



18 July 2016

(16-3854)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**DECLARATION OF THE BRUNCA REGION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA AS AN AREA
WITH A LOW PREVALENCE OF BOVINE BRUCELLOSIS AND TUBERCULOSIS**

COMMUNICATION FROM COSTA RICA

The following communication, dated 14 July 2016, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Costa Rica.

1. The Government of Costa Rica hereby notifies WTO Members of the publication of Executive Decree No. 39538-MAG-MSP, through which we declare the Brunca Region¹ to be an area with a low prevalence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis.
2. This declaration is made following the introduction of sanitary measures to ensure the diagnosis, control, eradication and epidemiological surveillance of these diseases by the National Animal Health Service (SENASA), in conjunction with other governmental and non-governmental entities, approved veterinary surgeons, independent veterinary surgeons, and livestock producers.
3. Brucellosis and tuberculosis are notifiable diseases in Costa Rica, under Executive Decree No. 34669-MAG of 8 July 2008, which provides a list of notifiable animal diseases.
4. SENASA established the National Programme for Brucellosis and the National Programme for Bovine Tuberculosis; both are national in scope.
5. In 2012, SENASA carried out a study to determine prevalence in the three production systems. The study determined that in the Brunca region, of the 109 herds sampled, only one tested positive. This represents a herd prevalence of 1.5% and an individual prevalence of 0.13%.
6. In the examinations for the diagnosis of tuberculosis carried out since 2007 on 6,390 animals, 100% of the animals tested negative. This indicates that prevalence in this area would not be higher than 0.48%. Sampling for the control of brucellosis carried out in the Brunca region showed a steady decrease in the disease's prevalence in the region, from 13.39% at herd level in 1982 to 1.5% in 2012.
7. In order to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis from the Brunca region of the Republic of Costa Rica in the medium term, this area must be declared to have a low prevalence of these diseases. This declaration establishes requirements and controls for cattle and buffalo entering the region.
8. The Executive Decree was published in order to declare the Brunca region an area with a low prevalence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis and to revoke Article 8(h) and the second transitional article of Decree No. 34858-MAG of 20 October 2008 establishing regulations for the control of bovine brucellosis.

¹ The Brunca Region is made up of the Pérez Zeledón canton in the province of San José and the cantons of Buenos Aires, Coto Brus, Corredores, Golfito and Osa, in the province of Puntarenas.

9. The Decree is available in Spanish from the following link:
<http://www.senasa.go.cr/senasa/sitio/index.php/paginas/view/192>.
 10. The present communication is being submitted for the purposes of transparency.
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