fir-regoli 11(1)(d) u 12(1)(d) jinżammu fis-sehh għal aktar minn 30 ġurnata minhabba l-okkorrenza ta' każijiet ulterjuri ta' mard u bħala riżultat jinqalghu problemi biex jinżammu l-annimali, l-awtorità kompetenti tista', wara li s-sid jagħmel applikazzjoni fejn ifisser ir-raġunijiet għal dik l-applikazzjoni jawtorizza

Tnehhija ta' l-annimali minn żona ta' protezzjoni jew ta' sorveljanza.

t-tnehhija ta' l-annimali minn razzett li jinsab fiż-żona protetta jew miż-żona ta' sorveljanza.

Iżda:

- (a) il-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu jkun ivverifika l-fatti;
- (b) għandha tkun saret ispezzjoni ta' l-annimali kollha fir-razzett;
- (ċ) l-annimali li għandhom jiġu trasportati għandhom ikunu għaddew minn eżami kliniku b'riżultati negattivi;
- (d) kull animal għandu jkun ġie immarkat permezz ta' marka tal-widnejn jew għandu ikun ġie identifikat b'xi metodu approvat ieħor;
- (e) ir-razzett ta' destinazzjoni għandu jkun jew fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni jew f'sorveljanza.

(2) Għandhom jittiehdu il-prekawzjonijiet neċessarji kollha b'mod partikolari bit-tindif u d-disinfettar tat-trakkijiet wara t-trasport, biex ikun evitat ir-riskju tal-firxa ta' l-aġent tal-marda matul tali transport.

Miżuri mehtieġa li għandhom jittiehdu mill-awtorità kompetenti.

14. (1) L-awtorità kompetenti għandha tiehu l-miżuri kollha mehtieġa biex iżżomm ta' l-inqas il-persuni stabbiliti fiż-żoni ta' protezzjoni u ta' sorveljanza infurmati bir-restrizzjonijiet li hemm fis-seħh u għandha tagħmel l-arrangamenti kollha mehtieġa għall-implimentazzjoni xierqa ta' dawk il-miżuri.

(2) Meta, fi kwalunkwe reġjun, l-epizootiku in kwistjoni ikun eċċezzjonalment serju, il-miżuri addizzjonali kollha li għandhom jittiehdu fit-territorju ta' Malta għandhom ikunu xierqa skond il-proċedura rilevanti tal-Komunità Ewropea.

Disposizzjonijiet speċifiċi.

15. B'deroga mid-disposizzjonijiet ġenerali elenkati f'dawn ir-regoli, disposizzjonijiet speċifiċi relatati mal-miżuri ta' kontroll u ta' qirda għal kull marda rispettiva huma:

- (a) għal mard vesikulari tal-hnieżer, mnizzel fi Skeda II għal mard vesikulari tal-hnieżer; u
- (b) għal kull mard ohra mnizzla fi Skeda I, skond id-disposizzjonijiet adottati mill-Komunità Ewropea f'dawk l-oqsma.

16. (1) Il-proċedura li ġejja għandha tkun osservata:-

Operazzjonijiet ta' tindif, disinfezzjar u disinsettazzjoni.

(a) id-disinfettanti u l-insettiċidi li għandhom jintużaw u, fejn adatt, il-konċentrazzjoni tagħhom għandhom, ikunu approvati mill-awtorità kompetenti;

(b) l-operazzjonijiet ta' tindif, disinfezzjar u disinsettazzjoni għandhom isiru taħt sorveljanza uffiċjali -

(i) skond l-istruzzjonijiet li jkunu ngħataw mill-veterinarju uffiċjali, u

(ii) b'tali mod li jkun eliminat kull riskju ta' firxa jew sopravvivenza ta' l-aġent tal-marda;

(ċ) meta l-operazzjonijiet f' paragrafu (b) ikunu lesti, il-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu jiżgura li l-miżuri jkunu ttiehdu sew u li perjodu adattat ta' mhux anqas minn 21 ġurnata, ikun għadda biex ikun żgurat illi l-marda in kwistjoni tkun ġiet kompletament eliminata qabel ma annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli jkunu ġew introdotti mill-ġdid.

(2) Il-proċeduri għat-tindif u għad-disinfezzjar ta' razzett infettat huma:

(a) għall-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, kif qeghdin imnizzla fi Skeda II, u

(b) determinati fil-kuntest ta' preparazzjoni ta' miżuri speċifiċi għal kull marda mnizzla fi Skeda I, skond il-htigiet tal-Komunità Ewropea.

17. (1) Għal fini ta' implimentazzjoni ta' dawn ir-regoli fit-Territorju ta' Malta, għandu jkun speċifikat:

Laboratorji nazzjonali.

(a) laboratorju nazzjonali b'faċilitajiet u persunal esperti bil-kapaċità li juri f'kull hin, u speċjalment meta l-marda in kwistjoni tidher għall-ewwel darba, it-tip, is-subtip u l-varjant tal-virus rilevanti u jikkonferma r-rizultati miġjuba minn laboratorji ta' dijanjosi reġjonali;

(b) laboratorju nazzjonali fejn riagenti użati fil-laboratorji ta' dijanjożi reġjonali ikunu ittestjati.

(2) Il-laboratorji nazzjonali speċifikati għal kull waħda mill-mard imsemmi għandhom ikunu responsabbli għall-koordinazzjoni ta' standards u metodi ta' djanjosi, u għall-użu ta' riġenti.

(3) Il-laboratorji nazzjonali speċifikati għal kull waħda mill-mard imsemmi għandhom ikunu responsabbli għall-koordinazzjoni ta' standards u metodi ta' djanjożi mfasslin minn kull laboratorju għad-djanjosi tal-marda in kwistjoni fit-territorju ta' Malta. Għal dan il-ghan, huma:

(a) jistghu jipprovdu riġenti ta' djanjosi lill-laboratorji nazzjonali;

(b) għandhom jikkontrollaw il-kwalità tar-riġenti tad-djanjosi kollha użati f'Malta;

(c) għandhom jirrangaw perjodikament għal testijiet komparattivi;

(d) għandhom iżommu iżolati tal-virus tal-marda in kwistjoni mill-kazijiet konfermati fit-territorju ta' Malta;

(e) għandhom jiżguraw il-konferma ta' riżultati pożittivi miksuba mil-laboratorji ta' djanjosi reġjonali.

(4) B'deroga minn subregola (1) ta' din ir-regola, il-laboratorji nazzjonali kompetenti fir-rigward tal-marda inkwistjoni jisgħu joffru s-servizzi ta' laboratorji djanjostiċi.

(5) Il-lista ta' laboratorji nazzjonali għall-marda vesikulari tal-majjal hija mnizzla fi Skeda II.

(6) Il-laboratorji nazzjonali speċifikati għal kull waħda mill-mard imsemmija għandhom jikkoperaw mal-laboratorji rispettivi ta' riferenza tal-Komunità.

(7) Ir-regoli dettaljati għall-implementazzjoni ta' dan l-Artikolu għandhom jiġu adottati skond il-htigiet tal-Komunità Ewropea u taht il-proċedura mnizzla f'Artiklu 5(1) ta' l-Att dwar is-Servizzi Veterinarji.

Vaċċinazzjoni.

18. (1) Il-Vaċċinazzjoni kontra l-mard li jinsab fi Skeda I ma tistax issir hlief bhala supplement għall-miżuri ta' kontroll li jkunu ttiehdu meta l-marda in kwistjoni tkun faqqgħet, skond id-disposizzjonijiet li ġejjin:

(a) id-deċiżjoni li tindroduċi vaċċinazzjoni bħala suppliment għall-miżuri ta' kontroll għandha tittiehed mill-awtorità kompetenti, b'koperazzjoni mal-Kummissjoni, u bl-approvazzjoni tagħha;

(b) din id-deċiżjoni għandha tkun bāzata fuq il-kriterji li ġejjin, b'mod partikolari:

(i) il-konċentrazzjoni ta' annimali konċernati fiż-żona milquta;

(ii) il-karatteristiċi u komposizzjoni ta' kull vaċċin użat;

(iii) il-proċeduri għal superviżjoni ta' distribuzzjoni, hażna u użu tal-vaċċin;

(iv) l-ispeċi u l-età ta' l-annimali li jistghu jew għandhom ikunu vaċċinati;

(v) il-postijiet fejn tista' jew għandha ssir il-vaċċinazzjoni;

(vi) it-tul tal-kampanja ta' vaċċinazzjoni.

(2) Fil-każijiet imsemmija f'subregola (1) ta' din ir-regola:

(a) il-vaċċinazzjoni jew vaċċinazzjoni mill-ġdid ta' annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli fl-irziezet imsemmija f'regola 4 għandu jkun projbit;

(b) l-injezzjoni ta' *hyper-immune serum* għandu jkun projbit.

(3) Fil-każ li wiehed jirrikorri għall-vaċċinazzjoni, ir-regoli li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw:

(a) l-annimali kollha vaċċinati għandhom ikunu identifikati b'marka ċara u li tinqara skond il-metodu approvat mill-Kommunità;

(b) l-annimali kollha vaċċinati għandhom jinżammu fiż-żona ta' vaċċinazzjoni sakemm ma jintbagħtux għall-qtil immedjat f'biċċerija indikata mill-awtorità kompetenti, f'liema każ il-moviment ta' annimali jista' jkun awtorizzat biss wara li l-veterinarju uffiċjali jkun għamel eżami ta' l-annimali kollha

suxxettibbli fir-razzett u jikkonferma illi ebda annimal ma jkun suspettat li jkun infettat.

(4) Meta l-operazzjonijiet ta' vaċċinazzjoni ikunu kompluti, il-moviment ta' annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli miż-żona ta' vaċċinazzjoni jista' jkun permess skond il-proċeduri rilevanti tal-Kommunità .

(5) L-Awtorità kompetenti għandha tavża lill-Kummissjoni fuq bażi regolari bil-progress fir-rigward ta' miżuri ta' vaċċinazzjoni.

(6) B'deroga minn subregola (1), id-deċiżjoni biex tkun introdotta vaċċinazzjoni ta' emergenza tista' tittiehed mill-awtorità kompetenti, wara avviż lill-Kummissjoni, iżda mingħajr ma jintlaqtu l-interessi fundamentali tal-Komunità. Dik id-deċiżjoni, li għandha b'mod partikolari tqis il-grad ta' konċentrazzjoni ta' annimali f'ċertu reġjuni, il-bżonn li jkunu protetti razez individwali u ż-żona ġeografika fejn issir il-vaċċinazzjoni, għandha tkun eżaminata mill-ġdid minnufih, skond il-proċedura rilevanti tal-Kommunità u jista' jkun deċiż li l-miżuri jinżammu, jkunu modifikati jew estiżi jew li jitwaqqfu.

Pjan ta'
kontinġenza.

19. (1) L-awtorità kompetenti għandha tipprepara pjan ta' kontinġenza li jkun japplika għall-mard kollu mnizzel fi Skeda I, li jkun jispeċifika miżuri nazzjonali li għandhom ikunu implimentati fil-każ ta' tifqiegħa ta' xi wahda mill-mard. Dan il-pjan għandu jhalli aċċess għall-faċilitajiet, tagħmir, persunal u kull materjal adatt iehor li jkun mehtieġ għal qirda ta' malajr u effiċjenti tat-tifqiegħa.

(2) Il-kriterji ġenerali li għandhom ikunu applikati fil-preparazzjoni tal-pjan ta' kontinġenza jinsabu mnizzlin f'punti 1 sa 5 u 10 ta' l-Iskeda III, fejn punti 6 sa 9 jirrappreżentaw kriterji li għandhom ikunu adottati skond il-marda konċernata:

Iżda l-awtorità kompetenti tista' tillimita lilha nnifisha biex tapplika l-kriterji mnizzlin f'punti 6 sa 9 fejn il-kriterji f'punti 1 sa 5 u 10 jkunu diġa ġew adottati meta l-pjanijiet kienu ġew preżentati għall-applikazzjoni ta' miżuri ta' kontroll għal marda oħra.

(3) Il-pjanijiet kontingenti preparati skond il-kriterji mnizzlin fi Skeda III għandhom jiġu ppreżentati lill-Kummissjoni.

(4) Il-pjanijiet kontingenti għandhom:

(a) ikunu eżaminati mill-Kummissjoni sabiex tiġi stabbilità jekk dawn jippermettux li jinkiseb l-għan mixtieq u għandhom jissuġġerixxu lill-awtorità kompetenti kull emenda mehtieġa biex

ikun żgurat illi dawn ikunu kompatibbli ma' dawk ta' l-Istati Membri l-oħra.

(b) ikunu approvati mill-Kummissjoni u jekk ikun mehtieġ ikunu emendati, skond il-proċedura rilevanti tal-Komunità;

(c) Il-pjanijiet jistgħu ikunu sussegwentement emendati jew supplimentati, skond l-istess proċedura, biex isiru żviluppi fis-sitwazzjoni u fin-natura speċifika tal-marda in kwistjoni.

20. (1) B'deroga mill-kundizzjonijiet li hemm fl-Artikoli 19 u 20 fir-rigward ta' miżuri kontingenti li għandhom ikunu adottati mill-Istati Membri u biex jittiehdu in konsiderazzjoni problemi naturali u ġeografiċi partikolari għad-Dipartimenti Barranin ta' Franza, l-Azores u tal-Madeira u ta' kemm dawn jinsabu 'l bogħod mill-parti ċentrali tat-territorju tal-Komunità, l-Istat Membru konernat għandu jkun awtorizzat japplika miżuri ta' kontroll partikolari speċifiċi għal kull marda mnizzla fi Skeda I li tinsab ma dawn ir-regoli.

Miżuri ta' kontroll partikolari u speċifiċi għal kull marda mnizzla fi Skeda I.

(2) Fil-Kumitat Veterinarju Permanenti, Malta għandha tinforma lill-Kummissjoni Ewropea u lill-Istati membri l-oħra bil-miżuri li tkun hadet għar-rigward u b'mod partikolari għal-miżuri ta' kontroll implimentati biex jiġi żgurat illi annimali mit-territorji msemija jew prodotti minn dawk l-annimali ma jkunux mibghuta lejn territorji oħra tal-Komunità.

(3) Wara l-proċedura ta' informazzjoni msemija f'subregola 2 u r-regola 19 dawn għandhom japplikaw *mutatis mutandis*.

21. (1) Esperti mill-Kummissjoni jistgħu, b'kollaborazzjoni ma' l-awtoritajiet kompetenti, u sakemm ikun mehtieġ biex tkun żgurata applikazzjoni uniformi ta' dawn ir-regoli, jagħmlu kontrolli fuq il-post. Sabiex isir dan jistgħu jivverifikaw persentaġġ rappreżentattiv ta' rżiezet biex jaraw jekk l-awtorità kompetenti tkunx qegħda tivverifika dawn l-azjendi jekk ikunux iwettqu l-htigiet ta' dawn ir-regoli. Il-Kummissjoni Ewropea għandha tinforma lill-awtorità kompetenti bir-riżultati tal-kontrolli li jkunu saru.

Miżuri neċessarji biex tkun żgurata applikazzjoni uniformi ta' dawn ir-regoli.

(2) Kull meta jkun qiegħed isir kontroll f'Malta, l-awtorità kompetenti għandha tagħti l-assistenza mehtieġa kollha lill-esperti li jkunu qegħdin jaqdu dmiriethom.

(3) Ir-regoli dettaljati għall-implimentazzjoni ta' din ir-regola għandhom jiġu stabbiliti skond il-proċedura taht ir-regola 22.

Disposizzjonijiet li
ghandhom
japplikaw fejn issir
riferenza ghal din ir-
regola.

22. (1) Kull meta issir riferenza ghal din ir-regola, l-Artikoli 5 u 7 tad-Deċiżjoni ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 1999/468/KE ghandhom japplikaw.

(2) Il-perjodu li hemm imsemmi fl-Artikolu 5(6) tad-Deċiżjoni ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea 1999/468/KE ghandu jkun ta' tliet xhur.

Skeda I

**LISTA TA' MARDIET LI GHANDHOM JIGU NOTIFIKATI B'MOD
OBBLIGATORJU**

Mard	Perjodu massimu ta' inkubazzjoni
<i>Rinderpest</i>	21 ġurnata
<i>Peste des petit ruminantes</i>	21 ġurnata
Marda vesikulari tal-majjal	28 ġurnata
<i>Bluetongue</i>	40 ġurnata
Marda emmorragika epizootika tač-červ	40 ġurnata
Ġidri tan-nagħaġ u l-mogħoż <i>Caprinex</i>	21 ġurnata
Stomatite vesikulari	21 ġurnata
Deni tal-majjal Afrikan	40 ġurnata
Marda tal-bočči fil-ġilda	28 ġurnata
Deni Rift Valley	30 ġurnata

SKEDA II

MIŻURI SPECIFIČI GĦALL-KONTROLL TA' ĊERTU MARD

B'żjeda mad-disposizzjonijiet generali mnizzlin f'dawn ir-regoli, id-disposizzjonijiet speċifiċi li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw għall-marda vesikulari tal-majjal.

1. Deskrizzjoni tal-marda

Marda tal-majjal li klinikament ma tingħarafx mill-marda ta' l-ilsien u d-dwiefer, u li tikkawża vessikoli fuq il-geddum, xoffa, lsien u faxex koronarji tad-*digits*. Il-marda tvarja konsiderevolment fis-severità u tista' tinfetta merħla ta' ħnieżer mingħajr ma tkun manifestata b'leżjonijiet kliniċi. Il-*virus* huwa kapaċi jibqa' ħaj għall-perjodi twal barra mill-ġisem anki f'laħam frisk, huwa estremament reżistenti għal disinfezzjanti normali u innotat għall-persistenza tiegħu u għall-istabilità' għola minn medda ta' pH minn 2,5 sa 12. B'mod partikolari it-tindif u d-disinfettar bir-reqqa huma għalhekk meħtieġa.

2. Perjodu ta' inkubazzjoni

Għall-fini ta' dawn ir-regoli, il-perjodu ta' inkubazzjoni massimu għandu jitqies li huwa ta' 28 ġurnata.

3. Proċeduri ta' djanjosi għall-konferma u djanjosi differenti tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal

Il-metodi dettaljati għall-kollezzjoni ta' materjali għad-djanjosi, it-testijiet djanjostiċi tal-laboratorju, l-osservar ta' antikorpi u evalwazzjoni tar-riżultati tat-testijiet tal-laboratorju għandu jkun deċiż skond il-proċedura rilevanti tal-Komunità`.

4. Konferma tal-presenza tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal

B'deroga minn regola 2 (6), il-preżenza tal-marda għandha tkun konfermata:

(a) fl-irziezet fejn il-virus tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal tkun iżolata kemm mill-majjal kemm mill-ambjent;

(b) fl-irziezet li jżommu l-majjala li huma seropositivi għall-marda vesikulari tal-majjal sakemm daww il-majjali jew oħrajn fl-irziezet juru karatteristiċi ta' lesjonijiet tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal;

(c) fl-irziezet li jżommu l-majjala li juru sinjali kliniċi tal-marda jew li huma seropositivi, sakemm ikun hemm konnessjoni epidemjoloġika diretta ma tifqiegħa konfermata;

(d) fuq merħliet oħra fejn jinkixfu majjala seropositivi. Fl-aħħar każ, l-awtorita' kompetenti għandha, qabel tikkonferma l-preżenza tal-marda, tagħmel iktar investigazzjonijiet, b'mod partikolari tiegħu kampjuni mill-ġdid b'intervall ta' mill-anqas 28 ġurnata bejn il-kollezzjoni tal-kampjuni. Id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' Artikolu 4 għandhom jibqgħu fis-sehħ sakemm daww l-investigazzjonijiet oħra jkunu kompluti. Jekk investigazzjonijiet sussegwenti ma jurux xhieda tal-marda, għalkemm il-majjala għadhom seropozittivi, l-awtorita' kompetenti għandha tiżgura li l-majjala ttestjati huma maqtula u meqruda taħt id-dispożizzjonijiet tagħha jew maqtula taħt is-superviżjoni tagħha f'biċċerija li għazlet hi fit-territorju nazzjonali tagħha.

5. Laboratorji Djanjostiċi

Awstrija: Institut für Fischkunde, Veterinärmedizinische Universität, Wien.

Belġjum: Institut national de recherches vétérinaires, Groeselenberg 99, B-1180 Bruxelles

Danimarka: Statens Veterinære Institut for Virusforskning, Lindholm

Finlandja: Eläinlääkintö- ja elintarvikelaitos, Helsinki – Anstalten för veterinärmedicin och livsmedel, Helsingfors.

Ġermanja: Bundesforschungsanstalt für Viruskrankeheiten der Tiere, Paul-Ehrlich-Straße, 7400 Tübingen.

Franza: Laboratoire central de recherche vétérinaire Maisons-Alfort.

Greċja: Ινστιτούτο Λοιμωδών και Παρασιτικών Νοσημάτων, Νεαπόλεως 21, Αγία Παρασκευή.

Irlanda: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

Italja: Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale della Lombardia e dell' Emilia Romagna,

Lussemburgu: Institut national de recherches vétérinaires, Groeselenberg 99, B-1180 Brussels.

Olanda: Centraal Diergeneeskundig Instituut, Leystad.

Portugall: Laboratório Nacional de Investigação Veterinária, Lisboa.

Spanja: Laboratorio de Alta Seguridad Biológica (INIA) 28130 Madrid.

Svezja: Statens veterinärmedicinska anstalt, Uppsala.

Ingilterra: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

Repubblika Ċeka: Státní veterinární ústav Praha, Šidlistní 24/136, 165 03 Praha 6.

Estonja: Veterinaar – ja Toidulaboratoorium, Kreutzwaldi 30, 51006 Tartu.

Ċipru: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell' Emilia Romagna, Via Bianchi 9, IT – 25124 Brescia.

Latvija: Valsts veterinārmedicīnas diagnostikas centrs, Leļupes iela 3, LV – 1076 Riga.

Litwanja: Nacionalinė veterinarijos laboratorija, J. Kairiūkšio g.10, LT – 2021 Vilnius.

Ungerija: Országos Állategészségügyi Intézet (OAI), Pf. 2, Tabornok u. 2., HU – 1581 Budapest.

Malta: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

Polonja: Laboratorium Zakładu Przechowywania Państwowego Instytutu Weterynaryjnego, ul. Wodna 7, PL – 98 – 220 Zdunska Wola.

Slovenja: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

Slovakkja: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

6. Laboratorju ta' referenza tal-Komunita'

AFRC Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright,

Woking,
Surrey GU24 ONF, United Kingdom.

7. Żona ta' protezzjoni

1. Il-qies taż-żona ta' protezzjoni għandu jkun kif imfisser f'regola 10.
2. B'deroga fil-każ tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, il-miżuri f'regola 11 għandhom ikunu mibdula b'dan li ġej:
 - (a) l-irziezet kollha li qegħdin fiż-żona li għandhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli għandhom ikunu identifikati;
 - (b) għandhom isiru visti perjodiċi lill-irziezet li għandhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli, eżami kliniku ta' dawg l-annimali inkluż, jekk ikun meħtieġ, il-kollezzjoni ta' kampjuni għall-eżami fil-laboratorju; għandu jinżamm reġistru tal-visti u tas-sejbiet bil-frekwenza tal-viżti tkun proporzjonali mas-serjeta' ta' l-epizootiku f'dawn l-irziezet li jkunu qegħdin l-aktar f'riskju;
 - (c) il-moviment u trasport ta' l-annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli f'toroq pubbliċi jew privati, bl-esklużjoni ta' toroq għas-servizz għall-irziezet, għandu jkun projbit; madankollu, l-awtorita' kompetenti tista' tagħmel deroga minn dik il-projbizzjoni għat-transitu ta' annimali bit-triq jew bil-ferrovija mingħajr hatt jew waqfien.
 - (d) madankollu, skond htigiet tal-Komunita` tista' tingħata eżenzjoni għall-qtil tal-majjala li jkunu ġejjin minn barra ż-żona ta' protezzjoni u fi triqithom għall-biċċerija f'dik iż-żona.
 - (e) trakkijiet u vetturi oħra u tagħmir li huma użati fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni biex iġorru majjala jew hażna ta' annimali ħajjin jew materjal ieħor li jista' jkun kontaminat (e.ż. għalf, demel, *slurry*, eċċ.) ma jistgħux jitilqu:

- i. minn azjenda li tinsab fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni;
- ii. miż-żona ta' protezzjoni;
- iii. minn biċċerija,

mingħajr ma jkunu tnaddfu jew ġew disinfettati skond il-proċeduri mnizzla mill-awtorita' kompetenti. Dawn il-proċeduri għandhom jipprovdu partikolarment li ebda trakk jew vettura li tkun ġiet użata għat-trasport ta' majjala ma tista' titlaq miż-żona mingħajr ma tkun ispezzjonata mill-awtorita' kompetenti;

- (f) majjala ma jistgħux jitnehhew minn razzett fejn ikunu ilhom 21 ġurnata wara li jkun tlesta t-tindif u d-disinfettar ta' qabel kif imnizzel f'Artikolu 16; wara 21 ġurnata tista' tingħata l-awtorizzazzjoni biex jitnehhew il-majjala minn dak ir-razzett.

- (i) direttament għall-biċċerija msemmija mill-awtorita' kompetenti, preferibbilment li tkun fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni jew sorveljanza sakemm:

- tkun saret spezzjoni tal-ħnieżer kollha fir-razzett,
- ikun sar eżami kliniku tal-ħnieżer li għandhom jitnehhew għall-qatla,
- kull ħanżir ikun market permezz ta' marka tal-widnejn jew ikun ġie identifikat b'xi metodu ieħor approvat,

L-awtorita' kompetenti responsabbli għall-biċċerija għandha tkun infurmata bl-intenzjoni li jintbagħtu ħnieżer għall-biċċerija.

Mal-wasla fil-biċċerija, il-majjala għandhom jinżammu u jinqatlu separatament minn majjala oħra. Il-vettura u t-tagħmir li kienu involuti fil-ġarr tal-majjala għandhom jitnaddfu u jkunu disinfettati qabel ma jtilqu mill-biċċerija.

Matul l-ispezzjoni ta' qabel u wara l-mewt magħmula fil-biċċerija

magħżula, l-awtorita' kompetenti għandha tqis kull sinjal relatat mal-preżenza tal-virus tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal.

Fil-każ ta' majjala maqtulin taħt dawk id-disposizzjonijiet, għandu jingabar kampjun rappreżentattiv ta' statistika tad-demmi. Fil-każ ta' riżultat pożittiv li jwassal għall-konferma tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal għandhom ikunu japplikaw il-miżuri f'9(3).

ii. taħt ċirkostanzi eċċezzjonali, direttament għall-postijiet ohra li qegħdin fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni sakemm,

- kienet saret ispezzjoni ta' l-animali kollha fir-razzett,
- kien sar eżami kliniku tal-majjala li għandhom jiċċaqalqu, b'riżultati negattivi,
- kull majjal kien immarkat permezz ta' marka tal-widnejn jew kien identifikat b'metodu ieħor approvat;

g. laħam tal-ħniezer li jissemmew fil-punt (f)(i):

(i) m'għandux jidhol fil-kummerċ intra-Komunitarju jew internazzjonali u għandu jkollu l-marka sanitarja għal-laħam frisk kif stipulat fl-Anness II għad-Direttiva tal-Kunsill 2002/99/KE;

(ii) għandu jinkiseb, jitqatta', jiġi ttrasportat u maħzun separatament mil-laħam maħsub għall-kummerċ intra-Komunitarju u internazzjonali u għandu jintuża b'tali mod li jiġi evidat milli jiddaħhal fi prodotti tal-laħam maħsuba għall-kummerċ intra-Komunitarju jew internazzjonali, sakemm ma jkunx għadda minn trattament kif stabbilit fl-Anness III tad-Direttiva 2002/99/KE;

h. (i) b'deroga mill-punt (g) għal-laħam tal-ħniezer imsemmija fil-punt (f)(i) l-Istati Membri jistgħu jiddeċiedu li jużaw marka ta'

identifikazzjoni oħra minflok il-marka ta' identifikazzjoni speċjali stabbilita fl-Anness II tad-Direttiva 2002/99/KE, sakemm din tkun tista' tintgħaraf minn marki oħra ta' identifikazzjoni li għandhom jiġu applikati għal-laħam tal-ħnieżer skond ir-Regolament (KE) Nru 853/2004 tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill jew ir-Regolament tal-Kummissjoni (KE) Nru No 2076/2005;

L-Istati Membri li jiddeċiedu li jużaw il-marka ta' identifikazzjoni alternattiva għandhom jinfurmaw lill-Kummissjoni b'dan, fil-qafas tal-Kumitat Permanenti tal-Katina Alimentari u s-Saħħa ta' l-Annimali.

- (ii) għall-fini ta' (i), il-marka ta' identifikazzjoni għandha tkun legibbli u indelibbli, b'karattri li jinqraw faċilment u li jidhru ċari. Il-marka ta' identifikazzjoni għandu jkollha l-għamla li ġejja u jkollha l-indikazzjonijiet li ġejjin:

XY

1234

XY tfisser il-kodiċi tal-pajjiż rilevanti stipulat fil-punt 6 tal-Parti B tat-Taqsima I ta' l-Anness II tar-Regolament (KE) Nru 853/ 2004.

1234 ifisser in-numru ta' approvazzjoni ta' l-istabbiliment imsemmi fil-punt 7 tal-Parti B tat-Taqsima I ta' l-Anness II tar-Regolament (KE) Nru 853/2004

3. Il-miżuri fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni għandhom ikomplu japplikaw ta' l-anqas sakemm:

(a) il-miżuri kollha li jinsabu f'regola 16 ikunu saru;

(b) l-irziezet kollha fiż-żona ikunu għamlu:

- i. eżami kliniku tal-majjala li jiżvela li m'għandhomx sinjali ta' mard li jissuggerixxi preżenza tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal; u
- ii. eżami sereoloġiku ta' kampjun statistiku tal-majjala mingħajr ma jinsabu antikorpi tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal. Il-programm għall-screening seroloġiku għandu jqis it-trasmissjoni tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal u l-mod ta' kif il-majjala jkunu miżmuma. Il-programm għandu jkun stabbilit mill-Komunità`.

L-eżami u t-teħid ta' kampjun imsemmi f'(i) u (ii) ma għandhomx isiru qabel ma jgħaddu 28 gurnata wara miżuri ta' tindif u disinfezzjar preliminari fir-razzett infettat.

4. Meta jiskadi il-perjodu msemmi f'punt msemmi f'punt 3, ir-regoli applikati għaž-żona ta' sorveljanza għandhom ikunu japplikaw ukoll għaž-żona ta' protezzjoni.

5. Fejn il-projbizzjonijiet stipulati fil-punt 2(f) jinżammu għal aktar minn 30 jum minhabba fl-okkorrenza ta' aktar każijiet tal-marda u minhabba dan jinqalgħu il-problemi rigward iż-żamma ta' l-annimali, l-awtorità kompetenti, wara applikazzjoni mill-proprjetarju li tispjega r-raġunijiet għal applikazzjoni bħal din u sakemm il-veterinarju uffiċjali jkun ivverifika l-fatti, tista' tawtorizza t-tneħħija ta' l-annimali minn azjenda fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni. Il-punti 2(f) u (h) għandhom japplikaw *mutatis mutandis*.

8. Żona ta' Sorveljanza

1. Il-qies taż-żona ta' sorveljanza għandu jkun kif imniżżel f'regola 10.
2. Fil-każ tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, il-miżuri mnizzlin f'regola 12 għandhom ikunu mibdula skond dan li ġej;

- (a) l-azjendi kollha li għandhom annimali ta' speċi suxxettibbli għandhom ikunu identifikati;
- (b) għandu jkun permess kull movement ta' majjala li mhuwiex dirett għall-biċċerija minn razzett fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza, sakemm il-majjala ma jkunux waslu f'dak ir-razzett f'21 gurnata qabel; is-sid jew il-persuna responsabbli għall-annimali għandu jzomm registru tal-movimenti kollha tal-majjala;
- (c) Il-moviment ta' majjala miż-żona ta' sorveljanza jista' jkun awtorizzat mill-awtorita` kompetenti, sakemm:
 - (i) tkun saret ispezzjoni tal-majjala kollha fuq l-azjenda fit-48 siegħa qabel il-moviment,
 - (ii) jkun sar eżami kliniku tal-majjala li għandhom jiċċaqilqu fit-48 siegħa qabel il- movement,
 - (iii) jkun sar eżami serologiku ta' kampjun statistiku tal-majjala li għandhom jiċċaqilqu mingħajr ma jiġu skoperti mingħajr antikorpi għall-marda vesikulari tal-majjal fl-erbatax -il gurnata qabel dak il-moviment. Madankollu, fil-każ ta' majjala għall-qtil, l-eżami serologiku jista' jsir abbażi ta' kampjuni tad-demmi meħudin fil-biċċerija ta' destinazzjoni kif speċifikata mill-awtorita' kompetenti fit-territorju tagħha. Fl-eventwalita' ta' riżultati pożittivi li jikkonfermaw il-preżenza tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, il-miżuri mnizzlin f'punt 9 (3) għandhom ikunu japplikaw ,
- (iv) kull ħanżir ikun immarkat b'marka tal-widnejn individwali jew b'kull metodu ta' identifikazzjoni approvat ieħor,
- (v) trakkijiet u vetturi oħra u tagħmir użat għat-trasport tal-majjala għandhom ikunu mnaddfin u disinfettati wara kull operazzjoni tat-trasport;

(d) trakkijiet u vetturi oħra u apparat użat għat-trasport ta' majjala jew għall-ħażna ta' annimali ħajjin jew materjal li jista' jkun kontaminat u li huma użati fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza m'għandhomx jitilqu minn dik iż-żona mingħajr ma jkunu tnaddfu u ġew disinfettati skond il-proċeduri mnizzlin mill-awtorita' kompetenti.

3. (a) il-qies ta' zona ta' sorveljanza jista' jkun emendat skond id-disposizzjoni mnizzlin f'regola 10 (3).

(b) il-miżuri fiż-żona ta' sorveljanza għandhom ikunu japplikaw għal ta' lanqas sakemm:

(i) ikunu saru l-miżuri kollha mnizzlin f'regola 16;

(ii) ikunu saru l-miżuri meħtieġa fiż-żona ta' protezzjoni.

9. **Miżuri ġenerali komuni**

Il-miżuri addizzjonali fil-każ tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal għandhom ikunu applikati kif ġej:

1. fil-każijiet fejn il-preżenza tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal tkun ufficjalment konfermata, l-Istati Membri għandhom jiżguraw illi, b'żieda mal-miżuri mnizzla f'regoli 4(2) u 5 ta', laħam tal-majjal maqtul matul il-perjodu bejn l-introduzzjoni probabbli tal-marda fir-razzett u l-implimentazzjoni tal-miżuri ufficċjali hu, fejn ikun possibbli, traċċat u meqrud taħt superviżjoni ufficċjali b'tali mod li jkun evitat ir-riskju tal-firxa tal-virus tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal;

2. meta l-veterinarju ufficċjali għandu raġuni biex jissuspetta illi l-majjala f'xi razzett setgħu ġew kontaminati bħala riżultat tal-moviment ta' xi persuna, animal jew vettura jew b'kull mod ieħor, il-majjala fir-razzett għandhom jibqgħu taħt ir-restrizzjonijiet tal-moviment mnizzlin f'regola 9 ta' dawn ir-regoli ta' lanqas sakemm ir-razzett ikun sarlu:

- (a) eżami kliniku tal-majjal, b'riżultat negattivi;
- (b) eżami seroloġiku ta' kampjun statistiku tal-majjala mingħajr sejbien ta' antikorpi tal-marda skond 7(3)(b)(ii).

L-eżami msemmi f'(a) u (b) m'għandux isir qabel ma jgħaddu 28 ġurnata mill-kontaminazzjoni possibbli tal-postijiet bħala riżultat tal-moviment ta' persuni, annimali jew vetturi jew b'kull mod ieħor.

3. Jekk il-preżenza tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal tkun konfermata f'biċċerija, l-awtorita' kompetenti għandha tiżgura li:

- (a) il-majjala kollha fil-biċċerija jiġu maqtulin mingħajr dewmien;
- (b) il-karkassi u l-iskart ta' majjala infettati u kontaminati jiġu taħt superviżjoni uffiċjali b'tali mod li jkun evitat ir-riskju tal-firxa tal-virus tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal;
- (c) isir tindif u d-disinfettar ta' bini u tagħmir, inklużi vetturi taħt is-superviżjoni tal-veterinarju uffiċjali, skond l-istruzzjonijiet mnizzlin mill-awtorita' kompetenti;
- (d) issir inkjesta epidemjoloġika skond ir-regola 8 ta' dawn ir-regoli;
- (e) l-ebda majjal ma jkun introdott mill-ġdid għall-qtil ta' l-anqas 24 siegħa minn mindu l-operazzjonijiet tat-tindif u disinfettar ikunu tlestew skond il-proċedura f'(c).

10. Tindif u disinfettar ta' azjendi nfettati

B'żjieda mal-miżuri mnizzla fir-regola 16 ta' dawn ir-regoli, il-miżuri li ġejjin għandhom ikunu japplikaw ukoll:

1. Proċedura ta' tindif u disinfettar ta' qabel-

- (a) malli l-karkassi tal-majjala ikunu tnehhew biex jinquerdu, daww il-partijiet tal-fondi fejn il-ħnieżer ikunu qagħdu u f'kull parti tal-fond li kienu ġew kontaminati matul il-qtil għandhom iroxxu d-dizinfettant, kif approvat skond regola 16, f'konċentrazzjoni adatta fil-marda vesikulari tal-ħnieżer. Id-dizinfettant użat għandu jibqa' fil-wieċ għal minn ta' l-inqas 24 siegħa.
- (b) xi tessuti jew demm li jista' jkun ħareġ waqt il-qtil għandu jingabar sew u jintrema mal-karkassi (il-qtil għandu dejjem isir fuq wieċ li minnu ma jgħaddix ilma)

2. Proċedura għal aktar tindif u dizinfettar-

- a. Id-demel, friex, ikel kontaminat kollu għandu jitneħħa mill-bini, stokkja u mroxx b'dizinfettant approvat. *Slurry* għandu jkun itrattat b'metodu tajjeb għall-qtil tal-virus.
- b. L-apparat portabbli kollu għandu jitneħħa mill-fondi u jiġi maħsul u disinfezzat separatament.
- c. Xaħam u ħmieġ iehor għandu jitneħħa mill-uċuħ kollha billi jkun f'agent li jneħħi x-xaħam u wara jiġi maħsul bl-ilma taħt pressa.
- d. Applikazzjoni oħra ta' disinfezzant għandha ssir wara billi dan ikun imroxx fuq l-uċuħ kollha.
- e. Il-kmamar li jissigillaw għandhom jiġu ifumigati.
- f. Tiswijiet fl-art hitan bil-ħsarat eċċ., għandhom ikunu miftiehma wara spezzjoni mill-veterinarju uffiċjali, u dawn għandhom isiru immedjatement.
- g. Tiswija kompluta għandha tkun spezzjonata sabiex jiġi zgurat li dawn saru b'mod sodisfaċenti.

h. Il-partijiet kollha tal-fondi illi huma kompletament liberi minn materjal kombustibbli jistgħu jiġu trattati bl-użu ta' *flame gun*.

i. L-uċuħ kollha għandhom ikunu mroxxa b'disinfettant ta' l-alkali li għandu pH ikbar minn 12, 5 jew b'kull disinfettant approvat ieħor. Id-disinfettant għandu jitnehħa wara 48 siegħa.

3. Proċedura għat-tindif finali u disinfettar-

It-trattament bi *flame gun* jew disinfettant ta' l-alkali (punti 2 (h) jew (i)) għandu jkun ripetut wara 14 il-gurnata.

9. Tagħmir mill-ġdid ta' rziezet infettati

B'żjieda mal-miżuri mnizzlin f'regola 5(4) ta' dawn ir-regoli, għandhom japplikaw dawn il-miżuri li ġejjin:

1. It-tagħmir mill-ġdid m'għandux jibda qabel erba' ġimgħat wara li jintemm l-ewwel disinfettar shih tal-fondi, i.e, punt 3 tal-proċeduri ta' tindif u disinfettar.
2. L-introduzzjoni mill-ġdid ta' majjala għandha tikkonsidra t-tip ta' biedja prattikata fir-razzett u għandha tkun konformi ma' xi waħda mill-proċeduri li ġejjin:
 - (a) fil-każ ta' rziezet li jzommu l-majjala barra, it-tagħmir mill-ġdid għandu jibda bl-introduzzjoni ta' għadd limitat ta' qżieqez sentinelli li jkunu ġew iċċekkjati u misjubin negattivi għall-preżenza ta' antikorpi kontra l-virus tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal. Il-ħnieżer sentinelli għandhom jitqegħdu, skond ma tkun trid l-awtorita' kompetenti, fil-medda tar-razzett infettat u jkunu klinikament eżaminati wara 28 gurnata li jkunu tqegħdu fir-razzett u jittieħdu minnhom kampjuni għat-testijiet seroloġiċi.

Jekk l-ebda qazquż ma juri l-evidenza klinika tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal u lanqas ma jiżviluppa antikorpi kontra l-*virus* tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, it-tagħmir shiħ jista' jerga' jseħħ mill-ġdid;

- (b) għall-forom l-oħra kollha tat-trobbija, l-introduzzjoni mill-ġdid ta' majjala għandha ssir jew skond il-miżuri mnizzla f'paragrafu (a) jew b'tagħmir shiħ mill-ġdid sakemm;

(i) il-majjala kollha jaslu f'perjodu ta' tmint ijiem u jiġu minn irziezet li jkunu qegħdin barra miż-zoni ristretti b'riżultat tal-marda vesikulari tal-majjal, u jkun seronegattivi.

(ii) L-ebda majjal ma jista' jitneħħa mir-razzett għall-perjodu ta' 60 ġurnata mill-wasla ta' l-aħħar majjala;

(iii) Il-merħla populata mill-ġdid tkun soġġetta għall-eżami kliniku u serjologiku skond ir-rekwiziti ta' l-awtorita' kompetenti. Dak l-eżami jista' jsir l-aktar kmieni 28 ġurnata wara l-wasla ta' l-aħħar majjala.

SKEDA III

LABORATORJU TA' REFERENZA TAL-KOMUNITÀ EWROPEA GĦALL-MARD KONĊERNAT

Il-funzjonijiet u d-dmirijiet tal-laboratorji ta' riferenza tal-Komunità Ewropea għall-mard konċernat għandhom ikunu:

1. li jikkoordinaw, b'konsultazzjoni mal-Kummissjoni Ewropea, il-metodu impjegat fl-Istati Membri għad-djanjosi tal-marda konċernata, speċifikament billi:

- (a) jikkategorizzaw, jaħznu u jissupplixxu *strains* tal-*virus* tal-marda relevanti

għal testijiet seroloġiċi u għal preparazzjoni ta' *antisera*;

- (b) jissupplixxu standard sera u riagenti ta' riferenza oħra għall-laboratorji ta' riferenza nazzjonali sabiex jistandardizzaw it-testijiet u r-riagenti użati fl-Istati Membri;
 - (c) jibnu u jzommu kollezzjoni ta' *virus strains* u *isolates* tal-marda rilevanti;
 - (d) jorganizzaw testijiet komparattivi perjodiċi tad-djanjosi fuq livell komunitarju;
 - (e) jigbru u jgħaqqdu data u informazzjoni fuq il-metodi ta' djanjosi użati u r-risultati ta' testijiet magħmulin fil-Komunità;
 - (f) jikkaratterizzaw *isolate* tal-virus tal-marda rilevanti bl-aktar metodu aġġornat biex tkun tista tiftiehem aħjar l-epizootologija tal-marda;
 - (g) iżommu lilhom infushom aġġornati fuq l-iżviluppi fis-sorveljanza, epizootologija u prevenzjoni tal-marda rilevanti madwar id-dinja;
 - (h) ikollhom għarfien espert fuq il-virus rilevanti tal-marda u viruses oħra pertinenti biex jippermettu li ssir djanjosi ta' malajr differenzjali;
 - (i) jakkwistaw tagħrif komplut fuq il-preparazzjoni u l-użu tal-prodotti veterinarji immunoloġiċi użati għall-qirda u l-kontroll tal-marda rilevanti.
2. biex jassistu fid-djanjosi ta' tifqiegh tal-mard rilevanti fl-Istati Membri billi jirċievu *isolates* tal-virus bħal studji għal djanjosi konfermatorji, karatterizzazzjoni u studji epizootoloġiċi;
3. biex jiffacilitaw t-taħriġ mill-ġdid ta' l-esperti fid-djanjosi tal-laboratorji bil-għan li jarmonizza it-tekniki ta' djanjosi fil-Komunità.

SKEDA IV
KRITERJI MINIMI GHAL PJANIJET TA' KONTINGENZA

Pjanijiet ta' kontingenza għandhom jilhqqu ta' lanqas il-kriterji li ġejjin:

1. It-twaqqif ta' ċentru ta' krizi fuq livell nazzjonali, li għandu jikkordina l-miżuri kollha f' Malta;
2. għandha tingħata lista taċ-ċentri lokali għall-kontroll ta' mard b'faċilitajiet adegwati biex jikkordinaw il-miżuri ta' kontroll ta' mard f'livell lokali;
3. għandha tingħata informazzjoni dettaljata fuq il-persuni involuta fil-miżuri ta' kontroll, il-kapaċitajiet tagħhom u r-responsabilitajiet tagħhom;
4. kull ċentru lokali għall-kontroll ta' mard għandu jkun jista' jikkuntattja malajr persuni jew orgazzazzjonijiet li huma involuti direttament jew indirettament f'tifqiegħa;
5. apparat u materjal għandhom ikunu disponibbli biex jittwettqu sew miżuri ta' kontroll tal-marda ;
6. għandhom ikunu provduti istruzzjonijiet dettaljati fuq l-azzjoni li għandha tittiehed fuq sospett u konferma ta' infezzjoni jew kontaminazzjoni, inklużi mezzi għar-rimi ta' karkassi;
7. għandhom ikunu stabbiliti programmi ta' taħriġ biex iżommu u jiżviluppaw il-kapaċitajiet fi proċeduri tekniċi u amministrattivi;
8. il-laboratorji tad-djanjosi għandu jkollhom il-faċilitajiet għall-eżamijiet ta' wara l-mewt, il-kapaċità neċessarja għas-seroloġija, istoloġija, eċċ., u għandhom iżommu l-kapaċitajiet għad-djanjosi ta' malajr. Għandhom isiru arrangamenti għat-trasport ta'

B 3842

malajr ta' kampjuni;

9. għandhom jingħataw dettalji tal-kwantità ta' vaċċin kontra l-marda in kwistjoni li huma stmati li huma meħtieġa fl-eventwalità li jkollha ssir vaċċinazzjoni ta' emergenza;

10. għandhom isiru disposizzjonijiet biex ikunu zgurati l-poteri legali neċessarji għall-implimentazzjoni tal-pjanijiet ta' kontingenza.

L.N. 287 of 2008

**VETERINARY SERVICES ACT
(CAP. 437)**

**CONTROL OF CERTAIN ANIMAL DISEASES
(AND SPECIFICALLY THE SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE)
RULES, 2008**

IN the exercise of the powers conferred by article 5(1) of the Veterinary Services Act, the Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs has made the following rules:-

1. (1) The title of these rules is Control of Certain Animal Diseases (and Specifically the Swine Vesicular Disease) Rules, 2008. Title, scope and applicability.

(2) The scope of these rules is to implement the rules found under European Union Council Directive 92/119/EEC introducing general Community measures for the control of certain animal diseases and specific measures relating to swine vesicular disease and to include the amendments made by Commission Directive 2007/10/EC as regards the measures to be taken within a protection zone following an outbreak of swine vesicular disease, repealing and replacing the Control of Certain Animal Diseases (and specifically the Swine Vesicular Disease) Rules, L.N. 366 of 2005. 2005.

(3) These rules define the general control measures to be applied in the event of an outbreak of one of the diseases listed in Schedule I.

2. For the purpose of these rules –

Definitions.

“animal” means any domestic animal of a species liable to be directly affected by the disease in question, or any wild vertebrate animal likely to participate in the epidemiology of the disease, by acting as a carrier or reservoir of infection;

“confirmation of infection” means the declaration by the competent authority of the presence of any of the diseases listed in Schedule I based on laboratory results and in the event of an epidemic, the competent authority may also confirm the presence of the disease on the basis of clinical or epidemiological results;

“holding” means any establishment (agricultural or other), situated in the territory of Malta, in which animals are kept or bred;

“incubation period” means the period of time likely to elapse between exposure to the agent of the disease and the onset of clinical symptoms. The duration of this period shall be that indicated in Schedule I for the disease in question;

“Member State” means a State which is a Member within the European Community;

“official veterinarian” means the veterinarian appointed by the competent authority;

“owner or keeper” means any person or persons, either natural or legal, having ownership of the animals, or charged with keeping the said animals, whether or not for financial reward;

“the competent authority” means the Veterinary Services within the territory of Malta as provided under article 2 of the Veterinary Services Act;

“the Commission” means the European Commission within the Community;

“the Community” means the European Community as established under the Treaty establishing the European Community;

“vector” any wild vertebrate or invertebrate animal which, by mechanical or biological means, is liable to transmit and spread the agent of the disease in question.

Notification to the competent authority in case of suspected presence of disease.

3. It is compulsory for the suspected presence in the territory of Malta of any of the diseases referred to in Schedule I to be notified immediately to the competent authority.

Official measures in the case of suspected infection or contamination.

4. (1) When animals on a holding are suspected of being infected or contaminated with one of the diseases listed in Schedule I, the official veterinarian shall immediately activate official investigation arrangements to confirm or rule out the presence of the disease in question and, in particular, must take or have taken the samples necessary for laboratory examination. To that end the animals in question may be transported to the laboratories under the supervision of the competent authority, which shall take appropriate steps to prevent the disease from spreading.

(2) As soon as the suspected presence of the disease is notified, the competent authority shall have the holding placed under official surveillance and shall in particular require that:

(a) a census be made and recorded of all categories of animals of susceptible species and that, in respect of each of these categories, the number of animals already dead, infected or liable to be infected or contaminated; the census must be kept up to date to take account of animals born or dying during the period of suspicion; the information in the census must be kept up to date and produced on request and may be checked at each visit;

(b) all animals of susceptible species on the holding be kept in their living quarters or confined in some other place where they can be isolated taking into account the possible role of vectors, where appropriate;

(c) no animals of susceptible species enter or leave the holding;

(d) all movement:

(i) of persons, animals of other species not susceptible to the disease and vehicles to or from the holding;

(ii) of meat or animal carcasses, or of animal feed, equipment, waste, droppings, litter, manure, or anything liable to transmit the disease in question;

(e) be subject to authorization by the competent authority, which shall lay down the conditions for preventing any risk of the disease spreading; appropriate means of disinfection be installed at the entrances and exits of buildings or places housing animals of susceptible species and of the holding itself;

(f) an epizootiological inquiry be carried out in accordance with rule 8.

(3) Until such time as the official measures laid down in sub-rule (2) are enforced, the owner or keeper of any animal in which disease is suspected shall take every appropriate measure to ensure compliance with sub-rule (2), except for paragraph (f) thereof.

(4) The competent authority may apply any of the measures provided for in sub-rule (2) to other holdings should their location, their configuration or contacts with the holding where the disease is suspected give reason to suspect possible contamination.

(5) The measures referred to in sub-rules (1) and (2) shall not be withdrawn until the suspicion of the presence of the disease has been ruled out by the official veterinarian.

Measures in the case of confirmation of existence of diseases.

5. (1) Once it has been officially confirmed that one of the diseases listed in Schedule I is present on a holding, in addition to the measures laid down in rule 4(2), the competent authority shall require application of the following measures:

(a) all animals of susceptible species on the holding shall be killed on the spot, without delay. The animals which have died or been killed shall either be burnt or buried on the spot, if possible, or destroyed in a carcass disposal plant. These operations shall be carried out in such a way as to minimize the risk of disseminating the agent of the disease;

(b) any substance or waste, such as animal feed, litter, manure or slurry, which is liable to be contaminated, shall be destroyed or treated appropriately. This treatment, carried out in accordance with the instructions of the official veterinarian, must ensure that any agent or vector of the agent of the disease is destroyed;

(c) after carrying out operations listed in paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, the buildings used for housing animals of susceptible species, their surroundings, the vehicles used for transport and all equipment liable to be contaminated shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with rule 16; and

(d) an epizootiological inquiry shall be carried out in accordance with rule 8.

(2) When recourse is had to burial, it must be deep enough to prevent carnivorous animals from digging up the carcasses or waste referred to in sub-rule (1)(a) and (b) hereof and shall be in suitable ground so as to prevent contamination of water tables or any environmental nuisance.

(3) The competent authority may extend the measures provided for in sub-rule (1) to other neighbouring holdings should their location, their configuration or contacts with the holding where the presence of the disease has been confirmed give reason to suspect possible contamination.

(4) The restocking of the holding shall be authorized by the competent authority, following the satisfactory inspection by the official

veterinarian of the cleaning and disinfection operations carried out in accordance with rule 16.

6. Where animals living in the wild are infected or suspected of being infected, appropriate action shall be taken by the competent authority which shall inform the Commission and the other Member States, of the measures it has taken.

Animals living in the wild.

7. (1) In the case of holdings which consist of two or more separate production units, the competent authority may derogate from the requirements of rule 5 (1)(a) as regards healthy production units of a holding which is infected:

Holdings consisting of two or more separate production units.

Provided that the official veterinarian has confirmed that the structure and size of these units and the operations carried out therein are such that they are completely separate as regards housing, keeping, staff, equipment and feeding, so as to prevent the spread of the agent of the disease from one unit to another.

(2) Where recourse is had to sub-rule (1) hereof, the rules laid down in Article 18 (2) of European Union Council Directive 2003/85/EC on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing European Union Council Directive 85/511/EEC and Commission Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending European Union Council Directive 92/46/EEC shall *mutatis mutandis* apply:

Provided that these rules may be amended for the disease in question according to the European Community requirements in order to take account of the specific nature of the disease.

8. (1) The epizootiological enquiry shall deal with:

The epizootiological enquiry.

(a) the length of time during which the disease may have existed on the holding before being notified or suspected;

(b) the possible origin of the disease on the holding and the identification of other holdings on which there are animals of susceptible species which may have become infected or contaminated;

(c) the movement of persons, animals, carcasses, vehicles, equipment or any other substances likely to have carried the agent of the disease to or from the holdings in question;

(d) the presence and distribution of disease vectors as appropriate.

(2) A crisis unit shall be established in order to provide full coordination of all measures necessary to ensure eradication of the disease as quickly as possible and for the purpose of carrying out the epizootiological enquiry.

(3) The rules concerning national crisis units shall be laid down according to European Community requirements.

When other holdings are placed under official surveillance.

9. (1) Where the official veterinarian finds, or considers on the basis of confirmed data, that disease could have been introduced from other holdings onto the holding referred to in rule 4 or from the latter onto other holdings as a result of the movement of persons, animals or vehicles or in any other way, those other holdings shall be placed under official surveillance in accordance with rule 4, and such surveillance shall not be lifted until the suspected presence of disease on the holding has been officially ruled out.

(2) Where the official veterinarian finds, or considers on the basis of confirmed data, that disease could have been introduced from other holdings on to the holding referred to in rule 5 or from the latter onto other holdings as a result of the movement of persons, animals or vehicles or in any other way, those other holdings shall be placed under official surveillance in accordance with rule 4, and such surveillance shall not be lifted until the suspected presence of disease on the holding has been officially ruled out.

(3) When a holding has been subject to the provisions of sub-rule (2) hereof, the competent authority shall keep the provisions of rule 4 in force on the holding for at least the maximum incubation period pertaining to each disease following the likely time of introduction of infection as established by the epizootiological enquiry carried out in accordance with rule 8.

(4) Where it considers that conditions permit, the competent authority may limit the measures provided for in sub-rules (1) and (2) hereof to a part of the holding and the animals contained therein provided that the holding can satisfy the conditions set out in rule 7, or to animals of susceptible species only.

Protection zone.

10. (1) Once the diagnosis of one of the diseases in question has been officially confirmed, the competent authority shall establish around the infected holding a protection zone with a minimum radius of

three kilometres, itself contained in a surveillance zone with a minimum radius of 10 kilometres:

Provided that the establishment of the zones must take account of geographical, administrative, ecological and epizootiological factors relating to the disease in question, and of monitoring facilities.

(2) Where the zones are situated in the territory of another Member State, the competent authority shall co-operate with the competent authorities of the Member States concerned in establishing the zones referred to in sub-rule (1). If necessary, the protection zone and the surveillance zone shall be established under the relevant procedure of the European Community.

(3) The decision to modify (in particular to reduce or increase, as appropriate) the boundaries of the zones laid down in sub-rule (1) or the duration of the restriction measures may be decided by the European Commission according to the relevant procedure of the European Community, taking into account:

- (a) their geographical situation and ecological factors;
- (b) the meteorological conditions;
- (c) the presence, distribution and type of vectors;
- (d) the results of the epizootiological studies carried out in accordance with rule 8;
- (e) the results of laboratory tests;
- (f) control measures actually applied.

11. (1) The competent authority shall ensure that the following measures are applied in the protection zone:

Measures to be taken in the protection zone.

- (a) all holdings within the zone having animals of susceptible species shall be identified;
- (b) there shall be periodic visits to holdings having animals of susceptible species, a clinical examination of those animals including, if necessary, the collection of samples for laboratory examination; a record of visits and findings must be kept, with the frequency of visits being proportional to the seriousness of the epizootic on those holdings at greatest risk;

(c) the movement and transport of animals of susceptible species on public or private roads, excluding the service roads of holdings, shall be prohibited; the competent authority may, however, grant a derogation from that prohibition for the transit of animals by road or rail without unloading or stopping;

(d) animals of susceptible species must remain on the holding on which they are being kept, except those to be transported under official supervision directly to a slaughterhouse located in that zone for emergency slaughter or, if that zone has no slaughterhouse under veterinary supervision, to a slaughterhouse in the surveillance zone designated by the competent authority:

Provided that such transport may be authorized by the competent authority only after the official veterinarian has carried out an examination of all the animals of susceptible species on the holding and confirmed that none of the animals is suspected of being infected. The competent authority responsible for the slaughterhouse shall be informed of the intention to send animals to it.

(2) The measures applied in the protection zone shall be kept in force for at least the maximum incubation period pertaining to the disease in question after animals from the infected holding have been disposed of in accordance with rule 5 and cleaning and disinfection operations have been carried out in accordance with rule 16.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-rule (2), where the disease is transmitted by an insect vector, the competent authority may fix the duration of the measures and lay down provisions for the possible introduction of sentinel animals. In such cases, the competent authority shall forthwith inform the Commission and the other Member States of the measures they have taken. On expiry of the period referred to in this rule, the rules applied to the surveillance zone shall also apply to the protection zone.

Measures to be
taken in
surveillance zone.

12. (1) The competent authority shall ensure that the following measures are applied in the surveillance zone:

(a) all holdings having animals of susceptible species shall be identified;

(b) the movement of animals of susceptible species on public roads shall be prohibited except for the purpose of leading them to pasture or animal buildings:

Provided that the competent authority may grant a derogation from that prohibition for the transit of animals by road without unloading or stopping;

(c) the transport of animals of susceptible species within the surveillance zone shall be subject to authorization by the competent authority;

(d) animals of susceptible species must:

(i) remain inside the surveillance zone for a maximum incubation period after the most recent recorded case of disease;

(ii) thereafter, be removed from that zone to be transported under official supervision directly to a slaughterhouse designated by the competent authority for emergency slaughter;

(iii) be transported after being authorized by the competent authority and only after the official veterinarian has carried out an examination of all the animals of the susceptible species on the holding and confirmed that none of the animals is suspected of being infected.

The official veterinarian responsible for the slaughterhouse shall be informed of the intention to send animals to it.

(2) The measures applied in the surveillance zone shall be kept in force for a period at least equal to the maximum incubation period after animals from the holding have been disposed of in accordance with rule 5 and cleaning and disinfection operations have been carried out in accordance with rule 16.

(3) Notwithstanding sub-rule (2) hereof, where the disease is transmitted by an insect vector, the competent authority may fix the duration of the measures and lay down provisions for the possible introduction of sentinel animals. In such cases, the competent authority shall forthwith inform the Commission and the other Member States, of the measures they have taken.

13. (1) Where the prohibitions provided for in rule 11 (1)(d) and rule 12 (1)(d) are maintained beyond 30 days because of the occurrence of further cases of the disease and as a result problems arise in keeping the animals, the competent authority may, following an application by the owner explaining the grounds for such application,

Removal of animals from protection or surveillance zone.

authorize the removal of the animals from a holding within the protection zone or the surveillance zone:

Provided that:

- (a) the official veterinarian has verified the facts;
- (b) an inspection of all animals on the holding has been carried out;
- (c) the animals to be transported have undergone a clinical examination, with negative result;
- (d) each animal has been marked by ear marking or has been identified by any other approved method;
- (e) the holding of destination is located either in the protection zone or within the surveillance zone.

(2) All the necessary precautions shall be taken, in particular by cleaning and disinfecting lorries after transport, to avoid the risk of spreading the agent of the disease in the course of such transport.

Necessary measures to be taken by competent authority.

14. (1) The competent authority shall take all the necessary measures to keep at least persons established in the protection and surveillance zones informed of the restrictions in force and make all necessary arrangements for the appropriate implementation of those measures.

(2) Where, in a given region, the epizootic in question is exceptionally serious, all the additional measures to be taken in the territory of Malta shall be adopted according to the relevant procedure of the European Community.

Specific provisions.

15. By way of derogation from the general provisions laid down in these rules, specific provisions relating to the control and eradication measures for each respective disease are:

- (a) for swine vesicular disease, set out in Schedule II for swine vesicular disease; and
- (b) for each of the other diseases listed in Schedule I, adopted in accordance with the provisions adopted by the European Community in those matters.

16. The following procedure shall be observed –

Cleaning,
disinfection and
disinsectization
operations.

(a) the disinfectants and insecticides to be used and, where appropriate, their concentrations, shall be officially approved by the competent authority;

(b) the cleaning, disinfection and disinsectization operations are carried out under official supervision –

(i) in accordance with the instructions given by the official veterinarian; and

(ii) in such a way as to eliminate any risk of spread or survival of the agent of the disease;

(c) on completion of the operations in paragraph (b), the official veterinarian makes sure that the measures have been carried out properly and that an appropriate period, of not less than 21 days, has elapsed to ensure that the disease in question has been completely eliminated before animals of susceptible species are re-introduced.

(2) The procedures for cleaning and disinfecting an infected holding are–

(a) for swine vesicular disease, those set out in Schedule II; and

(b) determined, in the context of preparation of the specific measures for each disease listed in Schedule I, in accordance with the requirements of the European Community.

17. (1) For the purpose of implementation of these rules in the Territory of Malta, there shall be designated –

National
laboratories.

(a) a national laboratory with facilities and expert personnel enabling it to show at all times, and especially when the disease in question first appears, the type, sub-type and variant of the relevant virus and to confirm results obtained in regional diagnostic laboratories;

(b) a national laboratory at which reagents used in regional diagnostic laboratories are tested.

(2) The national laboratories designated for each of the diseases referred to shall be responsible for coordinating diagnostic standards and methods, and for the use of reagents.

(3) The national laboratories designated for each of the diseases referred to shall be responsible for coordinating the diagnostic standards and methods laid down by each laboratory for diagnosis of the disease in question within the territory of Malta. To this end, they:

- (a) may provide diagnostic reagents to national laboratories;
- (b) shall control the quality of all diagnostic reagents used in the Member State;
- (c) shall periodically arrange comparative tests;
- (d) shall hold isolates of the virus of the disease in question from cases confirmed in the territory of Malta;
- (e) shall ensure the confirmation of positive results obtained in regional diagnostic laboratories.

(4) By way of derogation from sub-rule (1) hereof, the national laboratories competent as regards the disease in question, may provide the services of a diagnostic laboratory.

(5) The list of laboratories for swine vesicular disease is designated in Schedule II.

(6) The national laboratories designated for each of the diseases referred to shall cooperate with the respective Community reference laboratories.

(7) The detailed rules for implementing this Article shall be adopted in accordance with the requirements of the European Community and under the procedure laid down in article 5(1) of the Veterinary Services Act.

Vaccination.

18. (1) Vaccination against the diseases listed in Schedule I may not be carried out except as a supplement to control measures taken when the disease in question broke out, in accordance with the following provisions –

- (a) the decision to introduce vaccination as a supplement to control measures shall be taken by the competent authority in cooperation with the Commission and under its approval;

(b) this decision shall be based on the following criteria in particular:

(i) the concentration of animals of the species concerned in the affected zone;

(ii) the characteristics and composition of each vaccine used;

(iii) the procedures for supervision of the distribution, storage and use of vaccines;

(iv) the species and age of the animals which may or must be vaccinated;

(v) the areas in which vaccination may or must be carried out;

(vi) the duration of the vaccination campaign.

(2) In the cases referred to in sub-rule (1) hereof:

(a) the vaccination or re-vaccination of animals of susceptible species on the holdings referred to in rule 4 shall be prohibited;

(b) hyper-immune serum injection shall be prohibited.

(3) In the event of recourse to vaccination, the following rules shall apply:

(a) all vaccinated animals must be identified by a clear and legible mark in accordance with a method approved by the Community;

(b) all vaccinated animals must remain within the vaccination zone unless sent to a slaughterhouse designated by the competent authority for immediate slaughter, in which case the movement of animals may be authorized only after the official veterinarian has carried out an examination of all the susceptible animals on the holding and confirmed that none of the animals is suspected of being infected.

(4) When the vaccination operations have been completed, movements of animals of susceptible species from the vaccination zone may be permitted under the relevant procedure of the Community.

(5) The competent authority shall inform the Commission, on a regular basis, of progress as regards the vaccination measures.

(6) By way of derogation from sub-rule (1), the decision to introduce emergency vaccination may be taken by the competent authority, following notification of the Commission, provided that the fundamental interests of the Community are not affected. That decision, which must in particular take into account the degree of concentration of the animals in certain regions, of the need to protect individual breeds and of the geographical area in which vaccination is carried out, shall forthwith be re-examined, under the relevant procedure of the Community and it may be decided to retain, modify or extend the measures or to bring them to an end.

Contingency plan.

19. (1) The competent authority shall draw up a contingency plan applicable to all the diseases listed in Schedule I, specifying the national measures to be implemented in the event of an outbreak of any of these diseases. This plan must allow access to facilities, equipment, personnel and all other appropriate materials necessary for the rapid and efficient eradication of the outbreak.

(2) The general criteria to be applied for drawing up the contingency plans are laid down in points 1 to 5 and 10 of Schedule III, with points 6 to 9 representing criteria to be adopted according to the disease concerned:

Provided that the competent authority may confine itself to applying the criteria laid down in points 6 to 9 where the criteria in points 1 to 5 and 10 were already adopted when plans were submitted for the application of control measures for another disease.

(3) Contingency plans drawn up in accordance with the criteria listed in Schedule III shall be submitted to the Commission:

(4) The contingency plans shall be –

(a) examined by the Commission in order to determine whether they permit the desired objective to be attained and shall suggest to the competent authority any amendments required in particular to ensure that they are compatible with those of the other Member States;

(b) approved by the Commission, if necessary amended, in accordance with the relevant procedure of the Community;

(c) subsequently be amended or supplemented, in accordance with the same procedure, to take into account developments in the situation and the specific nature of the disease in question.

20. (1) By way of derogation from the conditions provided for in Articles 19 and 20 as regards the contingency measures to be adopted by the Member States and so as to take account of the natural, geographical constraints particular to the French Overseas Departments, the Azores and Madeira and their remoteness from the central part of the Community's territory, the Member State concerned shall be authorized to apply particular control measures specific to each of the diseases listed in Schedule I to these rules.

Particular and specific Control measures for each disease listed in Schedule I.

(2) Malta shall, within the Standing Veterinary Committee, inform the Commission and the other Member States of the measures it has taken in this respect and in particular of the control measures implemented to ensure that animals from the territories in question or products from such animals are not dispatched to the other territories of the Community.

(3) Following the information procedure referred to in sub-rule 2 and rule 19, these shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

21. (1) Commission experts may, in collaboration with the competent authorities, and in so far as is necessary to ensure uniform application of these rules, make on-the-spot checks. In order to do this, they may check a representative percentage of holdings to see whether the competent authorities are checking that these holdings are fulfilling the requirements of these rules. The Commission shall inform the competent authority of the result of the checks carried out.

Necessary measures to ensure uniform application of these rules.

(2) Whenever a check is being carried out in Malta the competent authority shall give all the necessary assistance to the experts in carrying out their duties.

(3) The detailed rules for implementing this Article shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in rule 22.

22. (1) Whenever reference is being made to this rule, Articles 5 and 7 of European Union Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply.

Provisions to apply whenever reference to this rule is being made.

(2) The period mentioned in Article 5(6) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be of three months.

SCHEDULE I

LIST OF COMPULSORILY NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Maximum incubation period
Rinderpest	21 days
Peste des petits ruminants	21 days
Swine vesicular disease	28 days
Bluetongue	40 days
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer	40 days
Sheep and goat pox (Capripox)	21 days
Vesicular stomatitis	21 days
African swine fever	40 days
Lumpy skin disease	28 days
Rift valley fever	30 days

SCHEDULE II

SPECIFIC MEASURES TO CONTROL CERTAIN DISEASES

In addition to the general provisions laid down in these rules, the following specific provisions shall be applicable to swine vesicular disease.

1. Description of the disease

A disease of swine that is clinically indistinguishable from foot-and-mouth disease, causing vesicles on the snout, lips, tongue and the coronary bands of the digits. The disease varies considerably in severity and may infect a pig herd without manifesting itself by clinical lesions. The virus is able to survive for long periods outside the body even in fresh meat; it is extremely resistant to normal disinfectants and noted for its persistence and stability over a pH range from 2,5 to 12. Particularly thorough cleaning and disinfection are, therefore, necessary.

2. Incubation period

For the purpose of these rules, the maximum incubation period shall be considered to be 28 days.

3. Diagnostic procedures for the confirmation and differential diagnosis of swine vesicular disease

The detailed methods for the collection of materials for diagnosis, the laboratory diagnostic tests, detection of antibodies and evaluation of the results of laboratory testing shall be decided in accordance with the relevant procedure of the Community.

4. Confirmation of the presence of swine vesicular disease

By way of derogation from rule 2(6), the presence of the disease shall be confirmed:

- (a) on holdings on which swine vesicular disease virus is isolated either from the pigs or from the environment;
- (b) on holdings containing pigs which are seropositive for swine vesicular disease provided those pigs or others on the holdings show lesions characteristic of swine vesicular disease;
- (c) on holdings containing pigs which show clinical signs of disease or are seropositive, provided there is a direct epidemiological connection with a confirmed outbreak;
- (d) on other herds in which seropositive pigs are detected. In the latter case the competent authority shall, before confirming the presence of the disease, undertake further investigations, in particular resampling and retesting with an interval of 28 days at least between collections of samples. The provisions of Article 4 shall continue to apply until such further investigations are completed. If subsequent investigations show no evidence of the disease, although the pigs are still seropositive, the competent authority shall ensure that the pigs tested are killed and destroyed under its supervision or slaughtered under its supervision in a slaughterhouse it has designated in its national territory.

The competent authority shall ensure that on arrival at the slaughterhouse the pigs are kept and slaughtered separately from other pigs and that their meat is exclusively used on the national market.

5. Diagnostic laboratories

Austria: Institut für Fischkunde, Veterinärmedizinische Universität, Wien.

Belgium: Institut national de recherches vétérinaires, Groeselenberg 99, B-1180 Bruxelles.

Denmark: Statens Veterinære Institut for Virusforskning, Lindholm.

Finland: Eläinlääkintä- ja elintarvikelaitos, Helsinki —Anstalten för veterinärmedicin och livsmedel, Helsingfors.

Germany: Bundesforschungsanstalt für Viruskrankheiten der Tiere, Paul-Ehrlich-Straße, 7400 Tübingen.

France: Laboratoire central de recherche vétérinaire, Maisons-Alfort.

Greece: Ινστιτούτο Λοιμωδών και Παρασιτικών Νοσημάτων, Νεαπόλεως 21, Αγία Παρασκευή.

Ireland: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

Italy: Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna, Brescia.

Luxembourg: Institut national de recherches vétérinaires, Groeselenberg 99, B-1180 Bruxelles.

Netherlands: Centraal Diergeneeskundig Instituut, Lelystad.

Portugal: Laboratório Nacional de Investigação Veterinária, Lisboa.

Spain: Laboratorio de Alta Seguridad Biológica (INIA), 28130 Madrid.

Sweden: Statens veterinärmedicinska anstalt, Uppsala.

United Kingdom: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey.

Czech Republic: Státní veterinární ústav Praha, Sídlíštní 24/136, 165 03 Praha 6.

Estonia: Veterinaar - ja Toidulaboratoorium, Kreutzwaldi 30, 51006 Tartu.

Cyprus: Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell' Emilia Romagna, Via Bianchi 9, IT - 25124 Brescia.

Latvia: Valsts veterinārmedicīnas diagnostikas centrs, Leļupes iela 3, LV-1076 Rīga.

Lithuania: Nacionalinė veterinarijos laboratorija, J. Kairiukšėio g. 10, LT-2021 Vilnius.

Hungary: Országos Állategészségügyi Intézet (OÁI), Pf. 2., Tábornok u. 2., HU-1581 Budapest.

Malta: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

Poland: Laboratorium Zakładu Pryszczycy Państwowego Instytutu Weterynaryjnego, ul. Wodna 7, PL-98- 220 Zduńska Wola.

Slovenia: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

Slovakia: Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

6. Community reference laboratory

AFRC Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NF, United Kingdom.

7. Protection zone

1. The size of the protection zone shall be as defined in rule 10.
2. In the case of swine vesicular disease, by way of derogation, the measures in rule 11 shall be replaced by the following:
 - (a) all holdings within the zone having animals of susceptible species shall be identified;
 - (b) there shall be periodic visits to holdings having animals of susceptible species, a clinical examination of those animals including, if necessary, the collection of samples for laboratory examination; a record of visits and findings must be kept; with the frequency of the visits being proportional to the seriousness of the epizootic on those holdings at greatest risk;
 - (c) the movement and transport of animals of susceptible species on public or private roads, excluding the service roads of holdings, shall be prohibited. The competent authority may, however, derogate from this prohibition for the transit of animals by road and rail without unloading or stopping;
 - (d) however, in accordance with the requirements of the Community, an exemption may be granted for slaughter pigs coming from outside the protection zone and on their way to a slaughterhouse situated in that zone;
 - (e) trucks and other vehicles and equipment which are used within the protection zone to transport pigs or other livestock or material which may be contaminated (e.g. feedingstuff, manure, slurry, etc.) may not leave:

- (i) a holding situated within the protection zone;
- (ii) the protection zone;
- (iii) a slaughterhouse,

without having been cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the procedures laid down by the competent authority. Those procedures shall provide in particular that no truck or vehicle which has been used in the transport of pigs may leave the zone without being inspected by the competent authority;

(f) pigs may not be removed from a holding in which they are kept for 21 days after completion of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection of infected holdings as laid down in Article 16; after 21 days, authorization may be given to remove pigs from the said holding:

- (i) directly to a slaughterhouse designated by the competent authority, preferably within the protection or surveillance zone, provided that:
 - an inspection of all the pigs on the holding has been carried out,
 - a clinical examination of the pigs to be moved to slaughter has been carried out,
 - each pig has been marked by ear marking or has been identified by any other approved method,
 - the pigs are transported in vehicles sealed by the competent authority.

The competent authority responsible for the slaughterhouse shall be informed of the intention to send pigs to it.

On arrival at the slaughterhouse, the pigs shall be kept and slaughtered separately from other pigs. The vehicle and equipment which have been involved in the transport of the pigs shall be cleaned and disinfected

before leaving the slaughterhouse.

During the pre-slaughter and *post mortem* inspection carried out at the designated slaughterhouse, the competent authority shall take into account any signs relating to the presence of the swine vesicular disease virus.

In the case of pigs slaughtered under these provisions, a statistically representative sample of bloods shall be collected. In the case of a positive result which leads to the confirmation of swine vesicular disease, the measures in 9 (3) will apply;

(ii) under exceptional circumstances, directly to other premises located within the protection zone, provided that:

- an inspection of all the pigs on the holdings has been carried out,
- a clinical examination of the pigs to be moved has been carried out, with negative results,
- each pig has been marked by ear marking or has been identified by any other approved method;

(g) fresh meat from the pigs referred to in point (f) (i):

(i) shall not enter into intra-Community or international trade and shall bear the health mark for fresh meat provided for in Annex II to Council Directive 2002/99/EC;

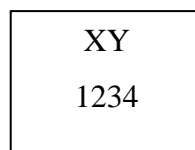
(ii) shall be obtained, cut, transported and stored separately from meat intended for intra-Community and international trade and shall be used in such a way as to avoid it being introduced into meat products intended for intra-Community or international trade, unless it has undergone a treatment set out in Annex III to Directive 2002/99/EC.

(h) (i) by way of derogation from point (g), for meat from pigs referred to in point (f) (i) Member States may decide to use another identification

mark than the special identification mark set out in Annex II to Directive 2002/99/EC, provided that it is clearly distinguishable from other identification marks to be applied to pig meat in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council or Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005;

Member States that decide to use the alternative identification mark shall inform the Commission thereof in the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

(ii) for the purpose of (i) the identification mark must be legible and indelible, the characters easily readable and clearly displayed. The identification mark must have following shape and contain following indications:



XY means the relevant country code provided for in point 6 of Part B of Section I of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

1234 means the approval number of the establishment referred to in point 7 of Part B of Section I of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

3. The measures in the protection zone shall continue to be applied at least until:
 - (a) all measures laid down in rule 16 have been carried out;
 - (b) all the holdings in the zone have undergone:
 - (i) a clinical examination of the pigs which has revealed that they have no signs of disease suggesting the presence of swine vesicular disease; and
 - (ii) a serological examination of a statistical sample of the pigs without

the detection of antibodies to swine vesicular disease. The programme for serological screening shall take into account the transmission of swine vesicular disease and the way in which pigs are kept. The programme shall be that fixed by the Community.

The examination and sampling referred to in (i) and (ii) shall not take place before 28 days have elapsed after the completion of preliminary cleaning and disinfection measures at the infected holding.

4. On expiry of the period referred to in point 3, the rules applied to the surveillance zone shall also apply to the protection zone.

5. Where the prohibitions provided for in point 2 (f) are maintained beyond 30 days because of the occurrence of further cases of the disease and as a result problems arise in keeping the animals, the competent authority may, following an application by the owner explaining the grounds for such application and provided that the official veterinarian has verified the facts, authorise the removal of the animals from a holding within the protection zone. Points 2 (f) and (h) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

8. **Surveillance zone**

1. The size of the surveillance zone shall be as laid down in rule 10.

2. In the case of swine vesicular disease, the measures laid down in rule 12 shall be replaced by the following:

- (a) all holdings having animals of susceptible species shall be identified;
- (b) any movement of pigs other than direct to a slaughterhouse from a holding in the surveillance zone shall be permitted, provided that no pigs have moved into that holding in the previous 21 days; the owner or the person responsible for the animals must keep a record of all pig movements;
- (c) the movement of pigs from the surveillance zone may be authorized by the

competent authority, provided that:

- (i) an inspection of all pigs on the holding has been carried out with the 48 hours preceding the movement,
 - (ii) a clinical examination of the pigs to be moved has been carried out with negative results in the 48 hours preceding the movement,
 - (iii) a serological examination of a statistical sample of the pigs to be moved has been carried out without the detection of antibodies to swine vesicular disease within the 14 days preceding the movement. However, in the case of pigs for slaughter, the serological examination may be carried out on the basis of blood samples taken at the slaughterhouse of destination designated by the competent authority in its territory. In the event of positive results confirming the presence of swine vesicular disease, the measures provided for in point 9(3) shall be applied,
 - (iv) each pig has been marked with an individual eartag or by any other approved method of identification,
 - (v) trucks and other vehicles and equipment used for the transport of the pigs must be cleaned and disinfected after each transport operation;
- (d) trucks and other vehicles and equipment used for the transport of the pigs or other livestock or material that may be contaminated and which are used within the surveillance zone shall not leave that zone without having been cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the procedures laid down by the competent authority.
3. (a) The size of the surveillance zone may be amended in accordance with the provisions laid down in rule 10 (3).
- (b) The measures in the surveillance zone shall be applied at least until:

- (i) all the measures laid down in rule 16 have been carried out;
- (ii) all the measures required in the protection zone have been carried out.

9. **General common measures**

Additional measures in the case of swine vesicular disease shall be applied as follows:

1. in cases where the presence of swine vesicular disease is officially confirmed, Member States shall ensure that, in addition to the measures laid down in rules 4 (2) and 5, meat of pigs slaughtered during the period between the probable introduction of disease to the holding and the implementation of official measures is, wherever possible, traced and destroyed under official supervision in such a way as to avoid the risk of swine vesicular disease virus spreading;
2. when the official veterinarian has reason to suspect that pigs on any holding may have been contaminated as a result of the movement of any person, animal or vehicle or in any other way, pigs on the holding shall remain under the movement restrictions referred to in rule 9 at least until the holding has undergone:
 - (a) a clinical examination of the pigs, with negative results;
 - (b) a serological examination of a statistical sample of the pigs without the detection of antibodies to swine vesicular disease in accordance with 7 (3) (b) (ii).

The examination referred to in (a) and (b) shall not take place until 28 days have elapsed since the possible contamination of the premises as the result of the movement of persons, animals, or vehicles, or in any other way.

3. Should the presence of swine vesicular disease be confirmed in a slaughterhouse, the competent authority shall ensure that:

- (a) all pigs in the slaughterhouse are slaughtered without delay;
- (b) the carcasses and offal of infected and contaminated pigs are destroyed under official supervision in such a way as to avoid the risk of swine vesicular disease virus spreading;
- (c) cleaning and disinfection of buildings and equipment, including vehicles, take place under the supervision of the official veterinarian, in accordance with instructions laid down by the competent authority;
- (d) an epidemiological enquiry is carried out in accordance with rule 8;
- (e) no pigs are re-introduced for slaughter until at least 24 hours after completion of the cleaning and disinfection operations carried out in accordance with (c).

10. Cleansing and disinfection of infected holdings

In addition to the measures laid down in rule 16, the following measures shall also apply-

1. Procedure for preliminary cleaning and disinfection -

- (a) As soon as the carcasses of the pigs have been removed for disposal, those parts of the premises in which the pigs have been housed and any other parts of the premises which have been contaminated during slaughter should be sprayed with disinfectant, approved in compliance with rule 16, at the concentration appropriate for swine vesicular disease. The disinfectant used should remain on the surface for at least 24 hours.
- (b) Any tissue or blood which may have been spilled during slaughter should be carefully collected and disposed of with the carcasses (slaughter should always be carried out on an impervious surface).

2. Procedure for further cleaning and disinfection -

- (a) All manure, bedding, contaminated food, etc., should be removed from the buildings, stacked and sprayed with an approved disinfectant. Slurry should be treated by a method suitable for killing the virus.
- (b) All portable fittings should be removed from the premises and cleansed and disinfected separately.
- (c) Grease and other dirt should be removed from all surfaces by soaking with a degreasing agent and then washing with water under pressure.
- (d) A further application of disinfectant should then be made by spraying all surfaces.
- (e) Sealable rooms should be fumigated.
- (f) Repairs to damaged floors, walls etc. should be agreed following inspection by an official veterinarian, and carried out immediately.
- (g) Completed repairs should be inspected to ensure that they have been done satisfactorily.
- (h) All parts of the premises which are completely free of combustible material may be heat-treated using a flame gun.
- (i) All surfaces should be sprayed with an alkaline disinfectant having a pH greater than 12,5 or any other approved disinfectant. The disinfectant should be washed off after 48 hours.

3. Procedure for final cleaning and disinfection -

Treatment with flame gun or alkaline disinfectant (point 2 (h) or (i)) should be repeated after 14 days.

11. Restocking of infected holdings

In addition to the measures laid down in rule 5(4), the following measures shall apply:

1. Restocking should not commence until four weeks after completion of the first full disinfection of the premises, i.e. step 3 of the cleaning and disinfection procedures.

2. The re-introduction of pigs shall take account of the type of farming practised on the holding and must conform to one of the following procedures:

(a) in the case of outdoor pig holdings, restocking shall start with the introduction of a limited number of sentinel piglets which have been checked and found negative for the presence of antibodies against swine vesicular disease virus. The sentinel piglets shall be placed, in accordance with the requirements of the competent authority, throughout the infected holding and will be examined clinically 28 days after having been placed on the holding, and sampled for serological testing.

If none of the piglets shows clinical evidence of swine vesicular disease nor has developed antibodies against the virus of the disease, full restocking may take place;

(b) for all other forms of rearing, the re-introduction of pigs shall take place either in accordance with the measures provided for in paragraph (a) or by full restocking, provided that:

(i) all the pigs arrive within a period of eight days and come from holdings situated outside areas restricted as a result of swine vesicular disease, and are seronegative,

(ii) no pig may leave the holding for a period of 60 days after the arrival of the last pigs,

(iii) the repopulated herd is subjected to a clinical and serological examination in accordance with the requirements of the competent authority. That examination may be carried out at the earliest 28 days after the arrival of the last pigs.

SCHEDULE III
COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORIES FOR THE DISEASES
CONCERNED

The functions and duties of the Community reference laboratories for the diseases concerned shall be:

1. to coordinate, in consultation with the Commission, the methods employed in the Member States for diagnosing the disease concerned, specifically by:

(a) typing, storing and supplying strains of the virus of the relevant disease for serological tests and the preparation of antisera;

(b) supplying standard sera and other reference reagents to the national reference laboratories in order to standardize the tests and reagents used in the Member States;

(c) building up and retaining a collection of virus strains and isolates of the relevant disease;

(d) organizing periodic comparative tests of diagnostic procedures at Community level;

(e) collecting and collating data and information on the methods of diagnosis used and the results of tests carried out in the Community;

- (f) characterizing isolates of the virus of the relevant disease by the most up to- date methods to allow greater understanding of the epizootiology of the disease;
 - (g) keeping abreast of developments in the surveillance, epizootiology and prevention of the relevant disease throughout the world;
 - (h) retaining expertise on the relevant disease virus and other pertinent viruses to enable rapid differential diagnosis;
 - (i) acquiring a thorough knowledge of the preparation and use of the products of veterinary immunology used to eradicate and control the relevant disease;
2. to assist actively in the diagnosis of outbreaks of the relevant disease in Member States by receiving virus isolates for confirmatory diagnosis, characterization and epizootiological studies;
 3. to facilitate the training or retraining of experts in laboratory diagnosis with a view to the harmonization of diagnostic techniques throughout the Community.

SCHEDULE IV

MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR THE CONTINGENCY PLANS

Contingency plans shall meet at least the following criteria:

1. the establishment of a crisis centre on a national level, which shall coordinate all control measures in the territory of Malta;
2. a list shall be provided of local disease control centres with adequate facilities to

coordinate the disease control measures at a local level;

3. detailed information shall be given on the staff involved in control measures, their skills and their responsibilities;
4. each local disease control centre must be able to contact rapidly persons/organizations which are directly or indirectly involved in an outbreak;
5. equipment and materials shall be available to carry out the disease control measures properly;
6. detailed instructions shall be provided on action to be taken on suspicion and confirmation of infection or contamination, including means of disposal of carcasses;
7. training programmes shall be established to maintain and develop skills in field and administrative procedures;
8. diagnostic laboratories must have facilities for *post mortem* examination, the necessary capacity for serology, histology, etc., and must maintain the skills for rapid diagnosis. Arrangements must be made for rapid transportation of samples;
9. details shall be provided of the quantity of vaccine against the disease in question estimated to be required in the event of recourse to emergency vaccination;
10. provisions shall be made to ensure the legal powers necessary for the implementation of the contingency plans.