

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission February 2016

CHAPTER 1.4.

ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

[Article 1.4.1.]

[Article 1.4.2.]

[Article 1.4.3.]

[Article 1.4.4.]

[Article 1.4.5.]

Article 1.4.6.

Surveillance to demonstrate freedom from a disease, ~~or~~ infection or infestation

1. Requirements to declare a country or a zone free from disease or infection without pathogen-specific surveillance

This article provides general principles for declaring a country or a *zone* free from a disease, ~~or~~ infection or infestation in relation to the time of last occurrence and in particular for the recognition of historical freedom.

The provisions of this article are based on Article 1.4.3. and the following premises:

- in the absence of *disease* and *vaccination*, the animal population would become susceptible over a period of time;
- the disease agents to which these provisions apply are likely to produce identifiable clinical signs in susceptible *animals*;
- competent and effective *Veterinary Services* will be able to investigate, diagnose and report *disease*, if present;
- the disease, ~~or~~ infection or infestation can affect both domestic *animals* and *wildlife*;
- the absence of the disease, ~~or~~ infection or infestation over a long period of time in a susceptible population can be substantiated by effective disease investigation and reporting by a Member Country.

a) Historically freedom

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant disease-specific chapter, a country or *zone* may be recognised as free ~~from infection~~ without formally applying a pathogen-specific *surveillance* programme when:

- i) there has never been occurrence of *disease*, or
- ii) eradication has been achieved or the *disease or infection* has ceased to occur for at least 25 years, provided that for at least the past 10 years:
 - iii) = the *disease* has been a *notifiable disease*;
 - iv) = an early detection system has been in place for all relevant species;

- v) ~~measures to prevent the introduction of the disease or infection~~ introduction have been in place; no *vaccination* against the *disease* has been carried out unless otherwise provided for in the *Terrestrial Code*;
- vi) ~~the infection or infestation~~ is not known to be established in *wildlife* within the country or *zone*. A country or *zone* cannot apply for historical freedom if there is any evidence of *infection or infestation* in *wildlife*.

b) Last occurrence within the previous 25 years

Countries or *zones* that have achieved eradication (or in which the *disease* or *infection* has ceased to occur) within the previous 25 years, should follow the pathogen-specific *surveillance* requirements in the *Terrestrial Code* if they exist. In the absence of specific requirements, countries should follow the general recommendations on *surveillance* outlined in this chapter provided that for at least the past 10 years:

- i) the *disease* has been a *notifiable disease*;
- ii) an early detection system has been in place;
- iii) measures to prevent the introduction of the *disease* or *infection* introduction have been in place;
- iv) no *vaccination* against the *disease* has been carried out unless otherwise provided for in the *Terrestrial Code*;
- v) the infection or infestation is not known to be established in *wildlife* within the country or *zone*. A country or *zone* cannot apply for recognition of freedom if there is any evidence of *infection or infestation* in *wildlife*.

2. Recommendations for the discontinuation of pathogen-specific screening after recognition of freedom from infection or infestation

A country, or zone or compartment that has been recognised as free from ~~infection~~ following the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* may discontinue pathogen-specific screening while maintaining the ~~infection-free~~ status provided that:

- a) the *disease* is a *notifiable disease*;
- b) an *early detection system* is in place;
- c) the measures to prevent the introduction of the *disease* or *infection* are in place;
- d) *vaccination* against the *disease* is not applied;
- e) the infection or infestation is known not to be established in *wildlife*. It can be difficult to collect sufficient epidemiological data to prove absence of *disease*, ~~or infection~~ or infestation in *wild animal* populations. In such circumstances, a range of supporting evidence should be used to make this assessment.

3. Self-declaration of freedom from disease or infection

A Member Country may make a self-declaration in accordance with Chapter 1.6. that its entire territory, a *zone* or a *compartment* is free from a *listed disease*, infection or infestation, based on the implementation of the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*. ~~When The the~~ the *Veterinary Authority* may wish to transmit this information to ~~OIE~~ the Headquarters in accordance with Article 1.1.5., which the Headquarters may publish the information.

4. International recognition of ~~disease or infection~~ free status

For *diseases* for which procedures exist whereby the OIE can officially recognise the existence of a *disease* or *infection* free country or *zone*, a Member Country wishing to apply for recognition of this status should, via its Permanent Delegate, send to the OIE all the relevant documentation relating to the country or *zone* concerned. Such documentation should be presented in accordance with the recommendations prescribed by the OIE for the appropriate animal *diseases*.

5. Demonstration of freedom ~~from infection~~

A *surveillance* system to demonstrate freedom from *disease, infection or infestation* should meet the following requirements in addition to the general requirements outlined in Article 1.4.3.

Freedom ~~from infection~~ implies the absence of the pathogenic agent in the country, *zone* or *compartment*. Scientific methods cannot provide absolute certainty of ~~the~~ this absence of ~~infection~~. Therefore, demonstrating freedom ~~from infection~~ involves providing sufficient evidence to demonstrate (to a level of confidence acceptable to Member Countries) that *infection or infestation* with a specified pathogen, if present, is present in less than a specified proportion of the population.

However, finding evidence of *infection or infestation* at any prevalence in the target population automatically invalidates any freedom ~~from infection~~ claim unless otherwise stated in the relevant *disease-specific* chapter. The implications for the status of domestic *animals* of *disease, or infection or infestation* present in *wildlife* in the same country or *zone* should be assessed in each situation, as indicated in the relevant *disease-specific* chapter ~~on each disease~~ in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Evidence from targeted, random or non-random data sources, as stated before, may increase the level of confidence or be able to detect a lower level of prevalence with the same level of confidence compared to structured surveys.

[Article 1.4.7.]

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