



Ref: VITT1200/CSF-SLOVAKIA

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER
IN
SLOVAKIA

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Date approved: 13 August 2004

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1 Summary

An outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) was reported on 12 August 2004 in a commercial pig herd located in the Lučenek district (southern Slovakia). The herd was depopulated on 12 August 2004. Disease introduction to the herd was attributed to indirect contact with wild boar.

An outbreak of CSF in any member State is of concern. However, this outbreak occurred in a province of Slovakia that is already subject to restrictions under EU rules because CSF is present in wild boar. Therefore the Veterinary Directorate considers that at present the risk of CSF spread from this outbreak to UK via legal trade is negligible.

2 CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER – SLOVAKIA

2.1 Disease Report

On 12 August 2004, the Slovakian authorities reported an outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) in a commercial pig operation located in the Lučenec district, Banská Bystrica (southern Slovakia) (European Commission, 2004). Prior to this outbreak, CSF was detected in wild boar in Zvolen district, Banská Bystrica on 2 August 2004 and in Veľký Krtis district, Banská Bystrica, on 9 August 2004. Fig.1 shows the location of the outbreaks.



The outbreak occurred within the established restricted zone in Slovakia where CSF is present in wild boar. Clinical disease was suspected by the Slovakian authorities on 4 August 2004 and confirmed by virus isolation on 9

August 2004. A single pig herd (324 pigs) was affected resulting in 4 clinical cases. The affected herd was depopulated and destroyed on 12 August 2004. Indirect contact with wild boar is believed to have resulted in the introduction of disease to this herd.

Comment: Outbreaks of CSF in domestic pigs occurred in another area (Trencin) within the restricted zone from October 2003 to January 2004 (Sabirovic and others, 2004a; Sabirovic and others, 2004b). There is routine CSF surveillance of domestic pigs and the wild boar population. Vaccination against CSF in domestic pigs has not been practiced since December 2000 (OIE, 2001).

2.2 Legal trade - current information

Affected Member States are required to enforce EU rules for protection and surveillance zones when CSF occurs in domestic pigs. In addition, affected regions of Slovakia (marked as restricted zone in Fig.1) are included in a safeguard measure preventing the movement of live pigs from areas of the EU where CSF is known to occur in wild boar.

2.2.1 Live pigs and germplasm

The affected region is subject to EU CSF restrictions that prohibit export of live pigs and pig germplasm.

TRACES shows no imports of live pigs or germplasm from Slovakia to the UK

2.2.2 Fresh pig meat/ minced meat or meat preparations

EU rules prohibit the intra-community trade of these commodities originating from pigs from any pig holdings within the protection and surveillance zone.

EU rules permit trade in fresh pig meat originating from pigs outside the protection and surveillance zone.

2.2.3 Fresh meat from wild boar

Where disease is suspected or confirmed in wild boar all pigs shot or found dead in the affected areas must be inspected by an official veterinarian and tested for CSF.

If the tests are negative, meat from animals shot for human consumption may be consumed locally but not sent into intra-Community trade.

2.2.4 Pig meat products

EU rules permit trade in pig meat products that originated from pigs within the protection and surveillance provided they are produced from pigs that do not come from holdings under any specific restrictions and remain under official control until treated by heat or maturation to destroy the virus as specified by EU rules.

EU rules permit trade in pig meat products originating from pigs outside the protection and surveillance zone.

3 RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE UK

Based on current information on the outbreak of CSF in Slovakia, the Veterinary Directorate presently considers that with regard to:

3.1 Legal trade in:

3.1.1 Live pigs and germplasm

The risk is negligible from legal trade because the EU rules prevent trade in live pigs, pig semen, embryos and ova from the affected regions within the EU. There have been no imports of live pigs or germplasm from Slovakia in 2004.

3.1.2 Fresh pig meat/minced meat or meat preparations

The risk is negligible because the EU rules prevent trade in fresh pig meat and meat preparations from pigs from the protection and surveillance zones around infected domestic pig holdings.

3.1.3 Pig meat products

The risk is negligible because the EU rules require that pig meat products made from meat from pigs from the protection and surveillance zones be processed to destroy the virus.

3.2 Products for personal consumption

Pig meat may be brought from Slovakia in small amounts for personal consumption only. The measures described above ensure the treatment of meat from pigs at risk of disease before it is supplied to the public.

Wild boar meat should be available to consumers only if derived from areas free from CSF or from wild boar tested for CSF with negative results.

4 CONCLUSION

The initial information indicates that this outbreak is confined to a single pig herd in a province of Slovakia that is already subject to restrictions under EU rules because of the disease presence in wild boar. As a Member State, Slovakia complies with the relevant EU CSF control measures.

The risk of CSF spread from this outbreak to the UK via movement of live pigs, pig germplasm, pig meat and pig meat products is considered negligible due to existing restrictions under the EU rules. The Veterinary Directorate will continue to monitor the situation and will re-assess the risk in the light of any new information received.

5 REFERENCES

European Commission, (2003). Animal Disease Notification System. Primary disease notification, 12 August 2004.

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