

No. 5370

**YUGOSLAVIA
and
BULGARIA**

**Veterinary Health Convention. Signed at Sofia, on 17 June
1955**

Official texts : Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian.

Registered by Yugoslavia on 26 September 1960.

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Enregistrée par la Yougoslavie le 26 septembre 1960.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 5370. VETERINARY HEALTH CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA. SIGNED AT SOFIA, ON 17 JUNE 1955

With a view to preventing the spread of contagious diseases of animals and zoonoses to their territories and to facilitating the import, export and transit of animals and products of animal origin, the Government of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia and the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria have decided to conclude a Veterinary Health Convention and to this end have appointed as their plenipotentiaries :

The Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia : Dr. Sava Mihajlović, Director of the Federal Administration of Veterinary Affairs, and

The People's Republic of Bulgaria : Slavco Prvanov Stojanov, Deputy Minister for Agriculture,

who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows :

Article 1

The Contracting Parties agree to submit to veterinary health control at the frontier posts and the river, sea and air ports hereinafter specified the importation, exportation and transit of livestock, of products, raw materials and wastes of animal origin, of livestock fodder, and of articles capable of transmitting contagious diseases of animals and zoonoses.

Veterinary health control shall be exercised :

For the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia :

At Gradina—for rail and road transport ;

At Belgrade—for river transport ;

At Rijeka—for sea transport ;

At Belgrade—for air transport.

¹ Came into force on 16 May 1956 by the exchange of the instruments of ratification, in accordance with article 22.

For the People's Republic of Bulgaria :

- At Dragoman—for rail and road transport ;
- At Vidin—for river transport ;
- At Burgas—for sea transport ;
- At Sofia—for air transport.

Frontier veterinary health control shall be effected by Yugoslav and Bulgarian frontier veterinary officers of the central veterinary authorities.

As necessary, the frontier posts and river, sea and air ports open for veterinary inspection may be changed, or new posts and ports may be opened, by prior agreement between the Contracting Parties.

Article 2

The import and export of livestock in either direction may be effected only with the prior approval of the central veterinary authorities of the Contracting Parties.

Where livestock are to be carried through the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, prior approval must be secured from the first neighbouring country through which the consignment will pass or for which it is destined.

The import, export and transit of fresh, preserved or processed meat and raw materials of animal origin from the territory of one Contracting Party through the territory of the other in sealed consignments or in closed, sealed waggons or in boats, trucks or aircraft shall be permitted without the prior approval of the Contracting Parties or of the countries traversed *en route* to the country of destination.

Article 3

For the purposes of this Convention, the term "livestock" means :

—Solid-hoofed animals (horses, donkeys, hinnies and mules) and cloven-hoofed animals (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs).

The expression "products of animal origin" means :

—In the case of raw materials : all parts of an animal carcass in the unprocessed state, regardless of the purpose for which they are intended ;

—In the case of products : parts of an animal carcass in the fresh or processed state intended for human consumption, and eggs, milk and dairy products ;

—In the case of wastes : parts of an animal carcass not for human consumption.

The provisions of this Convention shall also apply to poultry (chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and other domestic fowl) and to dogs, cats, rabbits, bees, fish, crayfish, game and exotic animals.

Article 4

Consignments of livestock and of products and raw materials of animal origin for import, export or transit must be accompanied by the following documents :

1. In the case of livestock :

(a) A livestock pass (certificate of origin) issued by the competent People's Committee ;

(b) A veterinary certificate of origin and health issued by a government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector.

2. In the case of products and raw materials of animal origin :

(a) A meat inspection certificate to be issued in accordance with the legal provisions of the Contracting Countries ;

(b) A veterinary certificate of origin and health issued by a government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector.

The aforementioned documents shall be drawn up in conformity with models established by the central veterinary authorities and shall be accompanied by a translation into the language of the other Contracting Country or into the French or German language.

Article 5

The veterinary certificate of origin and health for livestock shall state : the owner's name, the village, the local and district People's Committee of origin of the livestock, and the species, number, description and distinguishing marks of the animals.

The said certificate shall state that the animals have remained in the place of origin continuously for twenty-one days before dispatch. The competent government veterinary officer or inspector must declare on the certificate for animals and poultry that the places of origin and the territories of the communes traversed *en route* to the point of loading on to transport are free from notifiable contagious diseases communicable to the animals mentioned in the certificate, and that the said animals have been examined individually and found healthy on loading.

The certificate shall be valid for ten days. If this period expires before the consignment reaches the frontier post of the country of destination, the animals may be re-examined by the government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector, who shall enter the result of the examination on the certificate. The validity of the certificate shall be deemed to be extended thereby for the ensuing ten days provided that no signs of contagious disease are detected on examination.

If the livestock particulars referred to in the first paragraph of this article are incomplete on the livestock pass, the government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector shall enter the said particulars on the veterinary certificate of origin and health of the livestock.

In the case of heavy livestock intended for breeding, individual veterinary certificates shall be issued. In the case of light livestock and poultry, collective veterinary certificates may be issued if the animals are of one species only, originate from the same farm and are carried in the same transport to the same destination.

Article 6

Upon the export of animals and poultry subject to :

- (a) Rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia ;
- (b) Dourine, infectious equine anaemia and contagious porcine encephalomyelitis (*encephalomyelitis enzootica suum*) ;
- (c) Foot-and-mouth disease and glanders ;
- (d) Swine fever, sheep-pox, fowl pest, fowl cholera and scabies of solid-hoofed animals, goats and sheep.

The veterinary certificate of origin and health must declare that there has been no occurrence of the disease mentioned in sub-paragraph :

“(a)” In the territory of the Contracting Countries for the past twelve months ;

“(b)” Within a radius of thirty kilometres from the centre of infection or, in the case of dourine, within a radius of ten kilometres, for the past six months ;

“(c)” In the case of foot-and-mouth disease, within a radius of thirty kilometres, or, in the case of glanders, within a radius of ten kilometres, from the centre of infection for the past three months ;

“(d)” Within a radius of ten kilometres from the centre of infection for the past forty days.

Article 7

The animals hereinafter specified may be imported into the territory of one Contracting Party from the territory of the other only on presentation of a certificate stating :

—In the case of dogs and cats, that the place of origin has been free from rabies for the past six months ;

—That the territory of the People's Republic of origin in the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia, or the territory of Northern or Southern Bulgaria in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, has for the past six months been free : in the case of ground-game and fur-bearing animals, from tularaemia ; in the case of rabbits, from myxomatosis ; and in the case of parrots, from psittacosis.

—In the case of exotic ruminants, that they come from a zoological garden or quarantine park in which they have been kept for at least two months ;

—In the case of bees, that no disease of bees which is statutorily held to be contagious has been detected within a radius of three kilometres from the hives for the past six months ;

—In the case of fish intended for stocking inland waters, that the fish-ponds and waters of origin are free from diseases statutorily held to be contagious.

Article 8

The veterinary certificate of origin and health must state :

—In the case of solid-hoofed animals, that they have been malleinized and subjected to serological examination not more than fifteen days before dispatch, with negative results ;

—In the case of solid-hoofed animals imported for breeding purposes, that they have undergone three blood-tests for dourine, with negative results, the tests having been effected at three-week intervals and the last test not more than twenty-one days before dispatch ;

—In the case of mares, that they come from a district in which no outbreak of influenza has been detected for the past year ;

—In the case of stallions, that they have not suffered from influenza and that they come from a district in which no outbreak of that disease has been detected for the past two years ;

—In the case of cattle intended for breeding, that they have undergone an intra-cutaneous tuberculin test, with negative results, not more than eight to twenty days previously and that they come from a farm free from trichomoniasis ;

—In the case of cattle, sheep and goats for breeding, that they come from a farm found to be free from brucellosis by means of a blood test conducted in a State laboratory not more than fourteen days before dispatch ;

—In the case of cows for breeding, that a milk test for contagious mastitis has been carried out within the past fourteen days, with negative results ;

—In the case of heavy and light horned livestock and solid-hoofed animals, if they come from a district where anthrax has been detected, that they were vaccinated against anthrax not more than fifteen days before dispatch.

Article 9

The veterinary certificate of origin and health for products and raw materials of animal origin and for articles capable of transmitting contagious diseases of animals

shall be issued by the government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector, who shall state :

—That the goods in question derive from animals which did not suffer from any notifiable contagious disease ;

—That they come from a place free from contagious diseases of animals ;

—In the case of fresh and processed meat (whether salted, dried, smoked, pickled or cooked) and meat products, that they derive from animals which were examined by the competent veterinary officer at an export or public slaughter-house before and after slaughtering ;

—That the slaughter-houses and butchering shops in which the meat is prepared and processed are under constant veterinary supervision ; and

—In the case of meat and meat products, that the competent veterinary officer has passed them as fit for human consumption.

In the case of pork and pork products, it must be stated that they have undergone trichoscopic examination, with negative results.

Article 10

No limitations on veterinary health grounds shall be imposed on the import, export or transit of milk, dairy products or eggs provided that they are produced in undertakings and establishments which are under the supervision of the State veterinary service.

Consignments of eggs for hatching must be accompanied by a certificate stating that they come from a farm free from pullorum disease.

Article 11

No limitation with respect to veterinary control shall be imposed on transit consignments of the following products :

—Wool, horsehair and feathers, washed at industrial undertakings and packed in closed bags ;

—Dried or salted intestines, gizzards, stomachs and bladders, if placed in closed and watertight boxes or barrels ;

—Rendered tallow and lard ;

—Hides and furs, whether tanned or untanned, provided that they are dried, salted or pickled in brine and loaded into closed transport with a watertight floor ;

—Impregnated wastes of hides, provided that they are loaded into closed transport with a watertight floor ;

—Horns, hooves and claws, dried, with soft parts removed, and bones free from meat, provided that they are carried in closed transport ;

—Preserved meat and meat products in hermetically sealed cans.

If the importing country or the country of transit requires a veterinary certificate for the aforementioned products, such certificate shall be attached to the consignment.

Article 12

Fresh or frozen meat may be dispatched provided that it is prepared in the following manner :

—Beef (excluding veal) : flayed carcasses, whole, halved or quartered ;

—Mutton and goat meat : flayed carcasses, whole or halved ;

—Pork : halved carcasses, with or without fat ;

—Fowl : drawn.

Fresh or frozen meat must be stamped with the name of the slaughter-house and the date of slaughtering. These particulars shall be entered on the veterinary certificate of origin and health.

Fresh and frozen meat shall be carried in special refrigerator waggons or trucks.

Article 13

The Government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector shall examine the livestock at the point of loading in accordance with the provisions of the exporting country.

No unloading, trans-shipment or additional loading of livestock shall be permitted *en route*. If trans-shipment becomes necessary for any reason, it shall be carried out in the presence of the Government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector, who shall carry out a re-examination and enter the result thereof and the reasons for trans-shipment on the accompanying veterinary certificate of origin and health.

The same procedure shall be followed if any animal dies during transport.

Article 14

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

The refusal of clearance to animals suspected or found to be diseased shall apply :

(a) In the case of rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and foot-and-mouth disease : to all animals in the consignment ;

(b) In the case of swine fever, fowl pest and sheep-pox : only to the animals carried in the waggon or truck in which the contagious disease is detected, provided that all pigs and poultry have been vaccinated against swine fever and fowl pest respectively and that all sheep have been ovinized ;

(c) In the case of other diseases : only to those animals which show suspected symptoms of the disease or some complex of symptoms indicating that the disease may be present.

The competent frontier veterinary officers of the two countries shall enter on the veterinary certificate the reason for refusing clearance and shall confirm the same by their stamp and signature.

In the cases referred to in sub-paragraph (c), the animals, instead of being refused clearance, may be admitted at the request of the importer or of the exporter concerned in accordance with the provisions in force in the country in which the consignment is examined, provided that they are immediately slaughtered at the frontier post or point of loading ; should this be impossible, the place of slaughter shall be designated by the competent veterinary authority.

Meat and meat products derived from animals so slaughtered shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the country in which the animals have been slaughtered.

If a contagious disease is detected after the animals have entered the country of destination, the fact shall be recorded in an official report drawn up by the Government veterinary officer or authorized veterinary inspector.

In such event, a copy of the report shall be transmitted without delay to the central veterinary authority of the other Contracting Party.

Article 15

In the event of an outbreak of rinderpest or contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the other Party shall be entitled to prohibit the importation and transit of cattle and of products and raw materials of bovine origin from the entire territory of the country affected and the importation and transit of all other species of animals and products and raw materials of animal origin from the affected area, within a radius of 100 kilometres from the centre of contagion.

If foot-and-mouth disease is detected in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, that Party undertakes, having regard to article 6, sub-paragraph (c), of this Convention to suspend immediately throughout the area affected or threatened by the disease, the export to the territory of the other Party of animals subject to the said disease and of all products and articles capable of transmitting the contagion.

Article 16

If, as a result of the import and transit of animals, any notifiable contagious disease is introduced into the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the country concerned shall be entitled to restrict or prohibit, for such time as the danger persists, the import and transit of animals of the species subject to the said disease and originating from the affected or threatened area.

Such restriction or prohibition of import and transit may be extended, subject to the same conditions, to products of animal origin and all products and articles capable of transmitting the contagion.

The central veterinary authority of the Contracting Party which has imposed the restriction shall draw up a list of articles capable of transmitting the contagion and shall communicate it directly to the central veterinary authority of the other Party without delay.

Such restrictions on or prohibitions of import and transit shall apply only to the areas affected or threatened by the disease, determined as prescribed by the foregoing articles of this Convention.

Such sanitary precautions as each Contracting Party may deem it advisable to take in respect of animals found to be healthy on crossing the frontier shall be kept to the necessary minimum.

Import and transit shall not be prohibited in cases of visceral anthrax, symptomatic anthrax, pasteurellosis, rabies, glanders, swine erysipelas, contagious vaginitis or tuberculosis in animals intended for slaughter.

Article 17

The disinfection of transport used for carrying animals or raw materials of animal origin shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions in force in the two contracting countries.

Transport used for carrying solid-hoofed animals, ruminants, pigs and poultry and the accessories to such transport must be cleaned and disinfected immediately before and after use.

Article 18

The Contracting Parties undertake to publish on the first and sixteenth day of each month a bulletin indicating the situation with respect to, and the movement of, contagious diseases; such bulletins shall be exchanged directly between the central veterinary authorities of the contracting countries.

If either of the central veterinary authorities is interested in receiving further information on the situation with respect to, and the movement of, particular

diseases of animals in the communes or districts affected, the central veterinary authority of the other Party shall communicate such information in writing.

In the event of an outbreak of rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia or foot-and-mouth disease in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the central veterinary authority must notify the central veterinary authority of the other country immediately and directly by telegraph of : the outbreak of the disease, the place, the number of farms and head of stock affected, and the measures taken to stamp out the contagion. In the case of foot-and-mouth disease, information on the type of virus and the form of the disease shall also be communicated by telegraph. Until the contagion has been stamped out, the contracting country in which it has been detected shall inform the other country by telegraph every ten days of the progress of the contagion and of the appearance of any new types and variants of foot-and-mouth virus.

The central veterinary authorities shall also keep each other informed on all matters relating to the application of this Convention and on other urgent cases.

Similarly the frontier veterinary authorities of the Contracting Parties may exchange directly urgent communications relating to the application of this Convention.

In the event that an outbreak of any of the diseases of animals referred to in article 6 of this Convention is detected in the frontier zone, the neighbouring district veterinary officer in the frontier area of the one Contracting Party shall notify the corresponding veterinary officer of the other Party by telegraph within twenty-four hours. Such notice must include particulars of the outbreak of the disease, the place, and the number of farms and head of stock affected.

Article 19

With a view to the exchange of experience and the most efficient application of the provisions of this Convention, each Contracting Party agrees to send its veterinary representatives to the territory of the other Party after prior arrangement.

Each Contracting Party shall instruct the competent offices to furnish all necessary assistance and information to the veterinary representatives of the other country on their request.

The two Contracting Parties agree to exchange veterinary experts on a basis of reciprocity after prior arrangement between the two Governments. The purpose of such exchange shall be to make possible the exchange of knowledge concerning methods for the control of contagious, parasitic and other diseases of animals and the exchange of scientific and technical advances in the field of veterinary medicine, meat and milk processing, the canning industry and the technique and process of refrigeration.

Article 20

In the event of disagreement between the two Governments regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of this Convention, the Contracting Parties undertake to refer the dispute to a mixed commission on which they shall have equal representation.

If the said mixed commission fails to settle the dispute within fifteen days, the two Parties undertake to do so through the diplomatic channel.

Article 21

The provisions of this Convention shall also apply to other known or hitherto unknown diseases, the transmission of which would afford good reason to fear the spread of contagion.

In such cases, the central veterinary authorities of the Contracting Parties shall conclude the necessary arrangements between them.

Article 22

This Convention is concluded for a term of five years from the date of its entry into force upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification.

This Convention shall be extended automatically to remain in force for successive terms of five years unless it is denounced by one of the contracting countries through the normal diplomatic channel. The period of notice of denunciation shall be one year.

This Convention is done in two original copies, each in the Serbo-Croat and Bulgarian languages. Both texts are equally authentic.

DONE at Sofia, on 17 June 1955.

For the Federal People's Republic
of Yugoslavia :

(Signed) Dr. Sava MIHAJLOVIĆ

For the People's Republic
of Bulgaria :

(Signed) S. PRVANOV