
Article 1.6.8.

Questionnaires on African horse sickness (AHS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AHS FREE COUNTRY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report of a Member Country which applies for recognition of status,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under Chapter 12.1. of the Terrestrial Code,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as an AHS free country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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 and, when relevant, of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to AHS introduction and dissemination, as well as a short description of countries sharing common borders with the country and other epidemiologic pathways links for the potential introduction of AHS.

   Provide maps identifying the factors above.

   Specify whether the application include any non-contiguous territories.

   b) Demographics of domestic equids. What is the equine population by species (e.g. horses, donkeys, mules, zebras, etc.) within the various sectors? Equine sectors are defined as sport and race horses; breeding stock; working, transport and production; leisure equids; and other (donkeys, mules, hinnies, zebras). How are the equine sectors distributed (e.g. density, etc.) throughout the country? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.

   c) Equine sectors. Provide a general description of the relative economic importance of the equine sectors in the country. Consider the below-mentioned sector groupings and outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector groupings (if relevant documents are available, please attach):

   i) Sport and race horses.

   ii) Breeding stock equids.

   iii) Working, transport and production equids.

   iv) Leisure equids.

   v) Donkeys, mules and hinnies. Other (e.g. donkeys, mules, hinnies, zebras)

   c) Wildlife demographics. What captive wild, wild or feral equids are present in the country? Provide estimates of population sizes and geographic distribution.

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 AHS and a brief description of the relevance of each.

This list should include, but not 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 AHS 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 AHS 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 AHS surveillance and control. Provide a description of the structure (including number and distribution) and role of the private veterinary profession in AHS surveillance and control. Include a description of continuing education and awareness programmes on AHS at all relevant levels.

e) Animal identification, registration, traceability and movement control. Are equids identified (individually or at a group level)?

Provide a description of the methods of animal identification, holding or herd registration and traceability for all equine sectors production systems.

How are movements of equids controlled in the country for all equine sectors 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.

f) Leisure and competition movements of equids. How are movements of competition and leisure equids controlled in the country? Please provide information on systems including any use of registration. Provide information on any events that include international movements of equids.

g) Provide information on the movement and monitoring of exhibition equids and those in collections (i.e. zoo, circus, fair etc.).

h) Describe the market systems for equids, in particular, if markets require the international movement of equids.

3. AHS eradication

a) History. If the country has never had the disease, or has not had it within the last 25 years, please state explicitly whether or not the country is applying for historical freedom according to Article 1.4.6. of the Terrestrial Code.

If the country has had the disease within the last 25 years, please describe the following:

Provide a description of the AHS history in the country with emphasis on recent years. If applicable, provide tables and maps to show the date of first detection, the sources and routes of introduction of infection, the temporal and spatial distribution (number and location of outbreaks per year), the susceptible species involved, the last case or eradication in the country.

b) Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated (e.g. isolation of cases, stamping-out policy, zoning, vaccination strategy, movement control, protection of equids against vectors). Provide the time frame for eradication.
Describe and justify the corrective actions that have been implemented to prevent future disease outbreaks in response to any past disease incursions.

c) Vaccines and vaccination. Briefly answer the following:

i) Is there legislation that prohibits vaccination? If so,
   - Provide the date when vaccination was formally prohibited;
   - Describe the action available under legislation, and actually taken, when an illegal vaccination is detected;
   - Provide information on detected illegal vaccination during the reporting period.

ii) Was vaccination ever used in the country? If so,
   - Provide the date when the last vaccination was carried out;
   - What type of vaccine was used?
   - What species were vaccinated?
   - How were vaccinated animals identified?
   - What was the fate of those animals?

iii) In addition, if vaccination was conducted during the past two years, provide a description and justification of the vaccination strategy and regime.

   Briefly answer the following:
   - the species vaccinated;
   - identification of vaccinated animals;
   - the way in which the vaccination of animals was certified or reported and the records maintained.

   Provide evidence that the vaccine used complies with Chapter 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual.

d) Provide a description of the legislation, organisation and implementation of the eradication campaign. Outline the legislation applicable to the eradication and how the campaign was organised at different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines exist and give a brief summary

4. AHS diagnosis

Provide documentary evidence that the relevant provisions in Chapters 1.1.2., 1.1.3., and 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual are applied. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) Is AHS laboratory diagnosis carried out in the country? If so, provide an overview of the AHS 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 AHS 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 disease tests performed in the last two years in the national laboratories as well as abroad;
iii) Procedures for quality assurance and for 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.

5. AHS surveillance

Provide documentary evidence that surveillance for AHS in the country complies with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13. of the Terrestrial Code, and Chapter 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? 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 equine sectors levels of the equine population__system are included in clinical surveillance, such as farms, markets, fairs, slaughterhouses/abattoirs, check points, etc. Provide a summary table indicating, for the past two years, the number of suspected cases, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing methods and results (including differential diagnosis). Provide an indication of the timelines of the response including completion of testing to confirm or exclude AHS. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results.

c) Other surveillance. Is surveillance undertaken as described in Article 12.1.13., specifically:

i) Serological surveillance.

ii) Virological surveillance including genome or antigen detection.

iii) Sentinel animals.

iv) Vector surveillance.

If so, provide detailed information on the survey designs, including maps. Include information on how frequently the survey design is updated (e.g. annually, biannually etc.). How frequently are surveys conducted? Which equine sectors are included in the survey and how many animals in each sector are expected to be sampled? Are wildlife species included? Provide a summary table and maps indicating detailed results, for at least the past two years. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results and how these findings are acted upon. Provide criteria for selection of populations for targeted surveillance and numbers of equids examined and samples tested in diagnostic laboratories. Provide details on the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the surveillance system including indicators.

d) Provide information on risk in different equine sectors and 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 and other surveillance and the approaches used to increase community involvement in AHS surveillance programmes.

6. AHS prevention

Describe the procedures in place to prevent the introduction of AHS into the country. In particular, provide details on:
a) Coordination with other countries. Describe any relevant factors about adjacent countries that should be taken into account (e.g. size, distance from border to affected herds or animals, wind currents and possible vector spread)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with other countries in the same region or ecosystem.

If the AHS free country borders an infected country or zone, describe the animal health measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the agent or vectors, taking into consideration the seasonal vector conditions and existing physical, geographical and ecological barriers.

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 geo-referenced 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 and through trade. Provide evidence that measures are in place at markets to reduce transmission of AHS such as enhancing awareness of AHS 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) 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. 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 equids.

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) 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:

- equids,
- genetic material (semen, ovocytes and embryos of the equine species),
- equine derived (by-)products and biologicals,
- AHS vaccines.
7. Control measures and contingency planning

a) List any written guidelines, including contingency plans, available to the Veterinary Services for dealing with suspected or confirmed outbreaks of AHS. 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 AHS that was conducted in the country in the last five years.

b) In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS outbreak:

i) Is quarantine imposed on premises with suspicious cases, pending final diagnosis? What other procedures are followed regarding suspicious cases (e.g. 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, movement control, disinfection of premises, vehicles and equipment, including verification methods, vaccination, stamping-out policy, vector protected stabling, 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.

8. Compliance with the Terrestrial Code

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for AHS freedom must submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2. have been properly implemented and supervised.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit a declaration indicating that:

a) there has been no case of AHS for at least the past two years;

b) no routine vaccination against AHS has been carried out during the past year;

c) and that equids were imported in accordance with Chapter 12.1.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country applying for historical freedom must also submit documentary evidence that the provisions of point 1 of Article 1.4.6. of the Terrestrial Code have been properly implemented and supervised.

9. Recovery of status

Member Countries applying for recovery of free status of a country should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.5. of the Terrestrial Code and provide detailed information as specified in sections 4a), 4b), 4c) and 6, and sections 1–7 (inclusive) of this questionnaire. Information in relation to other sections need only be supplied if relevant.

AHS FREE ZONE
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.

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 and the zone, and when relevant of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to AHS introduction and dissemination, as well as a short description of countries sharing common borders with the country and other epidemiologic pathways links for the potential introduction of AHS. The boundaries of the zone must be clearly defined, including a protection zone, if applied. Provide maps identifying the factors above, including a digitalised, geo-referenced map with a precise text description of the geographical boundaries of the zone.

   b) Demographics of domestic equids. What is the equine population by species (e.g. horses, donkeys, mules, zebras, etc.) within the various sectors in the country and the zone? Equine sectors are defined as sport and race horses; breeding stock; working, transport and production; leisure equids; and other (donkeys, mules, hinnies, zebras). How are the equine sectors distributed (e.g. density, etc.) throughout the country? How are they distributed (e.g. density, etc.)? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.

   c) Equine sectors. Provide a general description of the relative economic importance of the equine sectors in the country and the zone. Consider the below-mentioned sector groupings and outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector groupings (if relevant documents are available, please attach):

      i) Sport and race horses.

      ii) Breeding stock equids.

      iii) Working, transport and production equids.

      iv) Leisure equids.

      v) Donkeys, mules and hinnies. Other (e.g. donkeys, mules, hinnies, zebras)

   d) Wildlife demographics. What captive wild, wild or feral equids are present in the country and the zone? Provide estimates of population sizes and geographic distribution.

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 AHS 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 AHS 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 AHS 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 AHS surveillance and control. Provide a description of the structure (including number and distribution) and role of the private veterinary profession in AHS surveillance and control. Include a description of continuing education and awareness programmes on AHS at all relevant levels.

e) Animal identification, registration, traceability and movement control. Are equids identified (individually or at a group level)? Provide a description of the methods of animal identification, holding or herd registration and traceability for all equine sectors production systems. How are movements of equids controlled in and between zones of the same or different status for all equine sectors 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.

f) Leisure and competition movements of equids. How are movements of competition and leisure equids controlled in the country and the zones? Please provide information on systems including any use of registration. Provide information on any events that include international movements of equids.

g) Provide information on the movement and monitoring of exhibition equids and those in collections (i.e. zoo, circus, fair etc.).

h) Describe the market systems for equids in the country and the zones, in particular, if markets require the international movement of equids.

3. AHS eradication

a) History. If the country has never had the disease, or has not had it within the last 25 years, please state explicitly whether or not the zone is applying for historical freedom according to Article 1.4.6. of the Terrestrial Code. If the zone has had the disease within the last 25 years, please provide a description of the AHS history in the country and zone with emphasis on recent years. If applicable, provide tables and maps to show the date of first detection, the sources and routes of introduction of infection, the temporal and spatial distribution (number and location of outbreaks per year), the susceptible species involved, the last case or eradication in the zone.

b) Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated in the zone (e.g. isolation of cases, stamping-out policy, vaccination strategy, zoning, movement control, protection of equids against vectors). Provide the time frame for eradication. Describe and justify the corrective actions that have been implemented to prevent future disease outbreaks in response to any past disease incursions.
c) Vaccines and vaccination. Briefly answer the following:

i) Is there legislation that prohibits vaccination? If so:
   – Provide the date when vaccination was formally prohibited;
   – Describe the action available under legislation, and actually taken, when an illegal vaccination is detected;
   – Provide information on detected illegal vaccination during the reporting period.

ii) Was vaccination ever used in the country? If so:
   – Provide the date when the last vaccination was carried out;
   – What type of vaccine was used in the zone and the rest of the country?
   – What species were vaccinated?
   – How were vaccinated animals identified?
   – What was the fate of those animals?

iii) In addition, if vaccination was conducted during the past two years, provide a description and justification of the vaccination strategy and regime. Briefly answer the following:
   – the species vaccinated;
   – identification of vaccinated animals;
   – the way in which the vaccination of animals was certified or reported and the records maintained.

   Provide evidence that the vaccine used complies with Chapter 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual.

d) Provide a description of the legislation, organisation and implementation of the eradication campaign. Outline the legislation applicable to the eradication and how the campaign was organised at different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines exist and give a brief summary.

4. AHS diagnosis

Provide documentary evidence that the relevant provisions in Chapters 1.1.2., 1.1.3., and 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual are applied. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) Is AHS laboratory diagnosis carried out in the country? If so, provide an overview of the AHS 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. Indicate the laboratories where samples originating from the zone are diagnosed.

b) Provide an overview of the AHS 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 AHS tests performed in the last two years in the national laboratories as well as abroad;
iii) Procedures for quality assurance and for 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 tests), 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.

5. AHS surveillance

Provide documentary evidence that surveillance for AHS in the zone complies with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13. of the Terrestrial Code, and Chapter 2.5.1. of the Terrestrial Manual. In particular, the following points should be addressed:

a) What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? 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 equine sectors levels of the equine population—system are included in clinical surveillance, such as farms, markets, fairs, slaughterhouses/abattoirs, check points, etc. Provide a summary table indicating, for the past two years, the number of suspected cases, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing methods and results (including differential diagnosis). Provide an indication of the timelines of the response including completion of testing to confirm or exclude AHS. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results.

c) Other surveillance. Is surveillance undertaken as described in Article 12.1.13., specifically:

i) Serological surveillance.

ii) Virological surveillance including genome or antigen detection.

iii) Sentinel animals.

iv) Vector surveillance.

If so, provide detailed information on the survey designs, including maps. Include information on how frequently the survey design is updated (e.g. annually, biannually etc.). How frequently are surveys conducted? Which equine sectors are included in the survey and how many animals in each sector are expected to be sampled? Are wildlife species included? Provide a summary table and maps indicating detailed results, for at least the past two years. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results and how these findings are acted upon. Provide criteria for selection of populations for targeted surveillance and numbers of equids examined and samples tested in diagnostic laboratories. Provide details on the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the surveillance system including indicators.

d) Provide information on risk in different equine sectors and 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 AHS surveillance programmes.
6. AHS prevention

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 or animals, wind currents and possible vector spread)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with other countries and zones in the same region or ecosystem.

If the AHS free zone is established in an AHS infected country or borders an infected country or zone, describe the animal health measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the agent or vectors, taking into consideration the seasonal vector conditions and existing physical, geographical and ecological barriers.

Are protection zones in place? If so, indicate whether or not the protection zones are included in the proposed free zones provide details on the measures that are applied (e.g. vaccination, intensified surveillance, density control of susceptible species), and provide a geo-referenced map of the zones.

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 AHS such as enhancing awareness of AHS 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).

b) 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 zone. 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 and the quantity or volume and eventual destination in the country or zone. Provide information on whether or not outbreaks have been related to imports or transboundary movements of domestic equids.

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

- equids,
- genetic material (semen, oocytes and embryos of the equine species),
- equine derived (by-)products and biologicals,
- AHS vaccines.
7. **Control measures and contingency planning**

a) List any written guidelines, including contingency plans, available to the official services for dealing with suspected or confirmed outbreaks of AHS. 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 AHS that was conducted in the country in the last five years.

b) In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS outbreak:

   i) Is quarantine imposed on premises with suspicious cases, pending final diagnosis? What other procedures are followed regarding suspicious cases (e.g. 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, movement control, disinfection of premises, vehicles and equipment, including verification methods, vaccination, stamping-out policy, vector protected stabling, 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.

8. **Compliance with the Terrestrial Code**

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for AHS freedom must submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2. of the Terrestrial Code have been properly implemented and supervised.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit a declaration indicating that:

a) there has been no case of AHS for at least the past two years in the zone;

b) no routine vaccination against AHS has been carried out during the past year in the zone;

c) and that equids were imported into the zone in accordance with Chapter 12.1.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country applying for historical freedom must also submit documentary evidence that the provisions of point 1 of Article 1.4.6. of the Terrestrial Code have been properly implemented and supervised.

9. **Recovery of status**

Member Countries applying for recovery of free status of a zone should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.5. of the Terrestrial Code and provide detailed information as specified in sections 4 a), 4 b), 4 c) and 6., and sections 1–7 (inclusive) of this questionnaire. Information in relation to other sections need only be supplied if relevant.