Policy Statement on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (BSE & TSE)

Updated in July 2016

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) were first recognised by the Office des International Epizooties (O.I.E) in 1987.

The first TSE/BSE roadmap (2005-2009, published COM 2005, 322 FINAL of 15th July 2005) provided an outline of short, middle and long term control measures for the EU making food safety and consumer protection their first priority. The short and middle term objectives have achieved significant control within 2005 and thereafter BSE impact on human health has been very limited. The second roadmap (published COM 2010, 384 FINAL of 16th July 2010) looking into the period of 2010-2015 summarised, within a conclusion, that BSE incidences over the two decades has decreased with the control measures and control on trade. However, the committee recommends the continuous focus on intensive risk assessment with scientific knowledge, advice and research to further reduce BSE concerns.

The above references indicate the risks to food and other trade requirements which are also still applicable to raw materials derived from Animal Origin. It also covers the EMA 410/10 list of materials.

Cherwell Laboratories Ltd does not directly import Products of Animal Origin from the EU or third countries but it does recognise its obligation to prepare the Redipor range of prepared microbiological media from the highest quality raw materials supplied by reputable companies.

To ensure this, Cherwell holds Policy Statements from each supplier of product which may contain Products of Animal Origin. Whilst it is impossible to certify a product as 'free of TSE/BSE', Risk Assessments can be considered as an acceptable means to demonstrate that the presence of Prions (PrPsc) which cause neurodegenerative diseases in animals and man are minimised.

Our suppliers carry out intensive risk assessments on each original supplier of Products of Animal Origin to ensure that all animal derived materials are supported by detailed information covering, amongst others, the species, age, country of birth, country of slaughter, tissues used, method of slaughter and veterinary certification.

It is the Company's policy to obtain supplies of:

1. Dehydrated media supplied by UK based Companies who carry out intensive risk assessments of manufactures' who can supply a TSE Policy Statement and themselves hold Certificates of Origin for constituents they may use.

2. Blood Products from an approved UK source registered under current DEFRA Regulations.

3. Enzymes and chemical products of animal origin for inclusion in media, if derived from fermentation or other biological processes, supplied by UK Companies who can supply a TSE Policy Statement and themselves hold Certificates of Origin for constituents they may use.

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