



Circular letter concerning additional -guarantees for intra-Community trade in bovine animals to and from Member States or regions with the Article 9 or Article 10 status as regards IBR.

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1. Objective

This circular letter sets out the additional guarantees for the intra-Community trade in bovine animals to and from Member States or regions with the Article 9 or Article 10 status as regards infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) or which are not free from IBR.

2. Scope

Member States or regions with the **Article 10** status that have the official EU-approved IBR-free status (see the list in annex 1.a).

Member States or regions with the **Article 9** status that have an official EU-approved IBR control programmed (see the list in annex 1.b.).

3. References

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;
- RD of 30/04/1999 : Royal Decree concerning animal health rules for intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine;
- RD of 25/11/2016 : Royal Decree concerning the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis
- RD of 22/05/2014 concerning veterinary checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products.

2. Miscellaneous

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4. Definitions et 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 solely to be taken to a slaughterhouse, or to an approved assembly centre, from where they may only be transported 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 manufacturer of the vaccine. Moreover, in Belgium these vaccinations are carried out in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Royal Decree of 22 November 2016 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' status : a herd in which vaccination against IBR is prohibited, for which the serological IBR status is known and in which no bovine animal shows positive reactions to a gB-ELISA test;
- A cattle herd with I3 status or IBR-free status : a herd for which the state of vaccination and the serological IBR status are known and in which no bovine animal shows a positive reaction to a gE-ELISA test;
- A cattle herd with I2 status or herds with mandatory vaccination : a herd for 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 herd analysis, the percentage of seropositive animals as regards glycoprotein E is no more than

10% and in which the animals are regularly vaccinated and shall be removed from the herd within a certain period. This is a possible transition status in order to obtain the I3 or I4 status;

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

The IBR status of cattle herds in Belgium can be obtained via ARSIA and DGZ:

- DGZ (Dierengezondheidszorg Vlaanderen) list of Flemish herds with I2, I2d, I3 and I4 IBR status > <https://www.dgz.be/programma/ibr-bestrijding> ;
- ARSIA (Association Régionale de Santé et d'Identification Animales) contact the organization via email (admin.sante@arsia.be) indicating the Sanitel registration number of the herd concerned and the subject of your request.

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

Herds with the I3 and I4 status 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		
<i>Member state/region of origin</i>	<i>Member of state of destination</i>	
Officially IBR-free or Article 10 status, see list in annex 1.a.	Belgium	See 5.1.1.
Approved programme or Article 9 status, see list in annex 1.b.	Belgium	See 5.1.2.
Not officially IBR-free and no approved, see list in annex 1.c.	Belgium	See 5.1.3.
5.2. Trade from Belgium		
<i>Member state of origin</i>	<i>Member state/region of destination</i>	
Belgium	Officially IBR-free or Article 10 status, see list in annex 1.a.	see 5.2.1.
Belgium	Approved programme or Article 9 status, see list in annex 1.b.	see 5.2.2.
Belgium	Not officially IBR-free and no approved programme, see list in annex 1.c.	see 5.2.3.

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

5.1. Intra-Community trade to Belgium

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

- via direct introduction into the herd of destination;
- via an approved assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premises;
- via a specific assembly (e.g. an auction).

The Belgian herd of destination shall be subject to the conditions for introduction laid down in the Royal Decree of 25 November 2016.

On the health certificate the additional guarantees for IBR have to be mentioned in a reference. If this is not the case, the consignee of the bovine animal must report this to the Local Control Unit of the FASFC.

5.1.1. Dispatch from member states/regions with the 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.

5.1.1.2. Bovine animals for slaughter: no additional conditions apply.
Bovine animals for slaughter have to be transported directly or via an approved assembly centre to the Belgian slaughterhouse in order to be slaughtered there

5.1.2. Dispatch from member states/regions with the 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 apply to bovine animals that come from an IBR-free herd of origin. The conditions for maintaining the IBR-free status in the context of intra-Community trade are listed in annex 2 to this circular letter.

5.1.2.1.2. The 3 basic conditions that have to be met when the herd of origin is not free from IBR 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
- 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 dispatch.;
- c. Serological test for IBR:
 - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than 21 days after arrival at the isolation facility.
 - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested
 - For vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
 - For 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 have to test negative.

5.1.2.1.3. Derogations from the above conditions applying to bovine animals for breeding and production granted by the Member State of origin for the dispatch to Belgian herds are the following:

- a. Bovine animals intended for **meat production** that comply with the following two requirements:
 - i. One of the following three conditions has to be met
Condition 1: animals younger than 10 months that descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams;
Condition 2: animals that have been vaccinated and regularly 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 a 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 prior to dispatch
 - ii. The bovine animals have to be transported, either directly or via an approved assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premises, without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status, to a Belgian herd with I2 status or to an approved veal calf farm. 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 I2 status or an authorized veal calf farm.

- b. **Bovine animals for breeding and production** that meet the following 3 conditions :
 - i. All bovine animals from the holding of origin older than 15 months have been vaccinated and are regularly re-vaccinated;
 - ii. All bovine animals older than 9 months have been subjected with negative 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 result to a gE-ELISA on blood samples taken within 14 days prior to dispatch.

5.1.2.2. **Bovine animals for slaughter** : No additional conditions apply. The bovine animals have to be transported either directly or after passing through an approved assembly centre to the slaughterhouse of destination to be slaughtered there as soon as possible, but at least within 72 hours of arrival.

5.1.3. Dispatch from Member States/regions WITHOUT 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 conditions 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 in the holding for the past 12 months;
- 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 dispatch ;
- c. Serological test for IBR
 - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than 21 days after arrival at the isolation facility;
 - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
 - For vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;

- For 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 have to test negative.

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

a. The bovine animals are intended for meat production and comply with the following two requirements:

- i. One of the following 4 conditions have to be met:
 - Condition 1 : the animals originate from IBR-free holdings as defined in Annex III to Decision 2004/558/EC;
 - Condition 2: the animals are younger than 10 months and descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams;
 - Condition 3: the animals have been vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated according to the instructions of the manufacturer with a gE-deleted vaccine;
 - Condition 4: the animals 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 prior to dispatch, and
- ii. The bovine animals are transported, either directly or via an approved assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premises, without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status, to a Belgian herd with I2 status or to an approved veal calf farm. At the time of certification, the exporter has to be able to provide a document which confirms that the place of destination in Belgium is a herd with I2 status or an approved veal calf farm.

b. Bovine animals for breeding and production complying with the following three conditions:

- i. All bovine animals from the holding of origin older than 15 months have been vaccinated and are regularly re-vaccinated;
- ii. All animals older than 9 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 result to a gE-ELISA on samples of blood taken within 14 days prior to dispatch;

c. Bovine animals for breeding and production complying with the following conditions:

The animals originate from IBR-free herds 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 BHV1-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

5.1.3.2. Bovine animals for slaughter : No additional guarantees apply.

The bovine animals have to be transported either directly or via an approved assembly centre to the slaughterhouse of destination to be slaughtered there at least within 72 hours of arrival.

5.2. Intra-Community trade from Belgium

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

- either directly from the herd or from an FASFC-approved isolation facility (see annex 3),
- via an approved assembly centre

- via a specific assembly (e.g. an auction).

5.2.1. Dispatch from Belgium to Member States/regions with the 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 evidence of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (or suspicion thereof) has been recorded in the holding for the past 12 months;
- b. Isolation for a period of 30 days: the animals have been isolated in a facility approved by the Local Control Unit for 30 days immediately prior to dispatch.;
- c. **Only unvaccinated animals qualify** (animals from I4 herds and unvaccinated animals from I3 herds)
- d. Serological test for IBR :
 - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than 21 days after arrival at the isolation facility.
 - 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 carried out in an approved laboratory.
Approved Belgian laboratories are:
 - o the national reference laboratory of Sciensano, Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Brussels,
 - o the laboratories of DGZ, ARSIA and Lavetan;
 - All bovine animals in isolation have to test negative.

The animals are transported directly from the isolation facility to the officially IBR-free herd of destination.

5.2.1.1.2. Derogations from the above conditions are permitted after approval by the competent authority of the Member State of destination: bovine animals intended for **meat production** may be introduced into a BHV1-free holding in an officially IBR-free Member State or region, provided that they meet the following four conditions:

- a) The animals must not have been vaccinated against IBR and must originate in and have remained since birth on IBR-free holdings (animals from I4 holdings and unvaccinated animals from I3 holdings);
- b) The animals are transported without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status (I1, I2 and I2d herds in Belgium);
- 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 LCU. In the Member State of destination infectious bovine rhinotracheitis is a compulsorily notifiable disease and within an area of 5 km radius around the holding no clinical or pathological evidence of IBR infection has been recorded for the past 30 days;
- 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.

The animals are transported 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 from the competent authority in the Member State of destination regarding the conditions for the introduction of bovine animals into an IBR-free herd.

5.2.1.2. Bovine animals for slaughter : No additional conditions apply. The bovine animals for slaughter have to be transported directly to the slaughterhouse of destination to be slaughtered there at least within 72 hours of arrival.

5.2.2. Dispatch from Belgium to Member States/regions with the 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: 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 imposed on the herd of origin and herds with an I2d or I2 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;
- b. Isolation for a period of 30 days: the animals have been isolated in a facility approved by the competent authority (LCU) for 30 days immediately prior to dispatch;;
- c. Serological test for IBR)
 - The blood sample has to be taken not earlier than 21 days after arrival at the isolation facility.
 - All bovine animals in the isolation facility have to be tested;
 - For vaccinated bovine animals the gE-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
 - For unvaccinated bovine animals, the gB-ELISA has to produce a negative result;
 - The serological tests have to be carried out in an approved laboratory.
The approved laboratories are:
 - o the national reference laboratory of Sciensano, Groeselenberg 99, 1180 Brussels,
 - o The laboratories of DGZ, ARSIA and Lavetan;
 - All bovine animals in isolation have to be tested negative.
 - The animals are transported 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 requirements:

- i. One of the following 3 conditions has to be met:
 - Condition 1: animals younger than 10 months that descend from vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated dams (e.g. calves of I2 herds in Belgium);
 - Condition 2: animals that have been vaccinated and regularly re-vaccinated according to the instructions of the manufacturer 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 serological test for antibodies (gE-ELISA for vaccinated animals or a gB-ELISA for unvaccinated animals) carried out on a sample of blood taken within the last 14 days prior to dispatch, and
- ii. The bovine animals are transported, either directly or via an approved assembly centre or an authorized dealer's premises, without coming into contact with animals of lesser health status, to a holding with an unknown IBR status (not free from IBR) in the Member State of destination. In these holdings the animals are fattened in stables from which all animals may only be transported to the slaughterhouse.

Thus, at the time of certification, the exporter has 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 : No additional conditions apply. Bovine animals for slaughter have to be transported either directly or via an approved assembly centre to the slaughterhouse of destination to be slaughtered there at least within 72 hours of arrival.

5.2.3. Member States/regions without the article 9 or article 10 status

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

5.2.3.2. Bovine animals for slaughter: no additional guarantees apply.

6. Annexes

Annex 1: List of Member States or regions with the article 10 or article 9 status or without an IBR status

Annex 2: Conditions for the IBR-free status of a bovine herd in the context of intra-Community trade

Annex 3: isolation facility approved by the competent authority

7. Overview of the revisions

Overview of the revisions of the circular letter		
Version	Applicable as of	Reasons for and scope of the revision
1.0	26/02/2015	Granting by the EU of the article 9 status as regards IBR to Belgium.
2.0	<u>24/09/2020</u>	Granting by the EU of the article 9 or article 10 status as regard IBR to several regions or countries.
<u>2.1</u>	<u>Publication date</u>	<u>Granting by the EU of the article 9 or article 10 status as regard IBR to several regions or countries.</u>

ANNEX 1 : list of Member States or regions with the article 10 or article 9 status or without an IBR status

1.a. List of Member States or regions with the **article 10 status**.

<i>Member States</i>	<i>Regions of the Member States to which the additional conditions for IBR apply in accordance with article 10 of Directive 64/432/EEC</i>
Denmark	All regions
Germany	All regions
Italy	The Autonomous Province of Bolzano and the region of Valle d'Aosta
Austria	All regions
Finland	All regions
Sweden	All regions
(United Kingdom)	Jersey
Czech Republic	All regions

1.b. List of Member States or regions with the **article 9 status**

<i>Member States</i>	<i>Regions of the Member States to which the additional conditions for IBR apply in accordance with article 9 of Directive 64/432/EEC</i>
Belgium	All regions
Czech Republic	All regions
France	The Auvergne and Rhône-Alpes region The Bourgogne - Franche-Comté region The Brittany region The Centre-Val de Loire region The Grand Est region The Hauts-de-France region The Normandy region The Nouvelle-Aquitaine region The Occitanie region The Pays de la Loire region The Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region
Italy	The Friuli-Venezia Giulia region The Autonomous Province of Trento
Luxembourg	All regions

1.c. List of Member States **without** the article 9 or article 10 status

Bulgaria	Cyprus	Croatia	Spain
Estonia	Greece France	Hungary Greece	Ireland Hungary
Italy Ireland	Latvia Italy	Lithuania Latvia	Malta Lithuania
The Netherlands Luxembourg	Poland Malta	Portugal The Netherlands	Romania Poland
Slovakia Portugal	Slovenia Romania	United Kingdom, except Jersey	Slovakia
Slovenia			

ANNEX 2: conditions for the IBR-free status of a bovine herd in the context of intra-Community trade

I. Conditions for a holding to obtain the IBR-free status:

1. No suspicion of IBR infection has been recorded for the holding during the previous six months and all bovine animals on the holding are free from clinical symptoms indicative of IBR infection;
Contact with animals of a lesser IBR status is not possible;
2. Only bovine animals from IBR-free holdings are introduced into the herd;
3. Female bovine animals are only inseminated with IBR-free semen or are serviced by bulls from IBR-free holdings;
4. One of the following screening tests 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 older than 9 months used or intended for breeding purposes or for a surveillance programme that offers equivalent health guarantees, for example through a combination of milk and blood tests. .

II. Conditions to maintain an IBR-free status on a holding :

1. The holding has to continue to meet the conditions listed in points 1 to 4 in order to obtain an IBR-free status, and
2. Within 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 blood sample taken from all bovine animals older than 24 months on the holding, or a surveillance programme offering equivalent health guarantees has to be carried out, for example through a combination of milk and blood tests.

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

IV. The IBR-free status of a holding shall only 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.

ANNEX 3: isolation facility approved by the competent authority

Conditions for the approval of the isolation facility in Belgium:

- 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 individual work clothes, a disinfecting foot bath and hand-washing facilities with soap are available.
- One staff member has to be in charge of animal care;
- The animal caretaker in charge has to provide a written declaration in which he or she declares to comply with all of the above conditions;
- The LCU has to assess in advance whether the isolation facility meets the above conditions.

Isolation conditions

- The duration of the isolation period 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 from clinical signs of IBR.