

Chapter 8.5

Foot and Mouth Disease

USA Comments

General Comments on the application of compartmentalization to FMD:

The United States does not support the introduction of the concept of compartmentalization into the FMD Code chapter. To date compartmentalization has not been fully implemented anywhere. Although the United States is working to try to implement compartmentalization for avian influenza in the primary breeder sector for poultry using the guidelines found in the Code Chapter 4.4, we are finding it to be extremely challenging and a huge commitment of resources. The success of compartmentalization will ultimately be the result of bilateral agreements between the importer and the exporter.

Including compartmentalization in the chapter for FMD is premature. FMD is one of the most contagious animal diseases with a significant potential for severe economic consequences. The use of compartmentalization in this context would likely result in the diversion of limited resources of the official veterinary infrastructure from broader control and long term eradication programs to the resource intensive support and administration of the individual compartments. At this time it is not appropriate to simply insert 'compartment' into the various disease chapters following the words "countries" and "zones". Zoning for FMD is a better utilization of resources to progress toward eradication.

Summary: The United States does not support the incorporation of compartmentalization into the FMD chapter at this point and encourages further promotion of the use of zoning for FMD eradication. The guidance on compartmentalization for FMD as presented in this proposal does not adequately provide the level of detail needed to successfully implement compartmentalization for a disease with the characteristics and challenges presented by FMD.

Unless the use of compartmentalization for FMD can be developed specifically into the scope of a broader strategy for FMD eradication, the diversion of resources from eradication and control measures for FMD by the demands on the official veterinary services required to adequately monitor the compartment status is not appropriate. These resources would be better spent on zoning for FMD with the ultimate goal of total eradication of FMD at regional, and ultimately, at global levels.