



Circular letter on the additional certification guarantees for movements of bovine animals to and from Member States or regions which have (or do not have) an approved IBR eradication programme or IBR-free status.

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1. Objective

This circular letter sets out the additional guarantees for the certification / movements of bovine animals to and from Member States or regions with disease-free status as regards infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) or that have an approved IBR eradication programme or that are not free from IBR.

2. Scope

The list of IBR-free Member States or regions, Member States or regions with an EU-approved IBR eradication programme and Member States or regions that are not free from IBR can be found in the annexes to the consolidated version of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases.

IBR is a category C disease in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.

3. References

3.1. Legislation

- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health;
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) No 2016/429 and (EU) No

2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC;

- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 on the application of certain disease prevention and control rules to categories of listed diseases and establishing a list of species and groups of species posing a considerable risk for the spread of those listed diseases;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council, as regards animal health requirements for movements within the Union of terrestrial animals and hatching eggs;
- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases;
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/403 laying down rules for the application of Regulations (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards model animal health certificates and model animal health/official certificates, for the entry into the Union and movements between Member States of consignments of certain categories of terrestrial animals and germinal products thereof, official certification regarding such certificates and repealing Decision 2010/470/EU;
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases;
- RD of 25/11/2016: Royal Decree on the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis;

3.2. Other

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4. Definitions and abbreviations

Abbreviations:

- IBR: infectious bovine rhinotracheitis;
- BoHV-1: Bovine herpes virus type 1 causing the animal disease IBR.

Definitions:

- Bovine animals intended for slaughter: kept bovine animals being moved either directly or after undergoing an assembly operation to a slaughterhouse;
- Bovine animals not intended for slaughter: other bovine animals which are kept for any other purpose (including “hobby cattle”).
- Movements: movements between Member States.

Vaccination:

- gE-deleted, gE-negative or marker vaccine: IBR vaccine inducing no serological reaction to the glycoprotein E;
- Vaccinations and revaccinations with gE-negative vaccines are carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the vaccines and, in case of implementation in Belgium,

in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Royal Decree of 25 November 2016 on the control of IBR;

- Vaccination is prohibited in IBR-free establishments.

Serological investigation:

Annex I, Part 5 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688

	Methods
Non-vaccinated bovine animals	BoHV-1 I-ELISA (a)
	gB B-ELISA (b)
Bovine animals vaccinated with a gE-deleted vaccine	gE B-ELISA (c)

(a) Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) for the detection of antibodies against BoHV-1 whole virus

(b) ELISA for the detection of antibodies against BoHV-1-gB protein. When referred to tests for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, this method may also be used

(c) ELISA for the detection of antibodies against BoHV-1-gE protein

IBR statuses in Belgium:

Status EU	Status BE
IBR-free	I4-6: no vaccinated bovine animals in the herd I4-5 : presence of vaccinated bovine animals in the herd
Not free from IBR	I3 or I2

IBR management has been fully delegated to the approved associations DGZ (Dierengezondheidszorg Vlaanderen) and ARSIA (Association Régionale de Santé et d'Identification Animale). On the websites of these associations you will find all the necessary information on how to obtain and maintain the statuses with the ultimate goal of obtaining disease-free status.

These are based on:

- Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/689, Annex IV, Part IV, Section 1;
- Royal Decree on the control of infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

DGZ: <https://www.dgz.be/rundvee/gezondheidszorg/programma-s/ibr-programma>

ARSIA : <https://www.arsia.be/ibr-changements-radicaux-en-2021/>

The IBR statuses of cattle herds in Belgium can be obtained via ARSIA and DGZ:

- DGZ: list of Flemish herds with their IBR statuses > <https://www.dgz.be/programma/ibr-bestrijding> or in *Veepортаal* by looking up a bovine animal;
- ARSIA (Association Régionale de Santé et d'Identification Animales): please contact the association via email (admin.sante@arsia.be), mentioning the Sanitel number of the herd concerned and the subject of the request.

5. Movements of bovine animals and IBR.

BOVINE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER

No additional guarantees are required.

BOVINE ANIMALS NOT INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER

Summary table		
5.1. Movements to Belgium		
<i>Member State/region of origin</i>	<i>Member state of destination</i>	
IBR-free	Belgium	See 5.1.1.
approved eradication programme	Belgium	See 5.1.2.
Not free from IBR	Belgium	See 5.1.3.
5.2. Movements from Belgium		
<i>Member State of origin</i>	<i>Member State/region of destination</i>	
Belgium	IBR-free	See 5.2.1.
Belgium	Approved eradication programme	See 5.2.2.
Belgium	Not free from IBR	See 5.2.3.

ATTENTION: by passing through an assembly centre a bovine animal may lose its higher IBR status. In an assembly centre all animals present receive the status of the bovine animal with the lowest status.

5.1. Movements to Belgium

5.1.1. Dispatch to Belgium from Member States/regions with IBR-free status.

No special requirements

5.1.2. Dispatch to Belgium from Member States/regions with an approved IBR eradication programme

5.1.2.1. The establishment of origin is free from IBR.

No special requirements

5.1.2.2. The establishment of origin is not free from IBR.

The animals have been kept in an approved quarantine establishment for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, with a negative result, carried out on samples taken not less than 21 days after commencement of the quarantine.

5.1.3. Dispatch to Belgium from Member States/regions that are not free from IBR

5.1.3.1 The establishment of origin is free from IBR

- The animals have been subject to quarantine for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole

BoHV-1 or, in case of animals vaccinated with a gE-deleted vaccine, antibodies against the BoHV-1 gE protein, with a negative result, on a sample taken during the last 15 days prior to their departure;

- There are no additional requirements for animals destined for an establishment which keeps bovine animals for meat production without contact to bovine animals of other establishments, and from which they are directly moved to the slaughterhouse. In Belgium these are veal calf farms and fattening herds registered in Sanitel with the IBR I2 8 status. The IBR statuses of cattle herds in Belgium can be obtained via ARSIA and DGZ (see point 4.).

5.1.3.2 The establishment of origin is not free from IBR

- The animals have been kept in **an approved quarantine establishment** for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, with a negative result, carried out on samples taken not less than 21 days after commencement of the quarantine.

5.2. Movements from Belgium

Movements from Belgium of bovine animals to be certified as bovine animals not intended for slaughter may take place:

- from the herd (possibly after quarantine);
- from a quarantine establishment approved by the FASFC;
- from an approved assembly centre.

5.2.1. Dispatch from Belgium to Member States/regions that are free from IBR

The animals have not been vaccinated against IBR.

5.2.1.1. The animals come from an establishment that is free from IBR.

The animals have been subject to quarantine for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, with a negative result, carried out on a sample taken during the last 15 days prior to their departure.

5.2.1.2. The animals come from an establishment that is not free from IBR.

The animals have been kept in **an approved quarantine establishment** for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, with a negative result, carried out on samples taken not less than 21 days after commencement of the quarantine.

5.2.2. Dispatch from Belgium to other Member States/regions with an approved IBR eradication programme

5.2.2.1. The establishment of origin is free from IBR

No special requirements.

5.2.2.2. The establishment of origin is not free from IBR:

The animals have been kept in **an approved quarantine establishment** for at least 30 days prior to departure and have been subjected to a serological test for the detection of antibodies against whole BoHV-1, with a negative result, carried out on samples taken not less than 21 days after commencement of the quarantine.

5.2.3. Dispatch from Belgium to Member States/regions that are not free from IBR

5.2.3.1. Bovine animals to be certified as bovine animals not intended for slaughter

No additional guarantees are required.

5.2.3.2. Bovine animals to be certified as bovine animals intended for slaughter

No additional guarantees are required.

6. Annex

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7. Overview of revisions

Overview of revisions of the circular letter		
Version	Applicable from	Reasons for and scope of the revision
1.0	26/02/2015	Granting by the EU of the article 9 status as regards IBR to Belgium.
2.0	24/09/2020	Granting by the EU of the article 9 or article 10 status as regards IBR to several regions or countries.
2.1	11/12/2020	Granting by the EU of the article 9 or article 10 status as regards IBR to several regions or countries.
3.0	Publication date	Entry into force of the new European Animal Health Regulation (the AHL) and in particular Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620