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INTERIM UPDATE TO HBLB CODES OF PRACTICE ON CEM – JANUARY 2009

The United States Department of Agriculture has reported the isolation of *Taylorella equigenitalis*, the cause of Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM), from multiple horses in multiple states of USA and in Canada. As a result, the Horserace Betting Levy Board's (HBLB) Codes of Practice sub committee make the following recommendations for the 2009 season:

- All mares imported into the participating countries (France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and Italy), who have been in North America (USA and Canada) since 1st January 2008 are considered 'high risk'.
- Two clitoral swabs (fossa and sinuses) should be taken at least seven days apart and an endometrial swab taken during an oestrus period prior to covering.
- Full culture results (aerobic and microaerophilic) should be obtained from an HBLB Approved Laboratory (GB) or other National Approved Laboratories in France, Germany, Ireland or Italy.
- Swab results should be obtained before covering any mare that has been in North America after 1st January 2008.

The HBLB Codes of Practice are available online at http://www.hblb.org.uk/sndFile.php?fileID=21 Copies are also available on request from equine.grants@hblb.org.uk or telephone 020 7259 8375.