

## TASK\_FORCE\_DOCUMENTO\_SANCO\_7059\_2013

(No representa necesariamente el criterio de la Com.Eur)

enzootic leucosis in cattle<sup>4</sup>, vaccine strains are not excluded from the definition of bovine tuberculosis as BCG vaccine strain belongs to *M. bovis* species.

### 1.3. The *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex as causal agent of bovine tuberculosis in the EU legislative context

The status of a herd as regards bovine tuberculosis is determined in accordance with the criteria set up in Annex A of Directive 64/432/EEC by the absence of reactor animals to an intradermal tuberculin test. In the case of positive reactions to the test, the status of the herd is suspended and depending on the outcome of further investigations, the competent authority may withdraw the status. However, Point 3B of that Annex clarifies that following the isolation of the pathogen, the officially tuberculosis-free status of the herd is to be withdrawn in all cases, with consequences for the reinstatement of the previous officially free status.

Consequently, as *M. caprae* was considered part of *M. bovis* at the time Directive 97/12/EC was adopted and there is substantial scientific evidence indicating that *M. caprae* causes bovine tuberculosis, all surveillance and laboratory findings related to *M. caprae* (skin test reactions, agent isolation, PCR, spoligotyping) should be considered indication or confirmation of bovine tuberculosis.

Already the aforementioned Annex B to Directive 64/432/EEC clarifies that isolates may be characterised by their cultural and biochemical properties, and in particular that the genetic fingerprinting allows distinguishing between different strains of *M. bovis* and describing of patterns of origin, transmission and spread of *M. bovis*.

Commission Implementing Decision 2012/737/EU<sup>5</sup> included tuberculosis in the Annex to Council Directive 82/894/EEC of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the Community<sup>6</sup> to provide for the possibility to specify (in case it is known) the bacterial species causing the notified tuberculosis outbreak.

The consequence of that is that all provisions explicitly referring to *M. bovis* in Directive 64/432/EEC should be understood as applicable to *M. caprae* and therefore should also be reported to ADNS.

The above considerations support the Commission's view that the recent discussion and evolution of the taxonomy of the *Mycobacterium* species should not lead to neglecting the

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EN CASO DE REACCIONES POSITIVAS, SE SUSPENDERA EL ESTATUS Y DEPENDIENDO DE ULTERIORES INVESTIGACIONES, LA AUTORIDAD COMPETENTE PODRÁ RETIRARLO.....EN EL PUNTO 3B SE ACLARA QUE EL AISLAMIENTO DEL PATÓGENO CONLLEVARÁ LA RETEIRADA DEL ESTATUS CON CONSECUENCIAS PARA SU RESTABLECIMIENTO (EN ESPAÑA NOS LO QUITAN DIRECTAMENTE)

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 15, 19.1.1978, p. 34.