

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS
COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 2012 REPORT

CHAPTER 1.1.

**NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the OIE Organic Statutes, OIE Members shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Authority* of its territory or territories.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.2.

1. Members shall make available to other Members, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal *diseases* and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these *diseases*.
2. To achieve this, Members shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Article 1.1.3.
3. To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the official OIE *disease* reporting format.
4. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between disease agents and *diseases* is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a *disease*, Members shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above.
5. In addition to notifying new findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3., Members shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*, including quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of *animals*, animal products and biological products and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by *vectors*, the measures taken against such *vectors* shall also be specified.

Article 1.1.3.

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

1. in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease* specific chapters, *notification* through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by **telegram**, fax or e-mail, within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
 - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* and/or *infection* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

- b) re-occurrence of a *listed disease* and/or *infection* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following a report declared the *outbreak* ended;
 - c) first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
 - d) a sudden and unexpected increase in the distribution, incidence, morbidity or mortality of a *listed disease* prevalent within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
 - e) an *emerging disease* with significant morbidity or mortality, or zoonotic potential;
 - f) evidence of change in the epidemiology of a *listed disease* (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact;
2. weekly reports by **telegram**, fax or e-mail subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an incident which justified urgent *notification*; these reports should continue until the situation has been resolved through either the *disease* being eradicated or it becoming endemic so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member to the OIE; in any case, a final report on the incident should be submitted;
 3. a six-monthly report on the absence or presence, and evolution of *listed disease* and information of epidemiological significance to other Members;
 4. an annual report concerning any other information of significance to other Members.

Article 1.1.4.

1. The *Veterinary Authority* of a territory in which an *infected zone* was located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this zone is free from the *disease*.
2. An *infected zone* for a particular *disease* shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Terrestrial Code* has elapsed after the last reported *case*, and when full prophylactic and appropriate animal health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the *disease*. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*.
3. A Member may be considered to regain freedom from a specific *disease* when all conditions given in the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* have been fulfilled.
4. The *Veterinary Authority* of a Member which sets up one or several *free zones* shall inform the OIE giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the *zones* on a map of the territory of the Member.

Article 1.1.5.

1. The *Headquarters* shall send by **telegram**, fax, e-mail or *Disease Information* to the *Veterinary Authorities* concerned, all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4.
2. The *Headquarters* shall dispatch to the Delegates information on new *outbreaks* of *listed diseases*.
3. The *Headquarters*, on the basis of information received and of any official communication, shall prepare an annual report concerning the application of the *Terrestrial Code* and its effects on *international trade*.

Article 1.1.6.

~~Telegrams or faxes~~ sent by *Veterinary Authorities* in pursuance of Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.5. shall receive priority in accordance with the circumstances. Communications by telephone, telegram or fax, sent in the case of exceptional urgency when there is danger of spread of a notifiable epizootic *disease*, shall be given the highest priority accorded to these communications by the International Arrangements of Telecommunications.