Annex 14

CHAPTER 8.18.  
  
**INFECTION WITH *TRICHINELLA* SPP.**

Article 8.18.1.

General provisions

Trichinellosis is a widely distributed zoonosis caused by eating raw or undercooked *meat* from *Trichinella* infected food-producing animals or *wildlife*. Given that clinical signs of trichinellosis are not generally recognised in animals, the importance of trichinellosis lies exclusively in the *risk* posed to humans and costs of control in *slaughter* populations.

The adult parasite and the larval forms live in the small intestine and muscles (respectively) of many mammalian, avian and reptile host species. ~~Within the genus~~ *~~Trichinella~~*~~, twelve genotypes have been identified, nine of which have been designated as species. There is geographical variation amongst the genotypes.~~

Prevention of *infection* in susceptible species of domestic animals intended for human consumption relies on the prevention of exposure of those animals to the *meat* and *meat products* of *Trichinella* infected animals. This includes consumption of food waste of domestic animal origin, rodents and *wildlife*.

*Meat* and *meat products* derived from *wildlife* should be considered a potential source of *infection* for humans. Therefore, untested *meat* and *meat products* of *wildlife* may pose a public health *risk*.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, *infection* with *Trichinella* spp. is defined as an *infection* of suids or equids by parasites of the genus *Trichinella*.

This chapter provides recommendations for on-farm prevention of *Trichinella infection* in domestic pigs *(Sus scrofa domesticus)*, and safe trade of *meat* and *meat products* derived from suids and equids. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) and Guidelines for the control of *Trichinella* spp. in meat of Suidae (CAC/GL 86-2015).

~~Methods for the detection of~~ *~~Trichinella~~**~~infection~~* ~~in pigs and other animal species include direct demonstration of~~ *~~Trichinella~~* ~~larvae in muscle samples. Demonstration of the presence of~~ *~~Trichinella~~*~~-specific circulating antibodies using a validated serological test may be useful for epidemiological purposes.~~

When authorizing the import or transit of the *commodities* covered in this chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 8.18.2., *Veterinary Authorities* should apply the recommendations in this chapter.

Standards for ~~diagnostic tests~~ diagnosis and information on the epidemiology are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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