

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)
THE BRAZILIAN SITUATION

According to Chapter 3.2.13 of the International Animal Health Code of OIE

Submission by Brazil at the meeting of 12-13 March 1998

In Brazil, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), scrapie and other related animal pathologies are included in the group of exotic diseases for which the Brazilian epidemiological surveillance system is always alert on the watch.

BSE is considered as a notifiable disease (Article 3.2.13.1. point 3 - IAHC/OIE)

As a way to prevent the introduction of BSE infection in Brazilian cattle, since 1990 Brazil suspended the import of bovine, caprine and wild ruminants from the United Kingdom. The import of sheep was suspended since 1985. The following imports also have been suspended:

- bovine and ovine embryos;
- bovine semen;
- beef meat and by-products;
- bovine and ovine viscera (brains, marrow, thymus, tonsils, spleen and guts);
- bone, meat and blood meal;
- animal feedstock made with protein coming from domestic or wild ruminants;
- organs, glands, tissues, and organic fluid from bovine, ovine and caprine and wild ruminants, destined for the manufacturing of pharmaceutical products.

The importation of bovines and bovine-derived products, mainly those which are intended for animal use, was prohibited from other BSE countries.

BSE has never been registered in the Brazilian territory, it being extremely unlikely that the agent of the disease may be found in the country due to quarantine measures adopted for trade with affected areas and other measures.

6. Information on the prohibition to feed to, or to use in feedstuff for, ruminants of animal protein (other than milk and dairy products), namely since when such a prohibition exists, whether it concerns animal protein in general or only animal protein originating from certain countries, which animal species, organs and tissues are not allowed to be used for animal feed and which animal categories are not allowed to be fed with such protein (Article 3.2.13.1. point 2.b.i - IAHC/OIE)

The prohibition to feed to, or to use in feedstuff for ruminants of animal protein (other than milk and dairy products) was adopted since 1996. The Portaria n. 290, from 16 July 1997, signed by the Minister of Agriculture, is in force on this matter.

7. Continuous surveillance of BSE (Article 3.2.13.1. point 3 and 4 - IAHC/OIE)

A continuous rabies surveillance has been practised in all of the country for a long time. Rabies is endemic in cattle and other species.

Since 1990 three thousand samples of rabies and other nervous diseases in suspicious cattle, with negative results for rabies, were histologically examined and found negative for BSE.

The Animal Health Department of Brazil has diagnosed no cases of BSE in Brazilian cattle to date.

NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXAMINED

Laboratory ¹	Number of samples examined - 1990-1996	Number of samples examined -1997 ***.
(1) PESAGRO-RJ	76	11
(2) Univ. Fed. Rural do Rio de Janeiro-RJ	380	120
(3) Univ. Fed. de Pelotas-RS	1583	226
(4) Univ. Fed. Santa Maria-RS	329	32
(5) Univ. Fed. de Mato Grosso do Sul-MS	467	155

(***) Partial data.

¹Name and address of the diagnostic laboratories

- (1) Laboratório de biologia animal da pesagro-RIO RIO DE JANEIRO-RJ - Phone (55-21) 627-1432
Technical Responsible: Dr. Carlos Henrique Campelo Costa
- (2) Laboratório de patologia do instituto de veterinária da universidade federal rural do RIO DE JANEIRO-RJ
Phone (55-21) 682-1082 - Technical Responsible: Dr. Paulo Peixoto
- (3) Laboratório regional de diagnóstico da faculdade de veterinária da universidade federal de Pelotas - PELOTAS-RS
Phone (55-532) 73 73 10 - Fax (55-532) 75 90 04 - Technical Responsible: Prof. Franklin Riet Correa
- (4) Departamento de patologia da universidade federal de Santa Maria -SANTA MARIA-RS
Phone (55-55) 220 8168 - Fax (55-55) 220 8693
Technical Responsible: Prof. Claudio Severo Lambardo Barros
- (5) Laboratório de anatomia patológica do núcleo de ciências veterinárias da universidade federal do MATO GROSSO DO SUL-MS - Technical Responsible: Prof. Ricardo Antônio Amaral de Lemos

8. Assurance that records of the number of investigations are maintained for at least seven years and that histological slides examined since 1990 are available for re-examination by veterinary experts (Article 3.2.13.1. point 5 - IAHC/OIE)

Yes.

9. Inquiries

For further information please call, (55-61) 218 2735
Fax (55-61) 323 5936 - E-mail: dsanimal@tba.com.br

10. Name of the competent official veterinary

Aluísio Berbert Sathler - Diretor do Departamento de Defesa Animal

11. Place and date

Brasília, DF, November 1997
