

Council Directive 2003/85/EC of 29 September 2003 on Community measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease repealing Directive 85/511/EEC and Decisions 89/531/EEC and 91/665/EEC and amending Directive 92/46/EEC (Text with EEA relevance)

CHAPTER II

**CONTROL OF OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

SECTION 5

**HOLDINGS CONSISTING OF DIFFERENT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PRODUCTION UNITS AND CONTACT HOLDINGS**

*Article 19*

**Contact holdings**

1 Holdings shall be recognised as contact holdings where the official veterinarian finds, or considers on the basis of confirmed data, that the foot-and-mouth disease virus may have been introduced as a result of the movement of persons, animals, products of animal origin, vehicles or in any other way either from other holdings onto a holding referred to in Articles 4(1) or 10(1) or from a holding referred to in Articles 4(1) or 10(1) to other holdings.

2 Contact holdings shall be subject to the measures provided for in Articles 4(3) and 5 and these measures shall be maintained until the suspected presence of foot-and-mouth disease virus on these contact holdings has been officially ruled out in accordance with the definition in Annex I and the survey requirements provided for in point 2.1.1.1 of Annex III.

3 The competent authority shall prohibit the removal of all animals from contact holdings during a period corresponding to the incubation period specified for the species concerned in Article 2(h). However, the competent authority may, by way of derogation from Article 4(3)(d), authorise the transport of animals of susceptible species under official supervision directly to the closest possible designated slaughterhouse for emergency slaughter.

Prior to granting such derogation, the official veterinarian shall at least carry out the clinical examinations provided for in point 1 of Annex III.

4 Where the competent authority considers that the epidemiological situation permits, it may limit the recognition as a contact holding provided for in paragraph 1, to one identified epidemiological production unit of the holding and to the animals contained therein, provided that the epidemiological production unit complies with Article 18.

5 Where an epidemiological link between an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease and premises or means of transportation referred to in Articles 15 and 16 respectively cannot be excluded, Member States shall ensure that the measures provided for in Article 4(2) and (3) and in Article 5 shall apply to such premises or means of transportation. The competent authority may decide to apply the measures provided for in Article 8.