

RECOMMENDATIONS

as endorsed by the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
on 16 February 2012 (will be updated when relevant)

MEAT:

Relevant knowledge: Only clinically healthy animals are slaughtered. The viraemic period is very short. Transmission of the virus is most likely by vectors.

Risk of transmission to humans and animals: Negligible

MILK

Relevant knowledge: Milk is only collected from clinically healthy animals. The viraemic period is very short. Transmission of the virus is most likely by vectors.

Risk of transmission to humans and animals: Negligible

SEMEN

Relevant knowledge: The viraemic period is very short. Semen is collected from clinically healthy animals. From 8 bulls experimentally infected with Akabane virus, virus was not found in semen even during the viraemic period (*Experimental infection of bulls with Akabane virus*, Parsonson IM, Della-Porta AJ, Snowdon WA, O'Halloran ML, Res Vet Sci. 1981 Sep;31(2):157-60.). From other vector-borne diseases like bluetongue, it is known that transmission through semen, collected from viraemic animals, is possible.

Risk of transmission to animals: Negligible for sero-negative bulls. Further experiments are needed.

Recommendation: According to the current knowledge, the risk is probably lower than the risk for bluetongue and the recommendation similar to the one for bluetongue should therefore provide sufficient assurance of safety for semen, taking into consideration a much shorter infective period of Schmallenberg virus.

EMBRYOS

Relevant knowledge: The viraemic period is very short. Embryos are collected from clinically healthy animals. Akabane virus is classified under the category 4 (diseases or pathogenic agents for which studies have been done or are in progress that indicate that either no conclusions are yet possible with regard to the level of transmission risk; or the risk of transmission via embryo transfer might not be negligible even if the embryos are properly handled between collection and transfer). Schmallenberg virus is known to have a tropism for embryos and fetuses.

Recommendation: Safety measures applicable to Akabane virus should be followed. With further research, the measures should be reviewed and specified.

Risk of transmission: According to the current knowledge, the risk from sero-negative donor animals is negligible. These animals should stay sero-negative 21 days after the collection. Sero-positive and PCR-negative donor animals at the day of insemination should be also considered with negligible risk.

LIVE ADULT NON-PREGNANT ANIMALS

Relevant knowledge: The viraemic period is very short. Mild clinical signs might occur. Transmission is most likely by vectors.

Recommendation: The measures taken should be similar to those for bluetongue, taking into consideration a much shorter infective period.

Risk of transmission: Negligible for the following animals according to the current knowledge related to the limited data available. All measures are aimed to allow a reasonable but high safety margin. All measures have to be carefully reviewed when more data will be available.

- Sero-negative twice in quarantine (within 28 days) or,
- Sero-positive twice with an interval of 14 days or,
- PCR-negative after 7 days in a vector-free environment or,
- Sero-positive and PCR-negative.

LIVE PREGNANT ANIMALS

Relevant knowledge: The virus can persist in the foetus; this can result in the birth of virus positive calves, lambs and kids. Some pre-colostral calves are sero-positive. The vectors are unknown yet and the relevant pregnancy time to induce viraemic newborns is not exactly known.

Risk of transmission:

- Negligible for the offspring of sero-negative animals tested twice in quarantine (within 28 days),
- Negligible for the offspring of animals sero-positive before insemination,
- Undetermined for the offspring of all animals not covered by the previous bullets.

Recommendation: It is urgently needed to collect more data about the relevant infection periods inducing viraemic newborn.

LIVE NEWBORNS

Relevant knowledge: To the available knowledge, no viraemic healthy newborn was reported, all viraemic live newborns were malformed or had health problems.

Risk of transmission: To the available knowledge, the risk of transmission from healthy newborns is hypothetical.

Recommendation: A study to evaluate the potential existence of viraemic healthy newborn is needed.
