



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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Circular V8/2016

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR TESTING OF SAMPLES FOR LIVESTOCK EXPORTS TO SOUTH AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

THIS CIRCULAR REPLACES CIRCULAR V4 OF 2014 TITLED: STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR TESTING OF LIVESTOCK FOR EXPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA.

From 1st July 2016 all cattle and small stock destined for export to the Republic of South Africa (RSA) would have to be tested for tuberculosis (cattle only) and brucellosis (both cattle and small stock). However, flocks that were already tested for *Brucella melitensis* with negative results and have been kept in a closed flock, according to the *Brucella melitensis* surveillance protocol (Circular V9/2014) for export to the EU, are considered free and there is no need to re-test them as long as the EU export status remains valid and are exported directly from the farm without contact with non-tested animals and ONLY for direct slaughter or feedlot purposes.

Due to the high numbers of livestock exports to RSA, the pre-export testing of these animals presents a serious logistical challenge for DVS due to limited capacity to cope with such a high number of samples requiring collection, processing and testing. It is therefore against this background that some guidelines on dealing with this situation have become necessary. The following are guidelines in which the role of each stakeholder is explained so that the arrangements for testing of export animals is be done in an organised manner.

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES/TESTING

Exporters to RSA requiring their animals to be tested are required to apply in writing to the nearest State Veterinary office at least 10 working days prior to the day when samples are to be collected or TB tests done in the case of cattle. State Veterinary offices should inform CVL at the same time that they receive notification from exporters. All the samples should only be sent through the local State Veterinary office.

The sample submission form must be verified and signed by the local State Veterinarian. CVL, upon receiving of such samples will notify the responsible State Veterinary Office that such samples have been received at CVL. All concerns the exporters might have regarding the sample status at CVL and the results thereof should be communicated through their local State Veterinary Office.

PAYMENT FOR SERVICES AND SUPPLY OF MATERIALS

The exporter shall bear all the costs pertaining to transport, laboratory costs, TB testing antigen, blood collecting tubes and other accessories, as incurred by DVS.

DUTIES OF STATE VETERINARY OFFICES

- Receiving of notifications from farmers/exporters and at the same time notify CVL.
- Liaising with CVL prior to collection of samples
- Collection of samples and conducting any field tests that might be required
- Separation, packaging, labelling and sending serum samples to CVL.
- Billing and collection of fees from farmers/exporters (Billing for laboratory tests is normally done upon receipt of results and invoice from CVL)
- Following up of laboratory results
- Informing farmers/exporters timely upon receiving laboratory results and payment thereof.
- Keeping appropriate records of all samples collected and results received from CVL.
- Certification only when all requirements are complied with.
- Blood samples should be collected in either red top or yellow (gel & clot activator) vacutainer tubes.
- If blood has been collected in red top vacutainer tubes, serum separations must be done prior sending to CVL.
- If blood has been collected in yellow (gel & clot activator) vacutainer tubes no serum separation is needed prior to sending to CVL; meaning they can be immediately sent as they are.
- All samples must labelled clearly and legibly.

- Ensure that packaging is done appropriately to avoid any spillages.
- All details of the farmer, samples and veterinary official must be fully captured on the DRF.
- It must also be clearly indicated on the DRF if testing is for export to RSA.

DUTIES OF FARMERS/EXPORTERS

- Notification of the nearest State Veterinary Office in writing at least 10 working days prior to the envisaged date of sampling
- Provision of blood tubes, needles, reagents (Brucella antigens for RBT) and TB testing antigen, if required by the State Veterinarian
- Appropriate means of individual identification (ear tags) of all animals intended for export must be provided prior to testing. In small stock, tagging of animals during blood collection could be more practical. However, this should be discussed with the local State Veterinarian.
- Tested animals should be kept in isolation until they are loaded for export.
- Timely payment of any fees charged. Lab results will not be released unless the full payment has been made.

DUTIES OF CENTRAL VETERINARY LABORATORY

- Receiving of samples for testing
- Timely testing of received samples
- Timely sending of results to the respective State Veterinary offices together with the invoice within 5 working days. In case of delays offices should be informed accordingly.
- Liaising with State Veterinary Offices

Regards,



Dr A F Maseke

ACTING CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

The last Circular V7/2016 was entitled, "Protocol for foot and mouth disease investigation"