

Advice 33-2010 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on a project of royal decree modifying the royal decree of 22th November 2006 regarding the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate a project of royal decree modifying the royal decree of 22th November 2006 regarding the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).

The Scientific Committee proposes to avoid to be too specific in mentioning the name of the tests for the detection of antigens or antibodies against the IBR virus proteins, to allow the use of other possibly more sensitive or specific tests in the future without having to modify the royal decree.

The Scientific Committee agrees with the proposition to simplify the modes of transmission of the individual data concerning the vaccinated animals from I2 qualified herds to the authorized associations in charge of the qualification of herds. The Committee insists on the recording of these data in a register on the farm, accessible, at any moment, to the authorized associations, for consultation, to the FASFC, for control purposes.

The Committee recommends to make up instructions for putting animals from I2 qualified herds on pasture.

The Committee does not agree with the proposition of derogation of the foreseen conditions in regard to reintroduction of cattle in an I3 or I4 qualified herd after the start of the compulsory phase of the control program. Indeed, situations will persist (for example, cancelling of commercial transactions due to redhibitory defects) which will result in the reintroduction in a free herd of one or more bovines having had contacts with cattle of a lower status. However, a facilitation of the compulsory measures related to reintroduction can be considered in the case of gatherings (competitions), provided that the participation to these gatherings is limited to cattle from I3 or I4 qualified herds.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the use of tests for the detection of antibodies against glycoprotein E is sufficient for cattle from I3 qualified herds taking part in a gathering, because a negative result means that a possibly vaccinated I3 qualified bovine is not infected. The Committee agrees with the proposition to introduce a possibility to use an additional test for the detection of antibodies against glycoprotein B for these cattle. Actually, such a test offers an added value because a negative result means, in addition to an absence of natural infection by the IBR virus, an immunologically free sanitary status close to the I4 status (absence of vaccination). However, the Committee draws the attention on the fact that, in case of positive result with the test for the detection of antibodies against glycoprotein B, which will be the case for the vaccinated animals from I3 qualified herds, it will be necessary to perform an additional test for the detection of antibodies against the glycoprotein E to prove that the animal is not infected.

Taking into account the listed recommendations, the Scientific Committee gives a favorable opinion on the project of royal decree.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".