

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

OCTOBER 14, 2009, SAN DIEGO, CA

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5, 7, 17, 24, 29, 37, 44, and 45 Combined

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CATTLE, BISON,
AND CAMELIDS
COMMITTEE ON IMPORT-EXPORT
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF SWINE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES OF
POULTRY AND OTHER AVIAN SPECIES
COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
COMMITTEE ON SHEEP AND GOATS
COMMITTEE ON BLUETONGUE AND RELATED
ORBIVIRUSES

SUBJECT MATTER: FAILURE OF IMPORTING COUNTRIES TO FOLLOW WORLD
ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR
IMPORTATIONS OF ANIMALS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

United States (US) livestock exporters are facing an escalation of animal health requirements by importing countries that make it difficult or impossible to export US genetic material. Many countries are using animal health protocols as bargaining chips in trade negotiations to obtain more favorable treatment for other trading items that have nothing to do with animal health. Many countries are now requiring tests for imported animals for diseases that they have in their own countries and for which they have no control programs. This is contrary to the spirit and recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Chapter 5.1 and article 5.1.2 outlines the responsibilities of the importing country.

Steps should be taken to ensure that importing countries which are members of OIE follow the recommendations of the Animal Health Code.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to initiate all trade negotiations on import and export protocols with reference to

compliance with World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) rules.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

During trade negotiations with foreign governments, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services emphasizes the importance of guidelines from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) outlined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. We strive to ensure that the trade protocols we propose are based on current science and OIE guidance.

However, not all countries have the same level of confidence in current science and OIE guidance, and some take a less scientific and more rigid approach to the risk associated with a certain commodity. These countries implement more stringent import restrictions than those based on science-based risk evaluations.

USDA will continue to promulgate a science-based approach and compliance with OIE guidance during all trade negotiations.