

Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2005.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, CHAPTER B. (See end of Document for details)

ANNEX X

REFERENCE LABORATORIES, SAMPLING AND LABORATORY ANALYSIS METHODS

CHAPTER B

Community reference laboratory

1. The Community reference laboratory for TSEs is:

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Woodham Lane

New Haw

Addlestone

Surrey KT15 3NB

United Kingdom

2. The functions and duties of the Community reference laboratory are:

- (a) to coordinate, in consultation with the Commission, the methods employed in the Member States for diagnosing BSE, specifically by:
- storing and supplying corresponding tissues containing the agent, for the development or production of the relevant diagnostic tests or for typing strains of the agent;
 - supplying standard sera and other reference reagents to the national reference laboratories in order to standardise the tests and reagents used in the Member States;
 - building up and retaining a collection of corresponding tissues containing the agents and strains of TSEs;
 - organising periodic comparative tests of diagnostic procedures at Community level;
 - collecting and collating data and information on the methods of diagnosis used and the results of tests carried out in the Community;
 - characterising isolates of the TSE agent by the most up-to-date methods to allow greater understanding of the epidemiology of the disease;
 - keeping abreast of trends in surveillance, epidemiology and prevention of TSEs throughout the world;
 - maintaining expertise on prion diseases to enable rapid differential diagnosis;
 - acquiring a thorough knowledge of the preparation and use of diagnostic methods used to control and eradicate TSEs;
- (b) to assist actively in the diagnosis of outbreaks of TSEs in Member States by studying samples from TSE-infected animals sent for confirmatory diagnosis, characterisation and epidemiological studies;
- (c) to facilitate the training or retraining of experts in laboratory diagnosis with a view to the harmonisation of diagnostic techniques throughout the Community.

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