CHAPTER 8.20.

INFECTION WITH FRANCISELLA TULARENSIS (TULAREMIA)

Article 8.20.1.

General provisions

The aim of this chapter is to mitigate the animal health and public health risks posed by tularemia. While a~~A~~ wide variety of mammals, including humans~~,~~ and some birds are known to be susceptible, ~~have been reported to be infected, but~~ tularemia is primarily a vector-borne disease of the orders Lagomorpha and Rodentia.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, tularemia is defined as an *infection* of lagomorphs and rodents (hereafter 'animal hosts') with *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *tularensis* or *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *holarctica*.

Hereafter '*Francisella tularensis*' is used to collectively refer to both *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *tularensis* and *Francisella tularensis* subsp. *holarctica*.

The following defines the occurrence of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*:

1) *Francisella tularensis* has been isolated and identified as such in a sample from an animal host; or

2) nucleic acid or antigen specific to *Francisella tularensis* has been detected in a sample from an animal host showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*; or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected *case* or a human infected with *Francisella tularensis*, or giving cause for suspicion of association or contact with *Francisella tularensis*; or

3) seroconversion specific to *Francisella tularensis* has been detected in an animal host; or

4) antibodies specific to *Francisella tularensis* have been detected in a sample from an animal host showing clinical signs or pathological lesions consistent with *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*, or epidemiologically linked to a confirmed or suspected *case* or a human infected with *Francisella tularensis*, or giving cause for suspicion of previous association or contact with *Francisella tularensis*.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* for tularemia ~~(in hares, genus *Lepus*)~~ shall be 15 days.

Standards for diagnosis ~~diagnostic tests~~, as well as information on the epidemiology, are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 8.20.2.

~~Tularemia free country~~ Country or zone free from tularemia

A country or *zone* may be considered free from tularemia when:

1) the *infection* has been notifiable in the entire country ~~it has been shown that tularemia has not been present~~ for at least the past two years;

2) either:

   a) the country or *zone* is historically free as described in point 2) b) of Article 1.4.6.; or

b) ~~for at least the past two years,~~ *specific surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been in place in the entire country or zone, and there has been no *case* in the country or *zone* for at least the past two years; ~~and when bacteriological or serological surveys in previously infected *zones* have given negative results.~~

3) appropriate *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* to prevent the introduction of *infection* have been in place; in particular, the importations or movements of animal hosts and other *commodities* into the country or *zone* have been carried out in accordance with this chapter or other relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code,* including Chapter 2.1. 'Import risk analysis';.

Article 8.20.2.bis

Recovery of free status

Should a *case* of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis* occur in a previously free country or *zone*, its status may be recovered in accordance with Article 8.20.2.~~one year after the *disinfection* and *disinsection* of the last affected *establishment*, provided that in the entire country or *zone*, *specific surveillance* in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been carried out and has demonstrated the absence of any *case* of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*.~~

~~Otherwise, Article 8.20.2. applies.~~

Article 8.20.3.

~~**Tularemia infected zone**~~ **Country or zone infected with *Francisella tularensis***

A country or *zone* should be considered as infected with *Francisella tularensis* when the conditions for freedom from tularemia are not met ~~fulfilled.tularemia until:~~

~~1) at least one year has elapsed after the last *case* has been confirmed;~~

~~AND~~

~~2) a bacteriological survey on ticks within the infected *zone* has given negative results; or~~

~~regular serological testing of hares and rabbits from that *zone* have given negative results.~~

~~Article 8.20.4.~~

~~**Trade in commodities**~~

~~*Veterinary Authorities* of tularemia free countries may prohibit importation or transit through their territory, from countries considered *infected* with tularemia, of live hares.~~

Article 8.20.~~5~~4.

Recommendations for importation of hares from countries ~~considered~~ infected with *Francisella tularensis*~~*tularemia*~~

~~For live hares~~

Veterinary Authorities of *importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

~~1) showed no clinical sign of tularemia on the day of shipment;~~

1~~2~~) do~~were~~ not come from a *zone* ~~kept in an tularemia~~ infected with *Francisella tularensis*.~~*zone*~~;

2~~3~~) ~~have been~~ were treated against ~~ectoparasites~~ arthropod *vectors* upon entry into the *quarantine centre*; and

3~~4~~) were kept in a *quarantine ~~station~~ centre* for ~~the~~ at least 15 days prior to shipment and during this period the animals showed no clinical signs of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*.

United States	**Comment category:** Addition **Proposed amended text:** 3~~4~~) were kept in a *quarantine ~~station~~ centre* for ~~the~~ at least **the**15 days prior to shipment and during this period the animals showed no clinical signs of *infection* with *Francisella tularensis*. **Rationale:** Recommend adding "the" before "15 days…" to clearly capture the intent that the animal quarantine period, when no clinical signs of disease were observed, occurred just prior to shipment. Without this modifier, it would be possible to interpret that any 15-day quarantine time period, even if separated by days, months, etc from the actual date of shipment could meet import requirements. Improperly quarantined animals could spread disease and compromise safe international trade. **Supporting evidence**: n/a