

**REPORT ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF MEXICO BY THE WORLD
ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH REGARDING
BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY**

Communication by Mexico

The following communication, received on 23 June 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

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1. On 30 May last, the 76th Annual General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris, France, saw Mexico's recognition by the OIE as a "controlled risk" country concerning bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), in accordance with the provisions of Article 2.3.13.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
 2. Such recognition will allow Mexico to access new markets for cattle and cattle products and by products. It will also guarantee the health safety and quality of meat produced in Mexico for domestic and international consumers.
 3. This classification represents an advance in international recognition of Mexico's animal health status and largely benefits domestic cattle breeding and trade in cattle and cattle products and by products by providing the possibility of finding new export markets.
 4. Mexico will continue to request annual confirmation of its epidemiological status with a view its classification in the "negligible BSE risk" category in the coming years, given that there have been no reports of bovine spongiform encephalopathy to date anywhere in the national territory.
 5. In view of the foregoing and on the basis of its recent recognition as a "controlled BSE risk" country by the OIE, Mexico requests all its trading partners to remove any current restriction on imports of bovine animals, bovine genetic material, and bovine meat and meat products.
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