Reviewer’s report

Title: Screening of post-mortem tissue donors for Coxiella burnetii infection after large outbreaks of Q fever in The Netherlands.

Version: 3  Date: 12 November 2013

Reviewer: Wim van der Hoek

Reviewer’s report:

I have one remaining comment. The authors have now elaborated that “The 5 kilometer radius from infected farms to the residence of each donor was determined by measuring the distance between both postal codes” and that “the data on bulk tank milk positive farms and farms with abortion waves were obtained from the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority”. Could the authors confirm that they obtained postal code information on farms with abortion waves from the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority? To my knowledge, unlike postal codes of bulk tank milk positive farms, the information on farms with abortion waves is not available in the public domain but only from the Animal Health Service. I assume that the authors have only used the data that are available on the website of the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority, which pertains to bulk tank milk positive farms only. If this is true then please change the text accordingly.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.