Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report February 2017

Article 1.6.11.

Questionnaire on endorsement of official control programme for foot and mouth disease (FMD)

COUNTRY WITH AN OIE ENDORSED OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR FMD
Report of a Member Country which applies for the OIE endorsement of its official control programme for FMD under Chapter 8.8. of the Terrestrial Code

In sections 1 to 3.5., please address concisely all the following topics under the headings provided to describe the actual situation and procedures currently applied in the country explaining how this complies with the Terrestrial Code.

In sections 3.6. to 3.9. please address concisely the workplan and timelines of the control programme for the next five years.

Please use the terminology defined in the OIE Terrestrial Code and Terrestrial Manual.

National legislation, regulations and Veterinary Authority directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate in one of the OIE official languages.

Any annex should be provided in one of the OIE official languages.

1. Introduction

a) Geographical entities (rivers, mountains, etc.). Provide a general description of the country, zones and, when relevant, of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to FMD introduction and dissemination, as well as a short description of countries or zones sharing common borders and other links for the potential introduction of FMD. Provide maps identifying the factors above. Specify whether the application includes any non-contiguous territories.

b) If the endorsed plan is gradually implemented to specific parts of the country, the boundaries of the zones should be clearly defined, including the protection zones, if applied. Provide a digitalised, geo-referenced map with a description of the geographical boundaries of the zones.

c) Livestock demographics. Provide a general description of the livestock industry in the country and in any zones. In particular describe:

i) the susceptible animal population by species and types of production systems;

ii) the number of herds or flocks, etc. of each susceptible species;

iii) their geographical distribution;

iv) herd or flock density;

v) the degree of integration and role of producer organisations in the different production systems;

vi) any recent significant changes observed in the production (if relevant documents are available, please attach).

Provide tables and maps.

d) Wildlife demographics. What captive wild, wild or feral susceptible species are present in the country and in any zones? Provide estimates of population sizes and geographic distribution. What are the measures in place to prevent contact between domestic and wildlife susceptible species?

e) Slaughterhouses/abattoirs, markets and events associated with the congregation of susceptible livestock (e.g. fairs, shows, competitions). Where are the major livestock marketing or collection
centres? What are the patterns of domestic susceptible species movement for marketing within the country? How are the susceptible animals sourced, transported and handled during these transactions? Provide maps as appropriate.

2. Veterinary system

a) Legislation. Provide a table (and when available a link) listing all relevant veterinary legislations, regulations and Veterinary Authority directives in relation to the FMD control programme and a brief description of the relevance of each. This list should include, but not be limited to, the legislation on disease control measures and compensation system.

b) Veterinary Services. Describe how the Veterinary Services of the country comply with the provisions of Chapters 1.1., 3.1. and 3.2. of the Terrestrial Code. Describe how the Veterinary Services supervise and control all FMD related activities. Provide maps, figures and tables wherever possible.

c) Provide information on any OIE PVS evaluation conducted in your country and follow-up steps within the PVS Pathway and highlight the results relevant to FMD and the susceptible species.

d) Provide a description on the involvement and the participation of industry, producers, farmers, including subsistence and small scale producers, keepers, community animal health workers and other relevant groups in FMD surveillance and control. Provide a description of the structure (including number and distribution) and role of the private veterinary profession in FMD surveillance and control.

Include a description of continuing education and awareness programmes on FMD at all relevant levels.

e) Animal identification, registration, traceability and movement control. Are susceptible animals identified (individually or at a group level)? Provide a description of the methods of animal identification, holding, herd or flock registration and traceability for all production systems. How are animal movements controlled in the country for all production systems? Provide evidence on the effectiveness of animal identification and movement controls and a table describing the number, species, origin and destination of the animals and their products moved within the country in the last two years. Provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related paths of movement.

Describe the risk management strategy for uncontrolled movements of susceptible species (e.g. seasonal migration).

Describe the action available under legislation, and actually taken, when an illegal import is detected. Provide information on illegal movements detected.

3. Official control programme for FMD submitted for OIE endorsement

Submit a concise plan on the measures for the control and eventual eradication of FMD in the country, including:

3.1. Epidemiology

a) Provide a description of the FMD history in the country with emphasis on recent years. Provide tables and maps to show the date of first detection, the number and location of outbreaks per year, the sources and routes of introduction of infection, the types and strains present, the susceptible species involved and the date of implementation of the control programme in the country.

b) Describe the epidemiological situation of FMD in the country and the surrounding countries or zones highlighting the current knowledge and gaps. Provide maps on:

i) the geography of the country with the relevant information concerning FMD situation;

ii) livestock density and movements and estimated FMD prevalence.
3.2. FMD surveillance

Provide documentary evidence on whether surveillance for FMD in the country complies with Articles 8.8.40. to 8.8.42. of the Terrestrial Code and Chapter 2.1.8. of the Terrestrial Manual. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of FMD? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom) and what incentives are there for reporting and what penalties are involved for failure to report?

b) Describe how clinical surveillance is conducted, including which levels of the livestock production system are included in clinical surveillance, such as farms, markets, fairs, slaughterhouses/abattoirs, check points, etc. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on clinical suspicions.

c) Serological and virological surveillance. Explain whether or not serological and virological surveys are conducted and, if so, how frequently and for what purpose. Provide detailed information on the survey design (target population, design prevalence, confidence level, sample size, stratification, sampling methods and diagnostic tests used) in accordance with Articles 8.8.40. to 8.8.42. of the Terrestrial Code. Are susceptible wildlife species included in serological and virological surveys? If not, explain the rationale.

Provide a summary table indicating, for at least the past two years, the number of suspected cases, the number of samples tested for FMD, species, type of sample, testing methods and results (including differential diagnosis). Provide procedural details on follow-up actions taken on suspicious and positive results and on how these findings are interpreted and acted upon.

Provide criteria for selection of populations for targeted surveillance and numbers of animals examined and samples tested in diagnostic laboratories. Provide details on the methods applied for monitoring the performance of the surveillance system including indicators.

d) Provide information on circulating strains and risk in different husbandry systems, and provide evidence that targeted studies are implemented to address gaps (e.g. targeted serological surveys, active surveillance, participatory epidemiology studies, risk assessments, etc.) and that the acquired knowledge assists in more effective implementation of control measures.

e) Provide details on training programmes for personnel involved in clinical, serological and virological surveillance and the approaches used to increase community involvement in FMD surveillance programmes.

f) Provide evidence that surveys are carried out to assess vaccination coverage and population immunity of the target populations, show laboratory evidence that the vaccine used is appropriate for circulating strains of virus, show analysis of surveillance data to assess the change in FMD prevalence over time in the target populations, assess the control measures (cost effectiveness, degree of implementation, impact). Provide information on outcomes of outbreak investigations including outbreaks that have occurred despite control measures, documented inspections showing compliance with biosecurity and hygiene requirements.

3.3. FMD laboratory diagnosis

Provide documentary evidence that the relevant provisions in Chapters 1.1.2., 1.1.3. and 2.1.8. of the Terrestrial Manual are applied. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) Is FMD laboratory diagnosis carried out in the country? If so, provide an overview of the FMD approved laboratories in the country. If not, provide the names of the laboratories from other countries providing the service as well as the arrangements in place, including logistics for shipment of samples and the time frame for obtaining results.

b) Provide an overview of the FMD approved laboratories in the country. Address the following points:
i) How the work is shared between different laboratories, logistics for shipment of samples, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for obtaining results;

ii) Details on test capability and the types of tests undertaken and their performance for their applied use (specificity and sensitivity per type of test). Provide details on the number of FMD tests performed in the last two years in the national laboratories as well as abroad;

iii) Procedures for quality assurance and if available the official accreditation of laboratories. Give details of formal internal quality management systems, e.g. Good Laboratory Practice, ISO, etc. that exist in, or are planned for, the laboratory system;

iv) Provide details of performance in inter-laboratory validation tests (ring trials), including the most recent results and, if applicable, the corrective measures applied;

v) Provide details on the handling of live agent. In particular, describe biosecurity and biosafety measures applied;

vi) Provide a table linking the tests carried out to the laboratories where they are performed, the quality accreditation and biosecurity standards followed and the proficiency tests carried out.

3.4. Strategies

a) Provide a description of the legislation, organisation and implementation of the current FMD control programme. Outline the legislation applicable to the control programme and how its implementation is organised at different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines exist and give a brief summary.

b) Describe FMD control strategies in the country or in any zones, including in terms of animal movement control, fate of infected and in contact animals and vaccination. Strategies should be based on the assessment of the FMD situation in the zones, country and region.

c) Provide information on what types of vaccines are used and which species are vaccinated. Provide information on the licensing process of the vaccines used. Describe the vaccination programme in the country and in any zones, including records kept, and provide evidence to show its effectiveness, such as vaccination coverage, population immunity, etc. Provide details on the studies carried out to determine the vaccination coverage and the population immunity, including the study designs and the results.

d) Describe how stamping-out policy is implemented in the country or in any zones and under which circumstances.

e) Provide evidence of the impact of the control measures already implemented in the event of outbreaks on their reduction in number and distribution. If possible, provide information on primary and secondary outbreaks.

3.5. FMD prevention

Describe the procedures in place to prevent the introduction of FMD into the country. In particular provide details on:

a) Coordination with other countries. Describe any relevant factors about adjacent countries and zones that should be taken into account (e.g. size, distance from the border to affected herds, flocks or animals). Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with other countries and zones in the same region or ecosystem. Are protection zones in place? If so, provide details on the measures that are applied (e.g. vaccination, intensified surveillance, density control of susceptible species) and provide a georeferenced map of the zones.

b) Describe the measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the agent, taking into consideration physical or geographical barriers. Describe the measures implemented to prevent the propagation of the agent within the country or zone and through trade. Provide evidence that measures are in place at markets to reduce transmission of FMD such as enhancing awareness of FMD transmission mechanisms and human behaviour that can interrupt transmission, implementation of good biosecurity practices, hygiene, cleaning and disinfection routines at critical points all along the production and marketing networks (typically where animals are being moved, and marketed through the country or region).
c) What measures are taken to limit access of susceptible domestic, feral and wild animals to waste products of animal origin? Is the feeding of swill containing animal products to pigs regulated? If so, provide information on the extent of the practice, and describe controls and surveillance measures.

d) Import control procedures

Provide information on countries, zones or compartments from which the country authorises the import of susceptible animals or their products into the country or in any zones. Describe the criteria applied to approve such countries, zones or compartments, the controls applied on entry of such animals and products and subsequent internal movement. Describe the import conditions (e.g. quarantine) and test procedures required. Advise whether imported animals of susceptible species are required to undergo a quarantine or isolation period and, if so, the duration and location of quarantine. Advise whether import permits and health certificates are required.

Describe any other procedures used for assessing the risks of import of susceptible animals or their products. Provide summary statistics on imports of susceptible animals and their products for at least the past two years, including temporary import and re-entry, specifying countries, zones or compartments of origin, species and the quantity or volume and eventual destination in the country. Provide information on whether or not outbreaks have been related to imports or transboundary movements of domestic animals.

i) Provide a map with the number and location of ports, airports and land crossings. Describe the management structure, staffing levels and resources of the service responsible for import controls and its accountability to the central Veterinary Services. Describe the communication systems between the central authorities and the border inspection posts and between border inspection posts.

ii) Provide a description on the methods used for the safe disposal of waste from international traffic, who is responsible and provide a summary, for the past two years, of the quantity disposed of and the disposal locations. What are the biosecurity measures in place at waste disposal sites?

iii) Cite the regulations and describe procedures, type and frequency of checks at the points of entry into the country or their final destination, concerning the import and follow-up of the following:

- animals,
- genetic material (semen, oocytes and embryos),
- animal products,
- veterinary medicinal products, i.e. biologics, vaccines,
- other materials at risk of being contaminated with FMDV including bedding, litter and feed.

3.6. Workplan and timelines of the control programme for the next five years, including cessation of vaccination. Describe the progressive objectives including expected status to be achieved for the next five years; for zones (if applicable) and for the whole country.

3.7. Performance indicators and timeline. The performance indicators should relate to the most important areas and steps where improvements in the programme are needed. These may include, but are not restricted to, strengthening Veterinary Services, legislation, reporting, availability and quality of vaccines, animal identification systems, vaccination coverage, population immunity, movement control, disease awareness, livestock owners’ participatory perception on the effectiveness of the programme, etc. The progressive reduction of outbreak incidence towards elimination of FMDV transmission in all susceptible livestock in at least one zone of the country should also be measured and monitored.
3.8. Assessment of the evolution of the official control programme since first date of implementation. This should include documented evidence demonstrating that the control programme has been implemented and that the first results are favorable. Measurable evidence of success such as the performance indicators should include, but not be limited to, vaccination data, decreased prevalence, successfully implemented import measures, control of animal movements and finally decrease or elimination of FMD outbreaks in the whole country or selected zones as described in the programme. Where relevant, the transition to the use of vaccines, which are fully compliant with the Terrestrial Manual in order to enable demonstration of no evidence of FMDV transmission, should be included in the timeline.

This should include documented evidence of the good implementation of sections 3.4. and 3.5. above.

3.9. Description of funding for the control programme and annual budgets for its duration.

4. Control measures and emergency response
a) List any written guidelines, including contingency plans, available to the Veterinary Services for dealing with suspected or confirmed outbreaks of FMD. The contingency plan should be attached as an annex and if not available in one of the OIE official languages, a brief summary of what is covered should be provided. Provide information on any simulation exercise for FMD that was conducted in the country in the last five years.

b) In the event of a suspected or confirmed FMD outbreak:
   i) is quarantine imposed on premises with suspicious cases, pending final diagnosis? What other procedures are followed regarding suspicious cases (e.g. livestock standstills)?
   ii) indicate the sampling, dispatch and testing procedures that would be used to identify and confirm presence of the causative agent;
   iii) describe the actions that would be taken to control the disease situation in and around the premises where the outbreak was confirmed;
   iv) provide a detailed description of the control or eradication procedures (e.g. forward and backward tracing, disinfection of premises, vehicles and equipment, including verification methods, vaccination including vaccination delivery and cold chain, stamping-out policy, movement control, control of wildlife, pastured livestock and livestock as pets, methods of disposal of carcasses and other contaminated products or materials, decontamination, campaign to promote awareness of farmers) that would be taken. In the case of emergency vaccination, indicate the source and type of vaccine and provide details of any vaccine supply scheme and stocks;
   v) describe the criteria and procedures that would be used to confirm that an outbreak has been successfully controlled or eradicated, including restocking strategies, sentinel animal, serological surveillance programmes, etc.;
   vi) give details of any compensation that would be made available to owners, farmers, etc. when animals are slaughtered for disease control or eradication purposes and the prescribed timetable for payments;
   vii) describe how control efforts, including vaccination and biosecurity measures, would target critical risk control points.

5. Compliance with the Terrestrial Code

The Delegate of the Member Country must submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 8.8.39. have been properly implemented and supervised. In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit the detailed national official control programme for FMD.