

**IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC SWINE FOR BREEDING**

Communication from Argentina

The following communication has been received from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Argentina.

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**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL QUARANTINE**

**SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPORTATION  
OF DOMESTIC SWINE FOR BREEDING**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The animals and the relevant documentation must conform to the "Standards for the authorization of the importation of live animals and/or their genetic material to the Argentine Republic", as established in SENASA Resolution No. 1354/94, and be covered by an Animal Health Certificate of Origin issued by the Official Authority.

Animals imported into Argentina must thus be covered by an Animal Health Certificate of Origin delivered by the Veterinary Administration of their country of origin and stating the particulars of the owner of the animals and the health-related information required by the Standards.

Prior to the shipment of the animals from their country of origin, the party concerned or his representative must file an import application with the SENASA's Department of Animal Quarantine, specifying *inter alia* the animals' point of entry, date of arrival and destination in Argentina and the veterinary import inspection duties payable for the species in question at the time of importation.

The Animal Health Certificate of Origin must either be drafted in Spanish or include a Spanish version.

**II. ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN**

**A. GENERAL DATA**

EXPORTING COUNTRY:

TRANSITING THROUGH:

CERTIFYING VETERINARY AUTHORITY:

A.1. Operators

A.1.1. Exporter

Full name of exporter/exporting company

Postal address and telephone or fax number

A.1.2. Importer

Full name of importer/importing company

Postal address and telephone or fax number

A.2. Establishment of origin of the animals in the exporting country

Name of owner/company

Name of establishment

Location

A.3. Transportation

International mode of transportation used

Particulars

A.4. Establishment of destination of the animals in Argentina

Name of owner/company

Name of establishment

Location

A.5. Entry into Argentina

Scheduled date of arrival

Point of entry

A.6. Animals

Number

Sex

Tattooing/individual identification (details on a separate sheet)

Breed

Age

B. HEALTH-RELATED INFORMATION

The Official Veterinarian of the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country hereby certifies the following.

B.1. Country/zone of origin

1. The country of origin or, in the case of official regionalization, a part of the country has been declared free of the following diseases, such status having been approved by the OIE and recognized by the Republic of Argentina:

- Teschen's disease;
- Swine vesicular disease;
- Classical swine fever;
- African swine fever.

2. Foot-and-mouth disease

2.1 The Veterinary Administration of the exporting country will attest, according to the country's status, that the criteria set forth in the relevant Standard of the OIE International Animal Health Code have been met.

3. Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)

- (a) The country is PRRS-free, and that status is recognized by the SENASA; or
- (b) the requirements set forth in the Annex relating to PRRS have been met.

4. Porcine transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE)

- (c) The country is TGE-free, and that status is recognized by the SENASA; or
- (d) the animals originate from an establishment in which no clinical case or serological evidence of the disease was declared in the 12-month period prior to shipment.

B.2 Establishment of origin of the animals and surrounding premises

1. The establishment of origin has been certified free of brucellosis and Aujeszky's disease by the Veterinary Administration of the exporting country.

2. The establishment is not subject to sanitary restrictions on account of trichinellosis.

3. No cases of vesicular stomatitis were officially declared in the 365 days prior to the shipment of the animals.

4. None of the following diseases were diagnosed in the six-month period prior to the export of the animals:

- Anthrax;
- leptospirosis;
- erysipelas;
- atrophic rhinitis;
- porcine parvovirus;
- actinobacillus pleuropneumonia;
- porcine mycoplasmosis.

5. The establishment does not use feeding stuffs that contain raw viscera of any kind or kitchen or industrial wastes, and it has a rodent control programme.

6. The establishment has a health programme to identify symptoms of postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (caused by type-2 porcine circovirus), and no case of the disease has been diagnosed over the past two years.

B.3 Animals

6. The animals were born and remained in the exporting country until the day of shipment.

C. TESTING AND TREATMENT

7. The animals covered by this certificate were isolated under official supervision in their country of origin for at least 30 days and were tested, with negative results, and/or treated for the following diseases:

7.1 Brucellosis

Serological testing with the Rose Bengal or the Buffered Acidified Plate Antigen (BAPA) test.

7.2 Tuberculosis

Intradermal bovine PPD and avian PPD tests.

7.3 Leptospirosis

Negative microagglutination test for serotypes *grippityphosa*, *hardjo*, *pomona*, *canicola* and *icterohemorrhagiae*, or specific antibiotic treatment.

7.4 Parasites

Treatment against endo- and ecto-parasites using products of proven efficacy.

7.5 Foot-and-mouth disease

(a) For animals from countries free of foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination:

- Two ELISA tests run 21 days apart.

(b) For animals from FMD-infected countries/zones with an official control programme that includes systematic immunization of bovine animals using an OIE Standards-approved vaccine:

- Three ELISA tests conducted at 21-day intervals.

7.6 Vesicular stomatitis

- ELISA test;
- complement fixation test; or
- serum neutralization (SN) test.

7.7 Aujeszky's disease

- ELISA test; or
- SN test.

7.8 Classical swine fever (*only for countries where immunization against the disease is prohibited*)

- ELISA test; or
- SN test.

7.9. Porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome

- ELISA test for American and European strains (two tests run at least 21 days apart).

7.10 Porcine transmissible gastroenteritis

- ELISA test.

**NB:** *The corresponding tests are not required where the certifying country has declared itself free of any of the above diseases, and that status has been approved by the OIE and recognized by Argentina.*

D. IMMUNIZATION

8. The animals to be exported have never been vaccinated against the following diseases:

- Aujeszky's disease;
- porcine respiratory and reproductive syndrome;
- porcine transmissible gastroenteritis.

9. Animals aged over 60 days were vaccinated against classical swine fever between 15 and 180 days prior to shipment. The certificate should specify the type of vaccine and the virus types and strains used to produce it.

This is not required where immunization is officially prohibited in the country of origin, in which case the requirement under 7.8 above applies.

E. SHIPMENT

10. The animals covered by this certificate were inspected at the time of shipment to Argentina and found to be free of clinical signs of infectious/contagious and/or species-specific parasitic diseases.

11. The animals were transported from the establishment of origin to the port of embarkation, and from the latter to Argentina in vehicles/containers cleaned and sanitized to ensure the animals' health and well-being.

F. QUARANTINE

12. In the country of origin, the breeder(s) will place the animals under quarantine in officially approved facilities offering isolation guarantees for as long as may be necessary to complete testing, immunization and treatment as prescribed above, under direct supervision by the relevant health authority.

13. In Argentina, the animals will be kept under quarantine for as long as may be necessary to complete any tests, immunization and treatment that the Argentine Veterinary Administration deems appropriate in the light of sanitary conditions at the time of arrival.

G. ENDNOTE

14. The animals were transported from the establishment of origin to the port of embarkation, and from the latter to Argentina in vehicles/containers cleaned and sanitized to ensure the animals' health and well-being.

**ANNEX**

**DRAFT**

**REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PORCINE RESPIRATORY AND REPRODUCTIVE  
SYNDROME (PRRS) IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY THE DISEASE**

**Definitions**

***Biosafety***

A comprehensive operational system (i.e. encompassing individual, group, environmental and product-related aspects) based on a coherent, binding, continuous and optimizable approach aimed at reducing biological risk in a given environment.

Standardized at the minimum cost capable of ensuring a rational level of ethical treatment.

Definition currently being revised.

***Swine breeding establishment***

For the purposes of this document, a swine breeding establishment means a production unit or group of production units the objective of which is to produce animals for breeding.

The batches kept in the establishment will be housed inside a compound surrounded by a single perimeter fence and will all be subject to the same management procedures and external and personal biosafety measures.

The term "batch" means a group of swine sharing the same physical area and breathing the same air.

***Negative serological reaction***

Depending on the serological technique used,

Negative by IDEXX ELISA: results < s/p ratio of 0.4;

IFA negative to European and American strains at a dilution of 1:16;

IPMA negative to European and American strains: titre of < 10.

**SANITARY REQUIREMENTS**

- **Guidelines for countries with swine breeding establishments seeking to export animals for breeding to Argentina**

**COUNTRY**

1. The country will complete the SENASA questionnaire on porcine diseases.
2. PRRS is a disease that must be declared.
3. The country's Veterinary Administration will have a permanent national PRRS surveillance and control strategy.

4. Vaccination against PRRS is prohibited. Otherwise, the requirement under 3. above applies.
- **Guidelines regarding PRRS to be observed by the exporting swine breeding establishment**

#### **BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT**

1. The breeding establishment will be registered and approved by the exporting country's animal health authority and will have an official and/or accredited veterinarian responsible for conducting and/or supervising sanitary measures in the establishment.
2. The establishment will have an animal registration and follow-up procedure based on an auditable identification system.
3. The animals must never have been vaccinated against PRRS (with live and/or inactive vaccines).
4. The establishment will have demonstrated the absence of PRRS virus through quarterly serological monitoring of all batches over a period of at least 12 months prior to the export of the animals.

Sero-monitoring will be conducted by running representative and random samples from at least 58 animals from each batch (a number which makes it possible to identify at least one positive animal with 95 per cent reliability and a predicted prevalence rate of 5 per cent) through the standard IDEXX ELISA test or any other test recognized by the SENASA.

5. Samples for PRRS monitoring and surveillance will be processed in officially recognized laboratories.
6. The establishment must not have recorded any clinical sign of PRRS or evidence of the disease from the herds' productive performance during the periods set for the continuity of monitoring and surveillance.
7. There will be no animals of the same species within a radius of three kilometres around the establishment, or if there are, facilities housing such animals will comply with the present requirements in respect of PRRS.
8. Conditions of entry
  - 9.1<sup>1</sup> The establishment will accept only animals of prime genetic quality.
  - 9.2 The animals must originate from breeding establishments that comply with the present requirements in respect of PRRS.
  - 9.3 Prior to entry, the animals will be placed under quarantine, in facilities solely intended for the purpose, for at least 30 days during which they must test negative for PRRS by two IDEXX ELISA tests (or any other test recognized by the SENASA) run 21 days apart. Positive reactions on the ELISA test (out of a predicted number of reactions, due to the specificity of the test, not exceeding 2 per cent) can be corroborated by another diagnostic test (IFA and IPMA (European and American strains)).

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<sup>1</sup> Error in original text.



Where animals tested positive for PRRS virus during the period of quarantine, the procedure (or a procedure equivalent to that set out below) will be as follows:

- All animals will be removed from the quarantine station and will not be allowed to enter the establishment.
- The premises will be cleaned with water heated to a temperature of between 90 and 92 degrees centigrade.
- The premises will be disinfected with phenol- or formaldehyde-derived products of proven efficacy, approved by the competent authority.
- The premises will remain completely empty for at least 14 days before the arrival of a new group of swine.

9.4 The isolation procedures detailed above will be based on an all in/all out scheme.

9.5 All samples for PRRS diagnosis during quarantine will be processed in officially recognized laboratories.

10. Any swine semen used in the establishment must:

10.1 Originate from breeding facilities or artificial insemination centres that comply with the present requirements in respect of PRRS.

10.2 The semen must have tested negative by the PCR test, run with two inseminating doses at the time the semen was collected.

11. Biosafety measures

The biosafety measures adopted will be suited to this type of breeding establishment. They will be checked either *in situ* or on the basis of officially dispatched documentary evidence, as appropriate and at the SENASA's discretion.

***NB: The Argentine National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) will determine, in situ and/or on the basis of documentary evidence, whether the breeding establishment is eligible for exporting breeding swine to Argentina.***

***On their arrival in Argentina, the animals may be placed under quarantine and subjected to any tests that the SENASA may deem necessary at the time of importation.***

### **BIOSAFETY SYSTEM**

The breeding establishment's biosafety system will include at least the following measures:

General

- The establishment will keep plans, estimates and technical specifications for projects designed to ensure biosafety. The projects will be approved and lie under the authority of the country's Veterinary Administration.

- The establishment will be in possession of a certificate of approval, delivered if the above requirement has been met. It will operate under the responsibility of at least one accredited veterinarian.
- The establishment's biosafety system will be auditable and governed by rules set forth in procedural manuals available to anyone entering the establishment. The establishment must be able to show that the rules are being followed.
- The establishment will have secure systems for recording the entry and exit of animals, persons and vehicles and/or supplies, health projects and developments, movements and any other relevant records.

#### Entry of swine

- All animals arriving at the establishment will be entered in a register including the animals' identification data, details regarding the establishment of origin, the means of transportation used and any other relevant information.
- The animals will be transported directly from the establishment of origin to the place of destination, without coming into contact with other swine or entering any other livestock establishment.
- The animals will be unloaded outside the biosafety perimeter. The vehicle transporting them will not enter the biosafety perimeter, and the animals will be unloaded onto a ramp leading into the biosafety area.

#### Installations

- The entire establishment will be surrounded by a perimeter fence preventing any uncontrolled entry or exit of animals, persons and vehicles.
- There will be a single point of entry for persons and/or vehicles, with all the necessary equipment for washing and sanitizing vehicles, including a cleaning and disinfection device known as a "rodoluvio". In the case of establishments containing more than one site, each of the sites will have to meet these same requirements.
- Work and swine handling equipment will be specific to each batch of animals.
- Provision will be made for unidirectional flow of the animals through the installations.
- All entry points will have:
  - A list of individuals routinely authorized to enter the establishment and a registration system for all other persons;
  - a sufficient number of changing rooms, showers and toilets, the shower facilities being located so that people have to pass through them before entering the establishment and/or sites.

- There will be changing rooms adjacent to the shower areas, where people will change into working clothes and footwear supplied by the establishment. These will be cleaned and sanitized on the premises.
- Hand- and boot-washing sinks and footwear disinfection boxes will be placed outside the changing rooms, for use before entry into the premises where the animals are held.
- Measures will be taken to keep rodents and birds away from food/feed storage places.
- Food for staff having access to the biosafety area will not contain any animal products or by-products susceptible of transmitting swine pathogens.
- The food/feed entry point will be situated so that transport vehicles do not enter the biosafety perimeter.
- There will be a single entry point, with a disinfection system, for tools, utensils and equipment.

#### Staff

- Permanent staff must not come into contact with swine other than those housed in the establishment.
- Anyone other than permanent staff who enters the establishment must not have come into contact with swine for at least 72 hours, to prevent any risk of transmission of pathogens, particularly the PRRS virus.
- The establishment will have an ongoing biosafety training programme for staff.

#### Geographical location of the establishment

- There will be a plan of the establishment covering a radius of at least three kilometres, detailing the various plots, the activities conducted on them and the main topographical features and roads.
- The establishment will be located at least 50 metres away from any public road.

#### Animal waste

- The establishment will have an infirmary and necropsy area. It will also have a site for depositing carcasses and animal waste, situated at a distance and separated from the production sites; the site will be fenced in, with a system for keeping out rodents and birds.

#### Effluents and excreta

- The establishment will be equipped with a waste (liquids and solids) treatment system ensuring the inactivation of pathogens.

Quarantine facilities

- These must be located at a sufficient distance from the production sites to prevent the potential transmission of infectious agents, particularly the PRRS virus.
- The requirements governing installations apply, in particular those regarding management and entry points.
- Quarantine facilities will operate on the basis of all in/all out work scheme.

Disinfectants

- Disinfectants used in all the aforementioned processes must be of proven efficacy and have been approved by the competent animal health authority.

Buenos Aires, January 2002

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