Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

# Circular letter concerning the additional conditions of trade in bovine animals to and from Member States or regions having the Article 9 or Article 10 status as regards IBR.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Reference | PCCB/S2/LVH/1258456 | Date | 26/02/2015 |
| Current version | 1.0 | Applicable as of | **Publication date** |
| Keywords | IBR, Article 9 status, Article 10 status, additional conditions | | |

| Drawn up by | Approved by |
|---|---|
| Luc Vanholme, attaché | Pierre Naassens, Director-General a.i. |

## 1. Objective

The additional conditions of trade in bovine animals to and from Member States or regions having the Article 9 or Article 10 status as regards infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) or that are not IBR-free are described in this circular letter.

## 2. Scope

Member States or regions having the **Article 10 status** are officially IBR-free, as recognised by the EU.
Member States or regions having the **Article 9 status** have an official IBR control programme approved by the EU.

2.1. List of Member States or regions having the **Article 10 status**.

| *Member States* | *Regions of the Member States to which the additional guarantees for IBR apply in accordance with Article 10 of Directive 64/432/EEC* |
|---|---|
| Denmark | All regions |
| Germany | The Federal States of Bavaria, Thuringia, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania |
| Italy | The autonomous province of Bolzano |
| Austria | All regions |
| Finland | All regions |
| Sweden | All regions |

2.2. List of Member States or regions having the **Article 9 status**

| *Member States* | *Regions of the Member States to which the additional guarantees for IBR apply in accordance with Article 9 of Directive 64/432/EEC* |
|---|---|
| Belgium | All regions |

| | |
|---|---|
| Czech Republic | All regions |
| Germany | All regions, except the Federal States of Bavaria, Thuringia, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg, Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania |
| Italy | The region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia<br>The region of Valle d'Aosta<br>The autonomous province of Trento |

2.3. List of Member States without Article 9 or Article 10 status.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | Cyprus | Estonia | France |
| Greece | Hungary | Ireland | Italy |
| Croatia | Latvia | Lithuania | Luxemburg |
| Malta | The Netherlands | Poland | Portugal |
| Romania | Slovenia | Slovakia | Spain |
| United Kingdom | | | |

## 3. References

### 3.1. Legislation

- Council Directive 64/432/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine;
- Commission Decision 2004/558/EC as regards additional guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and the approval of the eradication programmes presented by certain Member States;
- Commission Implementing Decision 2014/703/EC amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC;
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/250/EC amending Annexes I and II to Decision 2004/558/EC;
- RD of 30/04/1999 : Royal Decree concerning animal health rules for intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine;
- RD of 22/11/2006 : Royal Decree concerning the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

### 3.2. Miscellaneous

Not applicable.

## 4. Definitions and abbreviations

**Abbreviations:**

- IBR Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis
- BHV-1 bovine herpesvirus type 1 causing the animal disease IBR

**Definitions**:

- Bovine animals for slaughter : bovine animals intended to be taken to a slaughterhouse, or to a recognized assembly centre, from where they may be transported exclusively to a slaughterhouse;
- Bovine animals for breeding or production : bovine animals intended for breeding, milking and meat production;

- Trade : intra-Community trade between the Member States of the European Union.

**Vaccination:**

- gE-deleted, gE-negative or marker vaccine : IBR vaccine inducing no serological reaction to the glycoprotein E.;

- Vaccinations and revaccinations with gE-negative vaccines are carried out in accordance with the conditions of the producer of the vaccines and in case of implementation in Belgium in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Royal Decree of 22 November 2006 concerning the control of IBR.

**Serological investigation:**

- In the case of vaccinated bovine animals, antibodies against the gE-glycoprotein of the BHV1 are examined using a gE-ELISA;
- In the case of unvaccinated bovine animals, antibodies against the entire BHV1 are examined using a gB-ELISA or an equivalent test.

**IBR statuses in Belgium:**

- A cattle herd with I4 status or 'officially IBR-free' : a herd in which vaccination against IBR is prohibited and of which the serological IBR status is known and of which no bovine animal shows positive reactions using a gB-ELISA test;

- A cattle herd with I3 status or IBR-free : a herd of which the state of vaccination and the serological IBR status are known and of which no bovine animal shows a positive reaction using a gE-ELISA test;

- A cattle herd with I2 status or herds with mandatory vaccination : a herd of which the state of IBR vaccination is known and vaccination of the bovine animals has been carried out according to a primary vaccination and re-vaccination protocol;

- A cattle herd with I2d status : an I2 herd with a derogation where in case of a serological balance, the percentage of seropositive animals as regards glycoprotein E is no more than 10% and of which the animals are regularly vaccinated and shall be removed from the herd in a certain period. This is a possible transition status in order to obtain the I3 or I4 statuses;

- Cattle herd with I1 status : a herd which does not meet the requirements to obtain or to maintain an I4, I3 or I2 status.

The IBR statuses of cattle herds in Belgium can be obtained via the following websites :

- DGZ (Dierengezondheidszorg) Vlaanderen: list of Flemish herds with I2, I2d, I3 and I4 IBR statuses > http://www.dgz.be/ziekte/ibr ;
- ARSIA (Association Régionale de Santé et d'Identification Animales) : list of the herds in Wallonia with I2, I2d, I3 and I4 IBR statuses > http://www.arsia.be/?page_id=6381 .

**Equivalence of the Belgian I4 and I3 statuses with the IBR-free status as mentioned in the Decision 2004/558/EC.**

Herds with the I3 and I4 statuses from the Belgian control programme are considered to be equivalent to the herds with an IBR-free status as mentioned in Annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC.

## 5. Intra-Community trade in bovine animals as regards IBR.

Summary table

| **5.1. Trade to Belgium** | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Member state/region of origin* | *Member state of destination* | |
| Officially IBR-free or Article 10 status, see list 2.1 | Belgium | see 5.1.1. |
| Approved programme or Article 9 status, see list 2.2 | Belgium | see 5.1.2. |
| Not officially IBR-free and no approved programme, see list 2.3 | Belgium | see 5.1.3. |
| **5.2. Trade from Belgium** | | |
| *Member state of origin* | *Member state/region of destination* | |
| Belgium | Officially IBR-free or Article 10 status, see list 2.1 | see 5.2.1. |
| Belgium | Approved programme or Article 9 status, see list 2.2 | see 5.2.2. |
| Belgium | Not officially IBR-free and no approved programme, see list 2.3 | see 5.2.3. |

## 5.1. Intra-Community trade to Belgium

Trade in breeding and production bovine animals to Belgium is allowed :

- by direct transport and introduction in the herd of destination;
- via a recognized assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premise;
- via a specific assembly (e.g. auction).

Attention: by passing through an assembly centre a bovine animal may lose its higher IBR status. More precisely, as part of an assembly all animals present receive the status of the bovine animal with the lowest status. In Belgium this is at least I2 status.

On the health certificate the additional guarantees for IBR are mentioned in a reference. If this is not the case, it has to be notified to the Provincial Control Unit of the FASFC.

### 5.1.1. Dispatch from member states/ regions with an article 10 status (officially IBR-free) to Belgium.

5.1.1.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production: these animals must originate from a herd in which no clinical or pathological evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis has been recorded for the past 12 months (decision[1] art. 4).

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

[1] Reference to Decision 2004/558/EC implementing Council Directive 64/432/EEC as regards additional guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals relating to infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and the approval of the eradication programmes presented by certain Member States.

5.1.1.2. Bovine animals for slaughter: no additional conditions apply.

Bovine animals for slaughter shall be transported directly or via an approved assembly centre to the Belgian slaughterhouse in order to be slaughtered there (decision art. 2(3).

## 5.1.2. Dispatching from member states/regions with an article 9 status (approved programme) to Belgium.

5.1.2.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production

5.1.2.1.1. Animals that come from an IBR-free herd of origin.

No additional conditions for animals that come from a herd of origin that is considered IBR-free in accordance with the requirements set down in annex III of Decision 2004/558/EC (decision art. 2(2), paragraph a). The requirements from annex III are mentioned in annex 1 to this office circular.

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

5.1.2.1.2. The three basic requirements that have to be met when the herd of origin is not IBR-free in accordance with annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC are the following:

a. No symptoms of IBR: the animals must originate from a herd in which no clinical or pathological evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis has been recorded for the past 12 months (decision art. 2(1), paragraph a);
b. Isolation for 30 days: the animals have been isolated in a facility approved by the competent authority for 30 days immediately prior to movement. (decision art 2(1), paragraph b) ;
c. Serological investigation of IBR (decision art.2(1) paragraph c):
   - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than after 21 days of isolation;
   - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
   - In the case of vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
   - In the case of unvaccinated bovine animals, the gB-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
   - Serological tests have to be carried out in an approved laboratory;
   - All bovine animals in isolation should have a negative result.

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

5.1.2.1.3. Derogations from the aforementioned conditions for breeding and production bovine animals granted by the competent authorities of the member state of origin for the dispatch to other member states are the following:

a. Bovine animals intended for **meat production** that comply with the following two conditions:
   i. One of the following three conditions has to be met (decision art 2 (2), paragraph b- i and ii):

      Condition 1: animals younger than 10 months that descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams;

      Condition 2: animals that have been regularly vaccinated and re-vaccinated according to the instructions of the manufacturer with a gE-deleted vaccine;

      Condition 3: animals that have been subjected in the Member State of origin with negative result to a gE-ELISA for vaccinated animals or a gB-ELISA for

unvaccinated animals carried out on a sample of blood taken within 14 days of dispatch, and

ii. are transported, either directly or via a recognized assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premise, without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status, to a Belgian herd with I2 status or to an authorized veal calf unit.
Thus, prior to certification, the exporter has to be able to provide a document which confirms that the place of destination in Belgium is a herd with an I2 status or an authorized veal calf unit.

The introduction conditions mentioned in the Royal Decree of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination: in I2 herds the vaccination protocol has to be followed for animals that are older than 10 months. No additional measures apply to authorized veal calf units.

b. Bovine animals for breeding and production that meet the following 3 conditions: (decision art. 2(2), paragraph c) :
   i. All bovine animals from the holding of origin older than 15 months have been vaccinated and are regularly re-vaccinated;
   ii. All animals from the holding of origin older than nine months have been subjected with a negative serological result to the gE-ELISA. The test has to be repeated at intervals of not more than 12 months;
   iii. The animals have been subjected with negative serological result to a gE-ELISA on blood samples taken within 14 days prior to dispatch;

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

5.1.2.2. Bovine animals for slaughter (decision art 2(3) )

No additional conditions apply to bovine animals regarding IBR insofar as they are transported either directly or via a recognized assembly centre to a Belgian slaughterhouse.

### 5.1.3. Dispatch from Member States or regions that DO NOT have the Article 9 or Article 10 status to Belgium.

5.1.3.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production

5.1.3.1.1. The three basic requirements the herd of origin has to meet are:

a. No symptoms of IBR: according to official information, no clinical or pathological evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis has been recorded for the past 12 months; (decision art. 2(1), paragraph a) ;
b. Isolation for a period of 30 days: the animals must have been isolated in an isolation facility approved by the competent authority for 30 days immediately prior to movement (decision art 2.(1), paragraph b);
c. Serological investigation of IBR (decision art. 2. (1), paragraph c)
   - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than after 21 days of isolation;
   - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
   - In the case of vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
   - In the case of unvaccinated bovine animals, the gB-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
   - The serological tests have to be carried out in an approved laboratory;
   - All bovine animals in isolation should have a negative result.

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

5.1.3.1.2. The competent authority of the Member State of origin may authorize the dispatch to herds situated in Belgium of bovine animals complying with at least one of the following alternative conditions:

a. the animals are intended for **meat production** and comply with the following conditions (decision art. 2(2), paragraph b):
   i. One of the following 4 conditions need to be met: the animals(decision art 2(2), paragraph b, i and ii
      Condition 1 : originate from IBR-free holdings as defined in Annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC;
      Condition 2: are younger than 10 months and descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams
      Condition 3: have been regularly vaccinated and re-vaccinated according to the instructions of the manufacturer with a gE-deleted vaccine;
      Condition 4 : have been subjected in the Member State of origin with negative result to a gE-ELISA for vaccinated animals or a gB-ELISA for unvaccinated animals carried out on a sample of blood taken within 14 days of dispatch, and
   ii. are transported, either directly or via a recognized assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premise , without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status to a Belgian herd with I2 status or to an approved veal calf unit.
      Thus, prior to certification, the exporter has to be able to provide a document which confirms that the place of destination in Belgium is a herd with an I2 status or an authorized veal calf unit.

   The introduction conditions mentioned in the Royal Decree on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination: in I2 herds the vaccination protocol has to be followed for animals older than 10 months. No additional measures apply to an approved veal calf unit.

b. Bovine animals for breeding and production that comply with the following three conditions(decision art 2(2), paragraph c):
   i. All bovine animals from the holding of origin older than 15 months have been vaccinated and are regularly re-vaccinated;
   ii. All animals on the holding older than nine months have been subjected with a negative serological result to a gE-ELISA. The test has to be repeated at intervals of not more than 12 months;
   iii. The animals have been subjected with negative serological result to a gE-ELISA on blood samples taken within 14 days prior to dispatch;

   The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

c. Bovine animals for breeding and production complying with the following conditions (decision art 2 (2), paragraph d):
the animals originate from IBR-free holdings as defined in Annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC which are situated in a Member State in which infectious bovine rhinotracheitis is a compulsorily notifiable disease and in which within an area of 5 km radius around the holdings there was no clinical or pathological evidence of IBR-infection during the past 30 days and the animals have been tested with negative results using a gE-ELISA for the vaccinated animals and a gB-ELISA for unvaccinated animals on a sample of blood taken within 14 days prior to dispatch.

The introduction conditions mentioned in the RD on IBR of 22 November 2006 apply to the Belgian herd of destination.

5.1.3.2. Bovine animals for slaughter (decision art 2(3)

No additional conditions apply to bovine animals regarding IBR insofar as they are transported either directly or via a recognized assembly centre to a Belgian slaughterhouse.

## 5.2. Intra-Community trade from Belgium

The trade in breeding and production bovine animals from Belgium is allowed :

- either directly from the herd or from an approved isolation facility,
- via a recognized assembly centre
- via a specific assembly (e.g. auction).

Attention: by passing through an assembly centre a bovine animal may lose its higher IBR status. More precisely, as part of an assembly all animals present receive the status of the bovine animal with the lowest status. In Belgium this is at least I2 status.

### 5.2.1. Dispatch from Belgium to countries/regions with an article 10 status (officially IBR-free)

5.2.1.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production

5.2.1.1.1. The four basic conditions the Belgian herd of origin has to meet are:

a. No symptoms of IBR: no clinical or pathological signs of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (or suspicion thereof) have been recorded for the past 12 months;(decision art. 3(1), paragraph a);
b. Isolation for a period of 30 days: the animals have been isolated in a facility approved by the competent authority for 30 days immediately prior to movement. (decision art 3(1), paragraph a) ;

**Conditions for approval of an isolation facility in Belgium**

The isolation facility has to meet 6 conditions:

- It has to be a separate stable, not necessarily a separate herd, preventing direct or indirect contact with bovine animals from outside of the isolation facility.
- The isolation facility must not be a dealer's premise.
- There has to be a changing room where separate work overalls, a disinfecting foot bath and hand-washing facilities with soap are available.
- One caretaker has to be in charge;
- The caretaker in charge has to provide a written declaration in which he declares to comply with all conditions;

- The PCU has to approve the isolation facility in advance.

**Isolation conditions**

- The duration of the isolation is 30 days, starting on the day the last animal was introduced;
- During this period, the introduction of new animals is prohibited.
- An "in-and-out" register has to be kept;
- During their stay in the isolation facility, all bovine animals must have remained free of clinical signs of IBR.

c. **Only unvaccinated animals qualify** (animals from I4 herds and unvaccinated animals from I3 herds) (decision art. 3(1), paragraph c);
d. Serological investigation of IBR (decision art 3(1), paragraph b):
   - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than after 21 days of isolation;
   - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
   - The gB-ELISA has to produce a negative result for these unvaccinated bovine animals.
   - The serological tests have to be conducted in a recognized laboratory. Recognized Belgian laboratories are:
     - the national reference laboratory CODA, Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Brussels,
     - The laboratories of DGZ or ARSIA;
   - All bovine animals in isolation should have a negative result.

The trade takes place directly from the isolation facility to the officially IBR-free herd of destination.

5.2.1.1.2. Derogations from the aforementioned conditions are permitted after approval by the competent authority in the member state of destination: bovine animals intended for **meat production** may be introduced in an IBR-free herd of an officially IBR-free member state or region provided that they meet the following four conditions:

a) The **animals must not have been vaccinated** and must originate in and have remained since birth on IBR-free holdings (animals from I4 herds and unvaccinated animals form I3 herds)) (decision art 3(4), paragraph a);
b) The animals are transported without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status (I1, I2 and I2d herds in Belgium) (decision art 3(4), paragraph b);
c) For at least 30 days immediately prior to dispatch, or since birth where the animals are less than 30 days old, the animals have remained on the holding of origin, or in an isolation facility approved by the PCU.
   Within an area of 5 km radius around the holding or isolation facility no suspicion of IBR-infection has been notified during the past 30 days;(decision art 3(4), paragraph c);
d) the animals have been subjected with negative result to a gB-ELISA on a blood sample taken within 7 days prior to dispatch from the holding or the isolation facility (decision art 3 (4), paragraph d)

The trade takes place to the officially IBR-free herd in the member state of destination in accordance with the conditions of the competent authority of this member state. Prior to export, the exporter requests information on the introduction conditions in an IBR-free herd from the competent authority in the member state of destination.

5.2.1.1. Bovine animals for slaughter.

No additional conditions apply to bovine animals for slaughter insofar as they are transported directly to the slaughterhouse of destination to be slaughtered there. (decision art 3(2)

## 5.2.2. Dispatch from Belgium to other member states/regions with an article 9 status (approved programme)

5.2.2.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production

5.2.2.1.1. Bovine animals for breeding and production from IBR-free herds with an I4 or an I3 status (decision art.2 (2), paragraph a).

No additional conditions apply to animals from IBR-free herds with an I4 or I3 status.

5.2.2.1.2. The three basic conditions for bovine animals for breeding and production originating in herds with and I2 or I2d status are the following:

a. No symptoms of IBR: no clinical or pathological evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (or suspicion thereof) has been recorded for the past 12 months;(decision art 2(1), paragraph a).

b. Isolation for a duration of 30 days: the animals have been isolated in a facility approved by the PCU for 30 days immediately prior to movement (decision art 2 (1), point b).

Conditions for approval of an isolation facility in Belgium.

The isolation facility has to meet 6 conditions:

- It has to be a separate stable, not necessarily a separate herd, preventing direct or indirect contact with bovine animals from outside of the isolation facility.
- The isolation facility must not be a dealer's premises.
- There has to be a changing room where separate work overalls, a disinfecting foot bath and hand-washing facilities with soap are available;
- One caretaker has to be in charge;
- The caretaker in charge has to provide a written declaration in which he declares to comply with all conditions;
- The PCU has to approve the isolation facility in advance.

Conditions for isolation:

- The duration of the isolation is 30 days, starting on the day the last animal was introduced.
- During this period, the introduction of new animals is prohibited.
- An "in-and-out" register has to be kept;
- During their stay in the isolation facility, all bovine animals must have remained free of clinical signs of IBR.

c. Serological investigation of IBR (decision art. 2. (1), paragraph c)

- The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than after 21 days of isolation;
- All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
- In the case of vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
- In the case of unvaccinated bovine animals, the gB-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
- The serological tests have to be conducted in a recognized laboratory. Recognized Belgian laboratories are:
  - the national reference laboratory CODA, Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Brussels,
  - The laboratories of DGZ or ARSIA;
- All bovine animals in isolation should have a negative result.

The trade takes place directly from the isolation facility to the officially IBR-free herd of destination.

5.2.2.1.3. Bovine animals intended for **meat production** that comply with the following two conditions:

i. One of the following 3 conditions has to be met: (decision art. 2 (2), paragraph b, i and ii)

Condition 1: animals younger than 10 months that descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams: e.g. the calves of I2 herds in Belgium;

Condition 2: animals that have been vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated with a gE-deleted vaccine: e.g. cull cows, young bulls from I2 herds;

Condition 3: animals that have been subjected with negative result to a gE-ELISA for vaccinated animals or a gB-ELISA for unvaccinated animals carried out on a sample of blood taken within 14 days of dispatch, and

ii. are transported, either directly or via a recognized assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premise, without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status, to a herd with an unknown IBR-status in the member state of destination. In these herds the animals are fattened in stables from which all animals are exclusively transported to the slaughterhouse.

Thus, prior to certification the exporter has to be able to provide a document (possibly an electronic document) which confirms that the place of destination is a non IBR-free herd for fattening.

5.2.2.2. Bovine animals for slaughter (decision art 2(3)

No additional conditions apply to bovine animals regarding IBR insofar as they are transported either directly or via a recognized assembly centre to a slaughterhouse abroad.

### 5.2.3. Dispatch from Belgium to member states/regions without an article 9 or article 10 status

5.2.3.1. Bovine animals for slaughter and production: no additional conditions apply

5.2.3.2. Bovine animals for slaughter: no additional conditions apply

## 6. Annexes

Annex 1: Conditions for an IBR-free status of a herd in accordance with annex III to decision 2004/558/EC

## 7. Overview of the revisions

| Overview of the revisions of the circular | | |
|---|---|---|
| Version | Applicable as of | Reason for and scope of the revision |
| 1.0 | **Publication date** | EU recognition IBR, Belgium's article 9 status |
| | | |

ANNEX 1 : **The conditions for an IBR-free status of a herd in accordance with annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC are:**

I. A herd shall be considered officially free of IBR infection if it complies with the following conditions:
   1. No suspicion of IBR has been recorded for the herd during the past six months and all bovine animals on the holding are free from clinical symptoms indicative of IBR infection;
   2. No contact with animals with a lower IBR status was possible;
   3. Only bovine animals from IBR-free herds or herds situated in Member States or regions that are officially IBR-free;
   4. Female bovine animals are only inseminated with IBR-free bovine semen or have been serviced by bulls from IBR-free herds;
   5. The following serological blood test has been carried out: a serological investigation for antibodies against IBR has been carried out with negative results in each case on at least two samples of blood, taken with an interval of five to seven months from all female and male bovine animals used or intended for breeding purposes and which are older than nine months.

II. To maintain an IBR-free herd:
   1. The herd has to continue to meet the conditions stated in points 1 to 4 in order to obtain an IBR-free status;
   2. Within a period of twelve months, a serological blood test for the detection of antibodies against IBR has to be carried out with negative results in each case on at least one individual blood sample taken from all bovine animals older than 24 months (or a surveillance programme offering equivalent health guarantees has to be carried out ; e.g. by means of a combination of tests on milk and blood).

III. The IBR-free status of a herd is suspended if an animal, during the investigations to acquire or retain the IBR-free status, reacted positively to a test for the detection of antibodies against IBR.

IV. The IBR-free status shall be restored after a serological investigation for antibodies against IBR, commencing not earlier than 30 days after the removal of the seropositive animals, has been carried out with negative result in each case on at least: two samples of blood, taken with an interval of at least three months from all female bovine animals, and from all male bovine animals.