

No. 6545

**NETHERLANDS
and
ITALY**

Veterinary Convention. Signed at The Hague, on 1 September 1959

Official text: French.

Registered by the Netherlands on 25 February 1963.

**PAYS-BAS
et
ITALIE**

Convention vétérinaire. Signée à La Haye, le 1^{er} septembre 1959

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par les Pays-Bas le 25 février 1963.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 6545. VETERINARY CONVENTION¹ BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC. SIGNED AT THE HAGUE, ON 1 SEPTEMBER 1959

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of the Italian Republic,

In order to facilitate traffic in live-stock and animal products in both directions between the two countries so far as possible, with due regard for their vital interests, particularly public health,

Have agreed as follows :

Article 1

1. Traffic in live-stock, 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 respective territories of the two Contracting Parties may take place only at frontier posts, ports and airports designated by name, for the purpose of being subjected to veterinary control by the State into whose territory they are to be imported.

2. The competent authority of each Party shall decide at which frontier posts, ports and airports, on what days and between what hours veterinary inspection shall be available, and shall notify the other Contracting Party accordingly.

Article 2

1. The certificates of origin and health shall certify that the live-stock comes from one of the Contracting Parties. These certificates and the sanitary certificates for meat and other products of animal origin shall be issued by a State veterinary surgeon of one of the Contracting Parties.

2. The said certificates shall be drawn up in two languages, Italian and Dutch.

¹ Came into force on 17 February 1962, one month after the exchange of the instruments of ratification which took place at Rome on 17 January 1962, in accordance with article 22.

Article 3

1. Solid-hoofed animals, ruminants, pigs and poultry shall not be imported unless they are accompanied by a certificate of origin and health certifying :

- (a) That the animals were raised in the territory of the exporting country ;
- (b) That at the time of loading they were inspected and found to be healthy and free from any symptoms of communicable disease.

2. Collective certificates may be issued except in the case of solid-hoofed animals (irrespective of their destination) and cattle not sent directly to the slaughterhouse after crossing the frontier of the importing country.

3. Each certificate shall in any case relate solely to animals of one species, conveyed in the same vehicle to the same consignee.

4. Certificates shall be valid for a period of ten days from the date of issue. If this period expires in the course of transit through the territory of a third State, the validity of the certificates shall be extended until the animals arrive at the frontier of the country of destination.

Article 4

1. Certificates required for the export of live-stock subject to :

- (a) Rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia,
- (b) Foot-and-mouth disease and sheep-pox,
- (c) Swine fever, anthrax, glanders, sheep-scab, scab of solid-hoofed animals, dourine and fowl pest or pseudo-pest

shall be issued for live-stock of the species subject to the particular disease only if the above-mentioned diseases have not occurred :

- in the commune of origin or the adjoining communes, for at least six months in the case of the diseases referred to in sub-paragraph (a) ;
- at the farm of origin or farms situated within a radius of two kilometres, for at least twenty-one days in the case of the diseases referred to in sub-paragraph (b) ;
- at the farm of origin, for at least fifteen days in the case of the diseases referred to in sub-paragraph (c).

2. Live-stock to be imported may be required to undergo prior immunization at the proper time in the country of origin against foot-and-mouth disease and possibly other communicable diseases.

Article 5

1. The certificates must further certify :

- (a) In the case of cattle not sent directly to the slaughter-house, that they are free from tuberculosis and brucellosis ;
- (b) In the case of sheep and goats, that they are free from brucellosis ;
- (c) In the case of poultry intended for breeding purposes, day-old chicks and eggs for incubation, that the farm of origin is free from pullorum disease or, in the case of chicks, that the incubators have been placed under veterinary inspection.

2. The two Contracting Parties shall establish satisfactory sanitary guarantees of "freedom" from the diseases referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

Article 6

1. Horses to be entered in races, competitions or sporting events may be imported temporarily if they are accompanied by a certificate issued by a State veterinary surgeon which gives the name and address of the owner, an exact description of the animals, and their origin and destination and which certifies that the animals are in good health and that the establishment of origin is free from communicable diseases of solid-hoofed animals. The veterinary authority of the importing country may require an application as a precautionary measure.

2. Dogs and cats may be imported from the territory of one Contracting Party into the territory of the other without undergoing a veterinary examination at the frontier. The Contracting Parties may require, depending on the sanitary situation of the two countries, either the application of an adequate anti-rabies vaccination at the proper time or a sanitary certificate issued not more than six days before the frontier is crossed certifying that for at least one hundred days there has been no case of rabies or suspected rabies at the place of origin.

Article 7

In the case of imports of products of animal origin such as hides, bristles, horse-hair and other hair, wool, horns, claws, whole, broken or crushed bones, manure, and fertilizer and cattle fodder in so far as such fertilizer and cattle fodder consist entirely or partly of meal made from meat scraps, bones or blood, it may be required that such products should be accompanied by a certificate identifying them and certifying that they are not suspected of conveying any agent of the diseases referred to in article 4 or that they have undergone disinfecting treatment. The Contracting Parties shall lay down for each of the products referred to in this article the conditions under which they may be imported.

Article 8

1. No fresh, frozen or otherwise preserved meat of animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species and no fat, lard or meat food product of any kind shall be imported unless they are accompanied by a certificate certifying that the animals from which they were prepared underwent veterinary inspection before and after slaughtering and that the meat was found to be healthy and unreservedly fit for consumption.

2. In the case of meat preparations, the certificate must further certify that they have been prepared under the supervision of the veterinary service and that they contain no substance whose use is prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination.

3. In the case of fat and lard, the certificate must certify that they contain no regenerated fat or any other substance whose use is prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination.

4. The containers in which meat products are packed and the corresponding markings must conform to the regulations of the country of destination.

5. Fresh and frozen meat must, on import, be presented for veterinary inspection, as follows :

(a) Meat of bovine cattle, except veal : flayed carcasses, halved or quartered ;

(b) Veal, mutton, goat flesh and pork : flayed carcasses (except for pork), whole or halved.

6. Each whole, halved or quartered carcass shall, like the sanitary certificate, be identically stamped by the meat inspection service at the place of slaughtering.

7. Cleaning (by the excision of any part whatsoever, or by the scraping of the serous membranes) or removal of ganglia shall result in refusal of clearance in all cases.

8. The import of fresh or frozen meat without attached organs, of raw fat and of individual organs shall be permitted provided that they come from animals which were slaughtered in a slaughter-house approved by the competent authority of the importing country.

Article 9

1. Fresh-killed or frozen poultry must be accompanied by a certificate certifying that the said poultry comes from a farm free of diseases legally held to be communicable.

2. The poultry shall have been slaughtered in a specially equipped slaughter-house and, when submitted for import, must be in a plucked state and, except in the case of geese and ducks, without intestines.

Article 10

1. Milk products and eggs may be imported free of veterinary health control restrictions, except in the case of eggs for hatching.

2. For reasons of hygiene, and especially in order to prevent the introduction of salmonellosis, the import of shell-less eggs and their ingredients shall be regulated by an exchange of letters.

Article 11

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

2. Fresh fish and frozen fish must, as a rule, be submitted whole for import. However, the Contracting Parties shall determine the cases and conditions in which fish may be accepted without the head, fins and tail, cleaned or filleted.

3. Fish and other fishery food products preserved in cans or other airtight containers may be imported provided that they have undergone an effective sterilization or preservation process and contain no substance whose use is prohibited by the regulations of the country of destination. Furthermore, the containers must conform with such regulations.

Article 12

1. Consignments which do not comply with the agreed provisions and live-stock which, on crossing the frontier, is found or suspected by the veterinary surgeon to be suffering from a communicable disease, shall be refused clearance.

2. Live-stock 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 communicable disease.

3. The veterinary surgeon at the frontier post of the importing country shall enter and sign in the certificate a statement of the grounds for refusing clearance or for slaughtering.

4. Where a communicable disease is detected in imported live-stock 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.

Article 13

If rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia or other communicable diseases to be specified by the two countries are 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 live-stock of the species subject to the disease, products of animal origin and, in general, any product capable of transmitting the disease.

Article 14

1. Such sanitary precautions as each Contracting Party may deem it advisable to take in respect of live-stock 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.

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

Article 15

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

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

3. 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, frozen, 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 wagons or by air.

Article 16

1. Each Contracting Party undertakes to publish at least once 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 legally held to be communicable.

2. 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 new type or variety of foot-and-mouth virus which may appear shall likewise be given by telegraph.

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

Article 17

The disinfection of means of transport used for carrying live-stock 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

The manner of implementing the provisions of this Convention shall be determined by letters exchanged between the competent veterinary authorities of the Contracting Parties. The conditions laid down by these exchanges of letters may subsequently be modified by the same procedure.

Article 19

1. The two Contracting Parties shall establish a mixed commission composed of three representatives of each Party, i.e. two veterinary surgeons and a legal adviser. Sessions shall be presided over alternately by the highest-ranking representative of each Party. The representatives of the two Parties may be advised at the sessions by specialists.

2. The purpose of the mixed commission shall be :

- (a) To consider and settle any matters arising from the implementation of the Convention, including the exchanges of letters provided for in article 18, and if necessary to propose modifications of the Convention ;
- (b) To put forward proposals for harmonizing the provisions of the Convention with any international undertakings into which the two Parties may hereafter enter on a multilateral basis ;
- (c) To examine, at the request of either Party, the specifications in the sanitary certificates provided for in the Convention.

3. Any difficulties arising in connexion with the implementation or interpretation of the provisions of this Convention and any particular questions not provided for

in this Convention shall be submitted to the mixed commission, which shall deliver its opinion within two months.

4. The provisions of this article and of article 18 shall not be deemed to exclude the possibility of direct conversations between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation, implementation or modification of the Convention.

Article 20

The provisions of this Convention may if necessary be extended, by means of an exchange of letters between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties, to other known or hitherto unknown diseases if there is good reason to fear that they may be communicated.

Article 21

As far as the Kingdom of the Netherlands is concerned, this Convention shall apply only to the territory of the Kingdom in Europe.

Article 22

1. This Convention shall be ratified, and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged at Rome as soon as possible.

2. The Convention shall enter into force one month after the exchange of the instruments of ratification and is concluded for a term of five years.

3. The validity of this Convention shall be automatically extended unless one of the Contracting Parties denounces it through the diplomatic channel on one year's notice.

4. After it has been extended, this Convention may be denounced on six months' notice.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized for the purpose, have signed this Convention.

DONE at The Hague, on 1 September 1959, in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands :

(Signed) H. R. v. HOUTEN

For the Government
of the Italian Republic :

(Signed) R. GIUSTINIANI
(Signed) Aldo ADEMOLLO