

**Advice 29-2013 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on a draft royal decree modifying the royal decree of 22th November 2006 concerning the control of bovine infectious rhinotracheitis**

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate a project of royal decree modifying the royal decree of 22th November 2006 concerning the control of bovine infectious rhinotracheitis (IBR).

The Scientific Committee agrees with the proposal to sample all purchased bovines younger than 12 months, in preparing the serological reports for the acquisition of IBR qualification of herds. This measure increases the probability of detection of infected animals. Indeed, animals introduced into I2 herds are not submitted to mandatory purchase tests.

The Scientific Committee agrees with the proposal to sample bovines younger than 12 months, born in the herd, if this age group represents a high percentage of the herd. However, it recommends to modify their proportion from 75 % to 50% of the herd. Hereby increases the probability of detection of IBR in those herds. This allows to obtain a sampling fraction of minimum 50% of the animals, including in the closed herds, ensuring a higher accuracy and a better representativeness during herd qualification.

According to the observed IBR prevalences in the different age classes, the initial choice (in the basic decree of 2007) of an age threshold of 12 months, as threshold from which all animals of the herd have to be tested, was justified because it allows (1) to reduce the risk of erroneous herd qualification due to the non detection of infected animals and (2) to determine with a sufficient precision if BoHV1 virus circulation occurs in animals aged between 12 and 24 months.

The Scientific Committee approves the taking into account of serological profiles (the combined results of several tests) for the IBR qualification of herds because they will allow to reduce the risks of qualification error due to aspecific reactions (false positive results). This notion of serological profile should be extended throughout the whole decree.

The Scientific Committee approves the proposal of acquisition of I3 and I4 qualification in case of repopulating of herds, but it recommends the drafting of instructions where all the application modalities are specified.

The Committee is also of opinion that the possibility to take note of the IBR status of neighboring herds should be expanded to the farmers in charge of I1 and I2 herds besides the farmers in charge of I3 and I4 herds.

The Scientific Committee proposes several textual adaptations to clarify the project of royal decree and to avoid possible interpretation problems.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".