

BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

NO. 50 OF 2012

BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (Importation and Exportation of CATTLE and Products of CATTLE For the Prevention of BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY REGULATIONS, 2012

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REGULATIONS made by the Minister, after consultation with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 61 and 86 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act, Chapter 211 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003; and all other powers thereunto him enabling.

(Gazetted 21st April, 2012)

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.

**BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
(IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF CATTLE
AND PRODUCTS OF CATTLE FOR THE
PREVENTION OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM
ENCEPHALOPATHY) REGULATIONS, 2012.**

2. In these Regulations -

Interpretation.

“BSE” means bovine spongiform encephalopathy; “

“cattle” includes *bos indicus* and *bos taurus*;

“country, zone, or region of origin” means the country, zone or region out of which a cattle, fresh meat or meat products from cattle originates;

“indigenous case” means a positive case or suspected case irrespective of whether the cattle is local or imported if it

cannot be clearly demonstrated that the cattle is a suspected case prior to the importation of that cattle, embryos, or ova;

"international veterinary certificate" means the veterinary certificate issued under Regulation 5 or a certificate issued by the appropriate authority of another country following similar procedures;

"OIE" means the World Organization for Animal Health;

"OIE Terrestrial Code" means the most up-to-date version of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code as approved and published by the OIE;

"slaughterhouse" means premises used for the slaughter of animals as well as a facility for the production of animal products, movement of an animal or lair for aging animals.

Veterinary
services.

3. (1) A veterinarian shall operate in a manner which at all times maintain confidence in the international veterinary certificate and offers veterinary services based on ethical, organizational, legislative, regulatory and technical principles.

(2) The principles of the OIE Terrestrial Code shall apply to ensure the protection of the professional integrity of veterinarians and for the evaluation of veterinary services.

Certifying
veterinarians.

4. For the purpose of these Regulations, a veterinarian shall -

(a) be authorized by the Authority to sign an international veterinary certificate;

(b) only certify matters within his knowledge at the time of signing the international veterinary certificate or a matter that is separately attested by another competent authority;

- (c) sign an international veterinary certificate only where that international veterinary certificate is fully and correctly completed;
- (d) verify or be in possession of any documentation, which supports the international veterinary certificate;
- (e) be independent from the person requesting the international veterinary certificate and shall have no conflict of interest in the commercial or exportation aspect of the cattle, fresh meat or product of cattle being certified for exportation.

5. (1) The Authority may on application by a person who intends to export cattle, fresh meat or products of cattle, issue an international veterinary certificate drawn up in accordance with the following principles-

International
veterinary
certificate.

- (a) design form so as to minimize the potential for fraud and may include the use of unique identification number;
- (b) bears the signature of the official veterinarian, or the accredited veterinarian and the official stamp of the Authority;
- (c) if the international veterinary certificate is multiple page, each page shall bear the unique identification number;
- (d) written, without losing its meaning, in simple, unambiguous and easy to understand language;
- (e) require the appropriate identification of cattle and of the products of cattle;
- (f) require veterinarian to certify only matters within his knowledge or matters which he can verify;

- (g) where appropriate, accompanied by notes of guidance indicating the extent of enquiries, and expected tests;
- (h) no amendment allowed except deletions which are signed and stamped by the official veterinarian or the accredited veterinarian, as the case may be;
- (i) signature and stamp is of a different colour than that of the print of the international veterinary certificate;
- (j) the stamp may be embossed.

(2) Subject to subregulation (3) and (4), the Authority may issue a certified copy of the international veterinary certificate where the original is lost, damaged, contain errors, or where the original is no longer correct.

(3) The Authority may, except where the international veterinary certificate is lost, issue a certified copy where the original international veterinary certificate is returned to the Authority.

(4) A certified copy of an international veterinary certificate shall,

- (a) be clearly marked to indicate that it is replacing the original certificate;
- (b) include the reference number and issue date of the original international veterinary certificate; and
- (c) cancel the original international veterinary certificate.

(5) The Authority shall only accept original international veterinary certificate.

(6) The Authority may issue or accept an electronic international veterinary certificate where the following conditions, where applicable, are met:

- (a) the electronic international veterinary certificate is sent directly from the authority in the exporting country;
- (b) the importing country accepts the electronic international veterinary certificate;
- (c) the Authority is equipped with a system which interface with the organization that is marketing the cattle, fresh meat or product of cattle and the organization that is supplying the information to the Authority;
- (d) the veterinarian has access to information including laboratory results and cattle identification data;
- (e) the Authority has in place a security system to prevent access by unauthorized persons to the electronic international veterinary certificate;
- (f) the veterinarian is responsible for the secure use of his electronic signature;
- (g) all other safeguards equivalent to the international veterinary certificate are in place.

6. (1) Where a person intends to import cattle, he shall present an international veterinary certificate under Regulations 5 and 7 prior to the importation of the cattle

Importation
of cattle, etc.

which shall certify that the importer has complied with the import requirements established by the Authority according to the BSE risk categories relating to that country, or any other requirements relating to the cattle to be imported.

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(2) The satisfaction of the requirements under these Regulations shall not prejudice the fulfilling of any other import requirements under the *Supplies Control Act* or under the Act.

Conditions
for the
importation
of cattle .

7. (1) An international veterinary certificate issued by the authority of the country, zone or region of origin shall, where applicable, certify the following -

- (a) that the country, zone or region of origin, is declared by the OIE as an area of negligible risk, at the time of importation;
- (b) where paragraph (a) is certified, but an indigenous case is recorded, the following shall also be certified -
 - (i) the country, zone or region shall have been declared as being of negligible BSE risk by the OIE;
 - (ii) the cattle is identified by a system of permanent identification which demonstrates that the cattle has not been exposed to BSE;
 - (iii) the cattle were born after the date on which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants is effectively enforced;

- (c) where the country, zone or region of origin is a country with a controlled BSE risk, the following shall be certified -
- (i) the country, zone or region of origin is recognized by the OIE as having a controlled BSE risk;
 - (ii) the cattle is identified by a system of permanent identification which demonstrates that the cattle has not been exposed to BSE;
 - (iii) that the cattle selected for export were born after the date on which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants was effectively enforced,
- (d) where the status of the country, zone or region of origin of the cattle is an undetermined BSE risk, the international veterinary certificate shall certify that -
- (i) the feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants has been banned and the ban has been effectively enforced;
 - (ii) the cattle is identified by a system of permanent identification which demonstrates that the cattle has not been exposed to BSE.
 - (iii) all BSE positive or suspected cases are completely destroyed including destruction of the following -

- (A) cattle which, during their first year of life, were reared with positive and suspected cases, and investigation showed consumed the same potentially contaminated feed during that period;
 - (B) if the results of an investigation is inconclusive, all cattle born in the same herd, and within 12 months of the birth of, the positive or suspected cases;
 - (iv) the cattle were born at least two years after the date from which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with the meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants was effectively enforced.
- (2) The Authority may, where cattle is to be imported from a country regardless of its BSE risk status, conduct a risk analysis and a site visit prior to the approval of importation.

Requirements
for
importation
of products of
cattle.

8. (1) The Authority may approve the importation of products from the cattle population of a country, zone or region if -

- (a) the import requirements established by the Authority according to the risk categories for BSE relating to that country, zone or region or any part of that country, zone or region or any other standards set by the OIE are met;
- (b) the Authority conducts a risk assessment in order to identify risk factors, and the country, zone or region has demonstrated that appropriate specific measures have been taken to manage each indentified risk.

(2) The requirements regarding imports referred to in subregulation (1) shall include a list of products for which no demand for specific conditions of import relating to the prevention or control of BSE can be made, independent of the risk category for BSE established in the country, zone or region of origin.

9. Notwithstanding regulation 8, the following products of cattle origin are not subject to special conditions of importation in relation to BSE, regardless of the sanitary status of the country, zone or region of origin -

Products of
cattle not
subject to
special
conditions.

- (a) milk and milk products;
- (b) cattle semen and embryos collected *in vivo*, the collection and treatment of which has been in line with the recommendations published by the International Embryo Transfer Society;
- (c) hides and skins;
- (d) gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins;
- (e) tallow (the insoluble impurities of which are not to exceed 0.15% of the total weight) and products derived from tallow;
- (f) dicalcium phosphate (without protein or fat residues);
- (g) de-boned skeletal muscle meat from cattle (except meat separated by mechanical processes) that, prior to slaughter, were not stunned by applying compressed air or gas into the cranium, nor by cutting out the spinal cord of the cattle, and which had been cleared for slaughter and during *ante mortem* and *post*

mortem inspections, and which cattle have been processed using methods that prevent contamination of tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column, according to the standards in place;

- (h) blood and blood products produced from cattle that, prior to slaughter, were not stunned by applying compressed air or gas into the cranium, nor by cutting out the spinal cord of the cattle;
- (i) other items on the list of products published in the OIE Terrestrial Code for which no special conditions of importation apply.

Restrictions
on the
importation
of fresh meat
and meat
products.

10. A person shall not import fresh meat or meat products of cattle unless the following conditions are met -

- (a) the meat or meat products come from country, zone or region of insignificant BSE risk, and the importer shall present to the Authority, an international veterinary certificate issued by the authority in the country, zone or region of origin, which certifies -
 - (i) that the country, zone or region of origin, is classified as negligible BSE risk;
 - (ii) that the cattle from which the fresh meat or meat products were derived has passed *ante* and *post mortem* inspections;
 - (iii) that, where there have been indigenous cases in a country, zone or region with negligible BSE risk, the cattle from which the fresh meat and meat products were derived were born after the date on which the ban on the feeding of ruminants with

meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants had been effectively enforced.

(b) where the fresh meat or meat products come from a country, zone or region with controlled BSE risk, the Authority shall demand from the importer an international veterinary certificate issued by the authority in the country, zone or region of origin that certifies the following:

(i) that the country, zone or region of origin, is classified as controlled BSE risk;

(ii) that the cattle from which the fresh meat or meat products were derived passed *ante* and *post mortem* inspection;

(iii) that the cattle from which the fresh meat or meat products were derived were not subjected to a stunning process, using compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process;

(iv) that the fresh meat and meat products were prepared and processed by means that guarantee that the fresh meat and meat products do not contain or are not contaminated by

(a) tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column;

(b) mechanically separated meat from the skull and vertebral column from cattle over 30 months of age;

(c) where the fresh meat or meat products to be imported come from cattle of a country, zone or

region of origin, of undetermined BSE risk, the Authority may conduct a risk analysis and based on the findings, recommend approval or otherwise of the importation;

(d) where approval is given in accordance with paragraph (c), the Authority may demand from the importer, an international veterinary certificate issued by the authority in the country, zone or region of origin that certifies the following -

(i) that the cattle from which the fresh meat or meat products are derived

(a) were not fed with meat and bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants;

(b) has passed *ante* and *post mortem* inspections;

(c) that the cattle from which the fresh meat or meat products were derived were not subjected to a stunning processes, prior to slaughter, using compressed air or gas into the crainial cavity, or to a pithing process

(ii) that the fresh meat and meat products were prepared and processed by means that guarantee that the fresh meat and meat products do not contain or are not contaminated by

(a) tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column;

- (b) nervous and lymphatic tissue exposed during the de-boning process;
- (c) mechanically separated meat from the cranium and vertebral column from cattle over 12 months of age.

11. A person shall not trade in meat and bone meal or greaves produced from ruminants born prior to the date when the ban on feeding ruminants with meat and bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants was enforced.

Importation
of meat, bone
meal and
greaves.

12. Where a person intends to import gelatin or collagen produced from cattle bones to be used for the production of food for human or animal consumption, or of cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, or biological products, or of medical products, the following conditions of importation shall apply -

Gelatin and
collagen
produced
from cattle
bones.

- (a) on arrival at the port of entry, the importer shall produce to the Authority, an international veterinary certificate that the country, zone or region of origin has an insignificant BSE risk status;
- (b) if the gelatin or collagen comes from cattle that originates from a country, zone or region where the risk status for BSE is controlled or undetermined, and
 - (i) the cattle had passed *ante* and *post mortem* inspections;
 - (ii) the vertebral column and skull have been excluded;
 - (iii) the bones have been subjected to a process which includes all of the following steps:

- (A) degreasing,
- (B) acid demineralization,
- (C) alkaline or acid treatment,
- (D) filtration,
- (E) sterilization at 138°C or more, for a minimum period of four seconds,

or to an equivalent or better process in terms of infectivity reduction such as high pressure heating.

Importation
of tallow that
does not
comply with
conditions.

13. (1) Notwithstanding regulation 9(e), an importer of tallow shall obtain an international veterinary certificate issued by the competent veterinary authority in the country, zone or region of origin, which certify that the tallow -

- (a) comes from a country, zone or region with a negligible BSE risk status; or
- (b) originates from a country, zone or region posing a controlled BSE risk, and is derived from cattle which have passed *ante* and *post mortem* inspections, and has not been prepared using tonsils, distal ileum, brains, eyes, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column.

(2) The products derived from tallow that are not exempted under regulation 9(e) which are to be used for the preparation of food for human or animal consumption, for fertilizer, cosmetic products, pharmaceutical and biological products, or for medical products, shall be accompanied by an international veterinary certificate which certifies that the products -

- (a) come from a country, zone or region with a negligible BSE risk status, according to the OIE;

spinal cord, skull and vertebral column from ruminants; and

- (e) other information determined by the Authority, for the purpose of ensuring the traceability and control of animals and animal products, animal feeds and medicinal products used by veterinarians.

Importer to
maintain
register.

16. Every person who imports cattle shall maintain a register containing the record of dispatch to slaughter, the destination of parts of the cattle and any other information required by the Authority.

Export.

17. (1) The Authority may issue an international veterinary certificate for the export of cattle, attesting that:

- (a) cattle selected for export are not a suspected case of BSE as defined by the Epidemiological Surveillance, Prevention and Control Program;
- (b) cattle have been identified with a permanent system of identification established for these purposes.

Offence and
penalty.

18. A person who contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years.

MADE this 18th day of April, 2012.


(GASPAR VEGA)
Minister of Agriculture