

**No. 12284**

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**BULGARIA  
and  
NETHERLANDS**

**Veterinary Agreement. Signed at Sofia on 15 October 1971**

*Authentic text: French.*

*Registered by Bulgaria on 25 January 1973.*

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et  
PAYS-BAS**

**Accord vétérinaire. Signé à Sofia le 15 octobre 1971**

*Texte authentique : français.*

*Enregistré par la Bulgarie le 25 janvier 1973.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

VETERINARY AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and  
The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Desiring to promote the greatest possible measure of co-operation between the two countries in the veterinary field,

Desiring, with due regard for their vital interests, particularly the animal health situation, to develop their reciprocal trade in livestock and animal products,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* 1. The import, export or transit of livestock and products of animal origin listed in this Agreement may be subject to official veterinary or health control by the competent authority of each Contracting Party.

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

*Article 2.* 1. The certificates of origin and health prescribed in this Agreement in respect of livestock shall certify that the livestock comes from one of the Contracting Parties. These certificates and the veterinary health certificates for meat and other products of animal origin shall be issued by the competent authority of the exporting country.

2. The said certificates shall be drawn up in French following models to be mutually agreed upon by the central veterinary services of the two Parties.

*Article 3.* 1. Solipeds, 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 born in the territory of the exporting country or have been there for at least the last six months;
- b.* That at the time of loading, they were inspected and found to be healthy and free from any symptoms of communicable disease.

2. The certificates of origin and health shall be collective or individual. The Joint Commission envisaged in article 22 of this Agreement shall establish which categories of animals shall be accompanied by collective or individual certificates.

3. Each certificate shall in every 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.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 18 November 1972, i.e. one month after the date (18 October 1972) of the exchange of notes giving notice of its approval pursuant to the constitutional provisions of each Contracting Party, in accordance with article 26 (1).

5. The animals, except for poultry and wild animals, shall be identified by a tattoo on the ear, by a ribbon or by a metal disc bearing a number, or by any other indelible mark of identification.

*Article 4.* Certificates required for the export of livestock subject to one of the diseases specified in this article shall be issued for livestock of the susceptible species only if there has been no outbreak of the disease in question in the period indicated below:

- a. In the case of rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease caused by exotic viruses, blue tongue, contagious porcine encephalomyelitis (Teschen's disease), African swine fever, African horse sickness, and encephalomyelitis caused by the American eastern virus, the American western virus, the Venezuelan virus or the Japanese virus: six months for the whole of the territory of the exporting country;
- b. In the case of glanders, infectious anaemia, dourine, sheeppox and types of encephalomyelitis caused by an equine virus: three months for the area within a radius of ten kilometres of the farm of origin and the place of shipment for carriage to the country of destination;
- c. In the case of bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine brucellosis, tuberculosis, rabies, anthrax, sheep-scab and scab of solipeds: three months for the farm of origin and thirty days for the area within a radius of ten kilometres of the farm and the place of shipment for carriage to the country of destination;
- d. In the case of foot-and-mouth disease, swine fever and all forms of fowl pest: the periods laid down in each case by the central veterinary services of the two Contracting Parties.

*Article 5.* 1. The certificates must further certify:

- a. In the case of cattle for slaughtering, that when given an agglutination test for brucellosis not more than thirty days before loading, their reading was less than 30 i.u./ml and that, when given an intra-cutaneous tuberculin test not more than thirty days before loading, their reaction was negative;
- b. In the case of cattle for breeding and production, in addition to the conditions laid down in subparagraph *a*, that they come from farms which have been officially declared free from brucellosis and tuberculosis for at least twelve months and from trichomoniasis for at least six months, that the animals have been free from leukosis for a period to be laid down by the central veterinary services of the two Contracting Parties and that the animals were at the farm at the time of their birth or during the thirty days prior to shipment. In the case of milk cows, that, in addition, they show no traces of mastitis and that an analysis of their milk carried out not more than thirty days before loading did not reveal any characteristic of inflammation, any specific pathogenic micro-organism or the presence of antibiotics;
- c. In the case of sheep and goats not intended for slaughtering, that they are, according to the method of inspection referred to in subparagraph *a* carried out not more than thirty days before loading, free from brucellosis and tuberculosis and from Q fever;

- d.* In the case of pigs not intended for slaughtering,  
that an agglutination test for brucellosis carried out not more than thirty days before loading gave a reading of less than 30 i.u/ml, that test not being required for pigs weighing less than 25 kg;  
that they come from a region where there has been no case of trichinosis for the past year in the slaughter-house, in either the commune where the animals were reared or adjoining communes;  
that they come from farms officially declared free from brucellosis and clinically free from leptospirosis, atrophic rhinitis and virus broncopneumonia;
- e.* In the case of solipeds, that they were given a blood test for glanders not more than fifteen days before their departure and that the result of that test was negative;
- f.* In the case of poultry for breeding and eggs for hatching, that they come from farms which are under veterinary supervision and certified free from notifiable diseases.

2. Animals for slaughtering shall not come from farms undergoing disinfection for communicable diseases.

3. Depending on the epizootiological situation, it may be required that the animals to be imported should be immunized in the country of origin against foot-and-mouth disease by means of an officially authorized killed vaccine prepared from a homologous serum of the type of virus found in the exporting country. The vaccination shall be given at least fifteen days and not more than four months before the animals are loaded;

At the request of either Contracting Party, the vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease may be carried out with a trivalent killed AOC vaccine.

Exemption from vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease may be granted if the country of origin and the country of transit have been free from foot-and-mouth disease for at least six months.

The central veterinary services of the Contracting Parties shall determine by agreement the methods and the biological and other tests not provided for in this Agreement to be used in their respective countries in order to guarantee the freedom from disease referred to in this article.

4. Animals shall be brought directly from the farm to the point of shipment and hence directly and as promptly as possible to the frontier post of the exporting country, and

- a.* Animals for breeding or production and animals for slaughtering shall be kept apart;
- b.* The means of transport and restraining apparatus used shall have been cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant officially authorized in the exporting country, and
- c.* Cattle and pigs shall not come into contact with cloven-hoofed animals other than cattle and pigs which meet the requirements applicable to trade between the Contracting Parties.

*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 official 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 solipeds.

The veterinary authority of the importing country may require an application to be made in advance.

2. Dogs and cats may be imported from the territory of one Contracting Party into the territory of the other on presentation of a veterinary certificate issued by a State veterinary officer or by a veterinary surgeon approved by the State not more than ten days before the frontier is crossed, certifying that there has been no case of rabies or suspected rabies at the place of origin for at least six months.

The Contracting Parties shall require the application of an antirabies vaccination.

*Article 7.* Products of animal origin, such as sperm, hides, horsehair and other hair, wool, horns, claws, whole, broken or crushed bones, manure, and fertilizer and cattle fodder consisting entirely or partly of meal made from meat, bones or blood, shall be accompanied by a veterinary certificate identifying them and certifying that they are not suspected of conveying any agent of the diseases referred to in article 4, including salmonellae in the case of the meal made from meat, bones or blood, and that they have undergone a process of sterilization or disinfection. The central veterinary service of each Contracting Party shall inform the central veterinary service of the other Party of the techniques employed for sterilizing or disinfecting products of animal origin before they are exported.

*Article 8.* 1. No fresh, frozen, chilled or otherwise preserved meat of animals of the bovine, equine, 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 a veterinary health inspection before and after slaughtering in an official slaughterhouse under constant veterinary health supervision. Meat for export must have been found to be healthy and fit for human consumption.

2. All slaughter-houses and establishments cutting up and preparing meat for export shall have a veterinary identification number and shall be listed in an official register. The central veterinary services of the Contracting Parties shall periodically communicate to each other lists of slaughter-houses, establishments cutting up and preparing meat and refrigerated storage depots and the legislation concerning meat inspection.

3. In the case of pork or pork preparations, other than cooked preparations, the certificate shall state either that tests for cysticercosis and trichinosis gave negative results or that no cases of trichinosis or cysticercosis have been reported for at least one year in the whole of the territory of the country. If there has been no case of trichinosis or cysticercosis for at least one year in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties, the central veterinary service of that Party shall inform the central veterinary service of the other Party.

4. In the case of all meat preparations, the certificate must 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 importing country.

5. The carcasses of adult bovine cattle and horses must be flayed and halved or quartered without attached organs, calves or pigs must be whole or halved without attached organs, and sheep and goats must be whole without attached organs.

6. Each whole, halved or quartered carcass must bear a veterinary control stamp and the official identification number of the slaughter-house of origin.

7. Scraping of the serous membranes or removal of ganglia or of any portion of flesh shall result in refusal of clearance.

The following shall also be refused clearance:

- a. The meat of boars and cryptorchid pigs, except in specially agreed cases;
- b. Meat in which veterinary inspection has revealed the existence of tuberculosis or the presence of live or dead cystworms;
- c. Meat which shows traces of traumatic lesions or localized malformations or deformity which by their nature make it unfit for human consumption or dangerous to man;
- d. Pork fat containing regenerated fats or any other substance whose use is prohibited by the legislation of the importing country;
- e. Meat and meat preparations treated with radioactive, antibiotic, oestrogenic or thyreostatic substances or with tenderizers.

8. The import of fresh, chilled or frozen pieces of meat, with or without bones, of raw fat and of individual organs shall be permitted under conditions to be laid down by the central veterinary services of the two Contracting Parties.

9. The containers in which meat preparations are packed and the markings on them must conform to legislation of the importing country.

10. The central veterinary service of each Contracting Party shall communicate to the central veterinary service of the other Party the list of substances whose addition to meat preparations and fats is permitted by the legislation of its country.

*Article 9.* 1. Fresh, chilled or frozen poultry must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate certifying that the poultry was killed in specially equipped and approved export slaughter-houses under the control of the veterinary health service and, upon importation, must be presented plucked, and cleaned or drawn. A few feathers may, however, be left on the wings of ducks and geese.

2. Poultry which has been treated before slaughtering with oestrogenic, thyreostatic, or arsenic- or antimony-based substances, and meat and meat preparations from poultry treated with radioactive substances or antibiotics shall be refused clearance.

3. Imports of eggs not in the shell, their constituent parts and powdered eggs shall be permitted if they are accompanied by a certificate issued by a State veterinary officer or by a veterinary surgeon approved by the State certifying that such products are free from salmonellae or other pathogenic micro-organisms.

*Article 10.* 1. Imports of milk and milk products, eggs and fish shall be authorized if they are accompanied by a veterinary health certificate.

2. Fish and fish products may not contain radioactive substances in excess of the permissible quantities established by the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

3. Canned or otherwise preserved fish may be imported provided that it has undergone an effective sterilization or preservation process and contains no substance whose use is prohibited by the regulations of the importing country. It shall be accompanied by a test report (prepared by a State veterinary or health laboratory) certifying that it is harmless and fit for human consumption. The containers shall also conform to the legislation of the importing country.

*Article 11.* The animals hereinafter specified shall not be transported from the territory of one Contracting Party to that of the other save on presentation of a certificate issued by a State veterinary officer certifying:

- a. In the case of hares, rabbits and fur-bearing animals, that the region of origin has been free from tularaemia and myxomatosis for at least one year;
- b. In the case of fur-bearing animals, that they are free from tularaemia and viral enteritis and come from a farm which has been free from viral enteritis for at least three years and where the surrounding area within a radius of 100 kilometres has been free from viral enteritis for one year;
- c. In the case of wildfowl, that the commune of origin and the adjoining communes have been free from fowl pest for at least forty days;
- d. In the case of wild or exotic cloven-hoofed animals and carnivores, that they have been kept for at least six months in a zoological garden or quarantine park and that they are free from any communicable disease;
- e. In the case of wild boar, that the result of the test for trichinosis was negative.

*Article 12.* 1. Consignments which do not comply with the foregoing provisions and livestock which, on crossing the frontier, is found or suspected by the veterinary officer to be suffering from a communicable disease shall be refused clearance. Livestock which is refused clearance may, however, at the request of the importer or exporter concerned and in accordance with the regulations in force in the importing country, be admitted provided that it is immediately slaughtered in a slaughter-house designated by the central veterinary authority. Meat and products derived from animals so slaughtered shall be governed by the procedure applicable to animals of domestic origin suffering or suspected to be suffering from a communicable disease.

2. The veterinary officer at the frontier post of the importing country shall enter on the certificate, in a signed statement, the grounds for refusing clearance or for slaughtering; the same veterinary officer shall also prepare the official report in duplicate.

3. When a communicable disease is detected in imported livestock only after it has entered the importing country, an official report must be drawn up on the matter and signed by a veterinary officer within a reasonable period.

4. When health measures are taken, in accordance with the foregoing provisions, with respect to livestock presented for import, the central veterinary authority of the importing country shall immediately notify the central veterinary authority of the exporting country by cable, specifying the number of animals to which the measures have been applied, the symptoms or disease discovered and the measures taken. The cable shall be followed by a detailed report.

5. The procedure described in paragraph 4 shall also be applicable to imports of meat, fats and meat preparations.

*Article 13.* If the central veterinary service of either Contracting Party considers it necessary, the provisions of article 4 may, if the central veterinary services of both Parties so agree, be also declared applicable to products of animal origin and to all products or articles capable of transmitting a disease.

*Article 14.* If there is in the territory of one of the Contracting Parties an outbreak of any epizootic disease liable to spread, the other Party shall be entitled, after consultations with the Contracting Party in whose territory the epizootic disease has been discovered, to prohibit or restrict, for such time as the danger of contagion persists, the import and transit of livestock, of products of animal origin and of all products capable of transmitting the contagion.

*Article 15.* 1. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to the direct transit through the territory of one Contracting Party of livestock and products of animal origin from the territory of the other Party, provided that the country of destination undertakes not to refuse clearance to any transit consignment of livestock or products of animal origin. If other countries must be traversed en route, a transit permit shall be obtained from each such country in advance.

2. An advance permit issued by any countries to be traversed en route and by the country of destination shall not be required for transit consignments of fresh, chilled, frozen, canned or prepared meat or raw materials of animal origin conveyed by rail or road in closed and sealed wagons or trucks, or by air.

*Article 16.* Livestock, products of animal origin or other products and articles capable of carrying contagious disease organisms which are not referred to in this Agreement shall be subject to the relevant provisions of the veterinary legislation of each Contracting Party.

*Article 17.* 1. The veterinary service of each Contracting Party shall publish a fortnightly bulletin on the veterinary health situation, which shall be transmitted directly to the veterinary service of the other Contracting Party. In addition, the central veterinary service of each Contracting Party may obtain from the central veterinary service of the other Party any veterinary information which may be of interest to it.

2. In the event of an outbreak of any of the diseases specified in article 4, *a*, and *b*, or of the appearance of any type or strain of the foot-and-mouth virus in the territory of either Contracting Party, the central veterinary service of the other Contracting Party shall be so notified immediately and directly by cable. The information sent by cable shall be supplemented by a detailed report specifying in particular the origin of the disease, the place of its appearance, its development and the measures taken to combat it.

3. All other urgent communications relating to the application of this Agreement may also be exchanged directly between the central veterinary services of the two Contracting Parties.

*Article 18.* The Contracting Parties undertake:

1. To facilitate co-operation between the veterinary research authorities, institutes and laboratories of the two countries;
2. To promote the exchange of veterinary experts in order to keep them informed of advances in veterinary science and techniques;



3. To exchange (in one copy) the texts of veterinary legislation.

*Article 19.* Any expenses arising out of the application of article 18 (2) shall be borne by the Contracting Party sending its experts on mission.

*Article 20.* The disinfection of vehicles used for the carriage of livestock or raw materials of animal origin shall, if carried out in accordance with the regulations in force in the territory of one Contracting Party, be recognized as valid by the other Party.

*Article 21.* Arrangements for implementing this Agreement shall be determined by letters exchanged between the central veterinary services of the Contracting Parties. The conditions laid down by exchange of letters may subsequently be modified by the same procedure.

*Article 22.* 1. The two Contracting Parties shall appoint a Joint Commission composed of three representatives of each Party, i.e. two veterinary officers and a legal adviser. Sessions shall be presided over by the heads of the two delegations alternately. The representatives of the two Parties may request the advice of experts at the sessions.

2. The purpose of the Joint Commission shall be :

a. To consider and settle any matters arising from the implementation of the Agreement, including the exchanges of letters provided for in article 21, and if necessary to propose modifications;

b. To examine, at the request of either Party, the specifications for the veterinary health certificates provided for in this Agreement.

3. Any difficulties arising in connexion with the implementation or interpretation of this Agreement and any special problems not provided for in this Agreement shall be submitted to the Joint Commission, which shall issue its opinion within two months.

4. The provisions of this article and of article 21 shall not be deemed to exclude the possibility of direct discussions between the competent authorities of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation, implementation or modification of the Agreement.

*Article 23.* The provisions of this Agreement 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 24.* The two Contracting Parties shall agree on steps to be taken to bring the provisions of this Agreement into line with any obligations which either Contracting Party may assume under international arrangements to which the other is not a party.

*Article 25.* As far as the Kingdom of the Netherlands is concerned, this Agreement shall apply only to the territory of the Kingdom in Europe.

*Article 26.* 1. This Agreement shall be approved in accordance with the constitutional provisions of each Contracting Party and shall enter into force one month after the date of the exchange of notes through the diplomatic channel giving notice of such approval.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period, without prejudice to the right of either Contracting Party to denounce it on six months' notice.

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

DONE at Sofia, on 15 October 1971, in duplicate in the French language.

For the Government  
of the People's Republic of Bulgaria:

For the Government  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

[Signed]

[Signed]

VALCAN CHOPOV

Dr. LOUIS IGNACE GRAF

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