

No. 4247

**ITALY
and
SWITZERLAND**

**Veterinary Convention (with exchange of notes). Signed at
Berne, on 2 February 1956**

Official text: French.

Registered by Italy on 25 March 1958.

**ITALIE
et
SUISSE**

**Convention vétérinaire (avec échange de notes). Signée à
Berne, le 2 février 1956**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par l'Italie le 25 mars 1958.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 4247. VETERINARY CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC AND THE SWISS CONFEDERATION. SIGNED AT BERNE, ON 2 FEBRUARY 1956

In order to facilitate so far as possible, and with due regard for their vital interests, traffic in livestock and animal products in both directions between the two countries, the Italian Republic and the Swiss Confederation have agreed on the following provisions :

Article 1

Traffic in livestock, raw materials of animal origin and, in general, all products capable of transmitting epizootic diseases, as well as in meat, all meat food products and fish, between the two Contracting Parties shall take place only at frontier posts or airports designated by name and shall be subject to veterinary control on both sides of the frontier.

The frontier posts shall be the following : Domodossola, Luino, Chiasso, Castasegna-Chiavenna, Campocologno-Tirano, Mustair-Tubre and such other posts as may be designated by agreement between the Contracting Parties. The veterinary service at the said posts shall be so organized as to meet the commercial requirements of the two countries.

Article 2

The certificates of origin and health and the sanitary certificates required under this Convention for livestock and products of animal origin shall be issued by a State veterinary surgeon or a veterinary surgeon duly authorized by the State. The said certificates shall be written in Italian.

Article 3

Solid-hoofed animals, ruminants, pigs and poultry shall not be imported unless they are accompanied by a certificate of origin and health showing the place of origin and the frontier post and declaring that the commune of origin is free from epizootic contagious diseases and that the animals were examined and found healthy at the time of dispatch.

¹ Came into force on 15 February 1958 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification at Rome, in accordance with article 21.

Except in the case of solid-hoofed animals collective certificates may be issued, provided that each certificate relates solely to animals of one species conveyed in a single vehicle to the same consignee.

Certificates shall be valid for six days. A certificate which expires while the animals are in transit shall not be renewed for a further six days unless the animals are re-examined by a State veterinary surgeon or a veterinary surgeon duly authorized by the State and the results of the examination are entered in the certificate.

Article 4

Certificates required for the export of livestock subject to :

- (a) Rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and dourine,
- (b) Foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever, sheep scab, fowl pest and fowl cholera

shall not be issued for livestock of the susceptible species unless there has been no outbreak in the commune of origin, the adjoining communes or the areas traversed by the livestock to reach the point of loading :

For at least six months in the case of the diseases referred to in sub-paragraph (a) ;

For at least forty days in the case of the diseases referred to in sub-paragraph (b), or twenty days in the case of foot-and-mouth disease if the centre of contagion has been eliminated by slaughtering.

The detection of isolated cases of visceral anthrax, symptomatic anthrax or glanders shall not preclude the issue of certificates for species subject to those diseases, but must be recorded therein.

The detection of scab among solid-hoofed animals shall not preclude the issue of certificates for sheep and goats, and vice versa.

Article 5

The certificate of origin and health must further declare :

(a) In the case of cattle not sent directly to the slaughterhouse, that they originate from farms officially found to be free from tuberculosis ;

(b) In the case of cattle, sheep and goats capable of breeding which are not sent directly to the slaughterhouse, that the result of a test for brucellosis made not more than sixty days before the dispatch of the livestock was negative.

Article 6

The following livestock may not be imported from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties into the territory of the other save on production of a certificate declaring :

(a) In the case of rabbits and psittacidae, that no case of myxomatosis or psittacosis respectively has been detected within a radius of twenty-five kilometres in the past two months ;

(b) In the case of exotic ruminants, that they come from a zoological garden or quarantine park in which they have been kept in contact with European domestic ruminants for at least two months ;

(c) In the case of bees, that no disease of bees which is held to be contagious has been detected within a radius of ten kilometres from the hives of origin for at least six months.

Article 7

Race horses and horses to be entered for competitions or sporting events may be imported temporarily if they are accompanied, in lieu of a certificate containing the declarations required under articles 3 and 4, by a certificate issued by the competent equestrian sports federation.

Such certificate must show the owner's name and residence and must contain a detailed description of the animals, their origin and destination, and a declaration by a State veterinary surgeon or a veterinary surgeon duly authorized by the State that the animals are in good health and that the establishment of origin is free from contagious diseases.

Dogs and cats may be imported from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties into the territory of the other without undergoing a veterinary examination at the frontier. However, dogs must be accompanied by a sanitary certificate issued not more than six days before the date of crossing the frontier and declaring that no case of rabies or suspected rabies has occurred in the dog's place of origin, and that the dog has not been taken away therefrom, for at least a hundred days before it is exported and that it was found to be in perfect health on examination by the veterinary surgeon.

Article 8

Unprocessed raw materials of animal origin such as hides, bristles, horsehair, horns, hooves and bones must be accompanied by a certificate identifying the materials and declaring that they are not liable to transmit any of the diseases referred to in article 4.

Such certificate shall not be required for materials treated in a manner which is considered to provide an adequate safeguard from the point of view of veterinary

prophylaxis (by drying, salting, arsenical or other treatment, antiseptic washing, sweating, disinfection, etc.).

Article 9

No fresh, frozen or otherwise preserved meat of cattle, sheep, goats or pigs, and no fat, lard or any meat food product except extracts, broths and similar preparations shall be imported unless it is accompanied by a certificate declaring that the animals from which it was prepared underwent veterinary inspection before and after slaughtering and that the meat was found to be healthy and fit for consumption.

In the case of meat preparations the certificate must further declare that they were processed under the supervision of the veterinary service and contain no substance the use of which is prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination.

The containers in which meat products are packed and the particulars shown thereon must conform to the regulations of the country of destination.

Fresh and frozen meat must, on importation, be presented for veterinary inspection in the following condition :

(a) Meat of bovine cattle other than calves : flayed and halved or quartered carcasses ;

(b) Meat of calves, sheep, goats and pigs : flayed (except pig carcasses) whole or halved carcasses.

Carcasses of the animals referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be admitted after evisceration and, as a rule, without the internal organs. Where the said organs are imported they must, except for the head, spleen and digestive tract, be left unsevered and be accompanied by their lymphatic glands. The serous membranes must in no case show signs of excision.

Each whole, half and quarter carcase to be imported and the certificate of origin must bear the stamp of the official meat inspectorate of the place of origin.

Fresh-killed or frozen poultry must be accompanied by a certificate declaring that the said poultry was found to be healthy and free from contagious diseases before killing and is fit for consumption. Poultry must be plucked and drawn and whole carcasses only shall be admitted.

Article 10

Dairy produce (cheese and butter) and eggs may be imported free of veterinary control restrictions, with the exception of eggs for hatching, which must be accom-

panied by a certificate declaring that the farm of origin is free from pullorum disease.

Article 11

Fish and other fishery food products may be imported without a certificate.

Fresh and frozen fish and other fishery food products must be whole on importation. Large fish may be headless and cleaned or filleted. Fish fillets must consist solely of muscular tissue, free from bones, skin or traces of blood, and be in a suitable package showing the species of fish, net weight and exporting firm.

Fish and other fishery food products preserved in cans or other containers may be imported provided that they have been treated by an efficient sterilizing or other preserving process and contain no substance the use of which is prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination, and provided that the containers used conform to the said regulations.

Article 12

Consignments which do not comply with the foregoing provisions and livestock which, on crossing the frontier, is found or suspected by the competent veterinary surgeons of the two countries to be suffering from a contagious disease shall be refused clearance.

The competent veterinary surgeons at the frontier posts of the two countries shall enter and sign in the certificate a statement of the reason for refusing clearance.

Livestock which is refused clearance may, at the request of the importer or exporter concerned and in accordance with the regulations in force in the country of destination, be admitted provided that it is immediately slaughtered at the frontier post or, failing this, at a place to be designated by the veterinary authority. The use of meat and products derived from animals so slaughtered shall be governed by the procedure applicable to animals of domestic origin suffering or suspected of suffering from a contagious disease.

Where a contagious disease is detected in imported livestock only after it has entered the country of destination, an official report on the case shall be drawn up in the presence of a State veterinary surgeon or a veterinary surgeon specially authorized for the purpose by the State.

Article 13

If rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia is detected in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the other Party shall be entitled to prohibit or

restrict, for such time as the danger of contagion persists, the importation of ruminants, pigs, products of animal origin and, in general, any product capable of transmitting the disease.

If foot-and-mouth disease is detected in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, that Party undertakes to suspend immediately, throughout the area affected or threatened by the disease, the export to the territory of the other Party of livestock of the species subject to the said disease and of any product or article capable of transmitting the contagion.

The term "area" shall mean all communes within a radius of twenty kilometres from the centre of infections.

The period for which export is suspended shall not be shorter than the period prescribed by article 4, sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

Article 14

If, as a result of the traffic in livestock, any contagious disease subject to report or to sanitation measures prescribed by the country of origin is introduced into the territory of the country of destination, the latter shall be entitled to restrict or prohibit, for such time as the danger persists, the import of livestock of the species subject to the disease and originating from the affected or threatened areas. Such restriction or prohibition of importation may be extended, subject to the same conditions, to products of animal origin and all products and articles capable of transmitting the contagion.

Such restrictions or prohibitions of importation shall apply only to the areas affected by the disease and the adjacent areas, determined as prescribed by the preceding article.

Importation shall not be prohibited in cases of visceral anthrax, symptomatic anthrax, scab of cattle or solid-hoofed animals, rabies of herbivorous animals or tuberculosis.

Article 15

Such sanitary precautions as each Contracting Party may deem it advisable to take in respect of livestock found to be healthy on crossing the frontier or in respect of animal products shall be kept to the minimum necessary in its own territory.

The issue of sanitary permits for the import of livestock and products of animal origin shall in no circumstances be restricted in a manner incompatible with the provisions of this Convention.

No permit shall be required for the temporary import of race horses and horses to be entered for competitions or sporting events.

Article 16

The provisions of this Convention shall apply to the transit through the territory of one Contracting Party of livestock originating in the territory of the other Party provided that the country of destination undertakes not to refuse clearance to any transit consignment of livestock. If other countries must be traversed *en route*, a transit permit must be obtained from each such country in advance.

The declarations of health provided for in article 5 of this Convention shall not be required in respect of ruminants in transit.

An advance undertaking by any countries traversed and by the country of destination to admit the goods shall not be required in respect of fresh, canned or prepared meat or raw materials of animal origin conveyed from the territory of one of the Contracting Parties in transit through the territory of the other Party in closed and sealed railway waggons or by air.

Article 17

The disinfection of means of transport used for carrying livestock or raw materials of animal origin shall, if carried out in accordance with the regulations in force in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, be recognized as sufficient for the purposes of the other Party.

Article 18

Each Contracting Party undertakes to publish at least twice a month a bulletin on the sanitary situation which shall be transmitted directly to the other Contracting Party. In addition either Contracting Party may at any time obtain from the other a list of the communes, in such districts or provinces as it may designate, which are affected by any disease held by law to be contagious.

In the event that rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia is detected in the territory of one Contracting Party, the central veterinary authority of the other Contracting Party shall be so notified immediately and directly by telegraph. Notice of any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in an area hitherto free from the disease and of any new type or variety of foot-and-mouth virus which may appear in the course of the epizooty shall likewise be given by telegraph.

In all other cases, urgent communications concerning the application of this Convention may be exchanged directly by the central or frontier veterinary authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

Article 19

In the event of disagreement between the two Governments regarding the interpretation or application of this Convention, the Contracting Parties undertake

EXCHANGE OF NOTES

I

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SWISS DELEGATION

Berne, 2 February 1956

Sir,

With reference to the negotiations concerning the Veterinary Convention of 2 February 1956¹ between the Italian Republic and the Swiss Confederation, I have the honour to inform you that it is the wish of the competent Swiss authorities that, notwithstanding the provisions of article 5, heifers not in calf, or bearing their first calf, which show a positive agglutination reaction only after vaccination with "Buck 19" vaccine should be accepted for import into Italy up to 31 December 1958 provided that they are not more than thirty-six months old. The date of the animals' birth and of vaccination with "Buck 19" should be shown in the certificate of origin and health.

This letter and your reply shall form an integral part of the Veterinary Convention between Italy and Switzerland signed this day.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Mr. Aldo Ademollo
Chairman of the Italian Delegation
Berne

FLÜCKIGER

II

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION

Berne, 2 February 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date which reads as follows :

[See note I]

I have the honour to inform you that the Italian Government agrees to the foregoing.

I have the honour to be, etc.

Mr. Gottlieb Flückiger
Chairman of the Swiss Delegation
Berne

ALDO ADEMOLLO

¹ See p. 115 of this volume.