

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

USA COMMENTS

GENERAL COMMENT: While the United States understands the desire by certain Members to expand the number of diseases for which the OIE grants official status, it does have strong concerns over the indiscriminate expansion for such disease recognition. The United States asks that the OIE carefully review and consider any implications associated with granting official freedom from diseases that are vector borne. As noted in our comments made in the actual AHS Code chapter, the United States has already made known its concerns with granting seasonal freedom for AHS. Despite well-intended efforts, the control of vector borne diseases is difficult and extremely challenging. Factors that are currently affecting the occurrence and distribution of vector borne diseases include globalization and climate change. Witness alone the spread of West Nile virus across the United States or that of several Bluetongue serotypes across Europe and North America just during this past decade. Furthermore, given that the main vector for transmitting African Horse Sickness virus (*Culicoides imicola*), circulates in Europe, it may be just a matter of time before this disease makes its way from sub-Saharan Africa again. It is with this concern that the United States asks that the OIE carefully review its consideration of adding vector borne diseases for which official status is granted. The following references may assist any *ad hoc* group with this review:

Gale P, Brouwer A, Ramnial V, Kelly L, Kosmider R, Fooks AR, and Snary EL. Assessing the impact of climate change on vector-viruses in the EU through the elicitation of expert opinion. *Epidemiol. Infect.* (2010), 138, 214-225.

Reiter P, Rogers. Climate change and mosquito-borne disease: knowing the horse before hitching the cart in climate change: impact on the epidemiology and control of animal diseases. *Rev Sci Tech* 2008;27(2); 383-398.

Mellor, PS. African horse sickness. *Vet Res.* 35 (2004); 445-466

CHAPTER 1.6.

**STATUS FOR OIE LISTED DISEASES:
PROCEDURES FOR SELF DECLARATION AND
FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE OIE**

~~Article 1.6.6.~~

~~Questionnaire on African horse sickness~~

AHS FREE COUNTRY

Report of a Member which applies for recognition of status, under Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2010)*, as a AHS free country

Please address concisely the following topics. National legislation, regulations and Veterinary Administration directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate in one of the OIE official languages.

1. Introduction

- a. ~~Geographical factors. Provide a general description of the country including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to AHS introduction. Provide a map identifying the factors above.~~
- b. ~~Equine sector. Provide a general description of the equine sector and their relative economic importance in the country. Outline significant changes observed (if relevant documents are available, please attach).~~
 - i. ~~Sport and race horses~~
 - ii. ~~Breeding stock equidae~~
 - iii. ~~Working and production equidae (including horses for slaughter)~~
 - iv. ~~Leisure equidae~~
 - v. ~~Captive wild, wild and feral equidae~~

2. Description of equid population

- a. ~~Demographics of domestic equidae. What is the equidae population by species within the various sectors? Provide a description of the methods of animal identification, holding and individual animal registration systems if in place. How are they distributed (e.g. density, etc.)? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.~~
- b. ~~Wildlife demographics. What captive wild, wild or feral equidae are present in the country? Provide estimates of population sizes and geographic distribution. What are the measures in place to prevent contact between domestic and captive wild, wild or feral equidae?~~

3. Veterinary system

- a. ~~Legislation. Provide a list and summary of all relevant veterinary legislation in relation to AHS.~~
- b. ~~Veterinary Services. Provide documentation on the compliance of the *Veterinary Service* of the country with the provisions of Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* and 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Manual* and describe how the *Veterinary Services* supervise and control all AHS related activities. Provide maps and tables wherever possible.~~

- c. ~~Role of farmers, keepers, industry, regulatory bodies, and other relevant groups in AHS *surveillance* and control (include a description of training and awareness programmes on AHS).~~
- d. ~~Role of private veterinary profession in AHS *surveillance* and control.~~

4. AHS eradication

- a. ~~History. Provide a description of the AHS history in the country if applicable, date of first detection, origin of *infection*, date of eradication (date of last *case*), and serotypes present.~~
- b. ~~Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated (e.g. isolation of cases, *stamping-out policy*, zoning), provide time frame for eradication.~~
- c. ~~Vaccines and vaccination. What type of vaccine was used? What equine species were vaccinated? Were vaccinated animals marked or was vaccination recorded in a unique identification document?~~
- d. ~~Legislation, organisation and implementation of the AHS eradication campaign. Provide a description of the organizational structure at the different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines were used and give a brief summary.~~
- e. ~~Animal identification. Are equidae identified (individually or at a group level)?~~
- f. ~~Movements of equidae. How are movements of equidae controlled in the country? Provide evidence on the effectiveness of equidae identification and movement controls. Please provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related movements.~~
- g. ~~Leisure and competition movements of equidae. How are movements of competition and leisure equidae controlled in the country. Please provide information on systems including any use of registration. Provide information on any events that include international movements of equidae.~~
- h. ~~Describe the market systems for equidae, in particular, if markets require the international movement of equidae.~~

5. AHS diagnosis

~~Provide documentary evidence that the 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 a list of approved laboratories. If not, provide the name(s) of and the arrangements with the laboratory(ies) samples are sent to, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for obtaining results.~~
- b. ~~Provide an overview of the AHS approved laboratories, in particular to address the following points:~~
 - i. ~~Details on the types of tests undertaken.~~
 - ii. ~~Procedures for the official accreditation of laboratories. Give details of internal quality management systems, e.g. Good Laboratory Practice, ISO that exist in, or planned for, the laboratory system.~~
 - iii. ~~Give details of participation in inter-laboratory validation tests (ring tests).~~

iv.— Describe biosecurity measures applied, particularly in the case where live virus is handled.

6.— AHS surveillance

Provide documentary evidence that *surveillance* for AHS in the country complies with the provisions of 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.— Clinical suspicion. What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom), is there a compensation system in place and what penalties are involved for failure to report? Provide a summary table indicating, for the past 2 years, the number of suspect *cases*, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing method(s) and results (including differential diagnosis).

b.— Surveillance. Are the following undertaken?

i.— Serological surveillance

ii.— Virological surveillance

iii.— Sentinel animals

iv.— Vector surveillance

If so, provide detailed information on the survey designs. How frequently are they conducted? Which were the equine species included? Are wildlife species included? Provide a summary table indicating detailed results, for at least the past 2 years. Provide details on follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results. Provide criteria for selection of populations for targeted *surveillance* and numbers of equidae examined and samples tested. Provide details on the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the *surveillance* system.

7.— AHS prevention

a.— Coordination with neighbouring countries. Are there any relevant factors about the adjacent countries or *zones* that have been taken into account (e.g. size, distance from adjacent border to infected equidae)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with neighbouring countries.

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 and/or vectors, taking into consideration the seasonal vector conditions and existing physical, geographical and ecological barriers.

b.— Import control procedures

From what countries or *zones* does the country authorize the import of equidae or their products? What criteria are applied to approve such countries or *zones*? What controls are applied on entry of such equidae and products, and subsequent internal movement? What import conditions (e.g. quarantine) and test procedures are required? Are import permits and health certificates required? What other procedures are used? Provide summary statistics of imports, temporary admissions or re-entry of equidae and their products for at least the past 2 years, specifying country or *zone* of origin and volume.

- ~~i. Provide a map with the number and location of ports, airports and land crossings. Is the service responsible for import controls part of the official services, or is it an independent body? If it is an independent body, describe its management structure, staffing levels and resources, and its accountability to the *Competent Authority*. Describe the communication systems between the *Competent Authority* and the border inspection posts, and between border inspection posts.~~
- ~~ii. Describe the regulations, procedures, type and frequency of checks at the point of entry into the country and/or their final destination, concerning the import and follow-up of the following:

 - ~~— Equidae,~~
 - ~~— genetic material (semen, ova and embryos of the equine species),~~
 - ~~— equine derived (by-)products and biological.~~~~
- ~~iii. Describe the action available under legislation, and actually taken, when an illegal introduction is detected. Provide information on detected illegal introduction.~~

~~8. Control measures and contingency planning~~

- ~~a. Give details of any written guidelines, contingency plans (including information on vaccine banks) available to the *Competent Authority* for dealing with suspected or confirmed *cases* of AHS.~~
- ~~b. In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS *outbreak*:

 - ~~i. is quarantine imposed on premises with suspicious *cases*, pending final diagnosis?~~
 - ~~ii. are movement restrictions applied on suspicion?~~
 - ~~iii. describe the sampling and testing procedures used to identify and confirm presence of the causative agent;~~
 - ~~iv. describe the actions taken to control the disease situation in and around any holdings found to be infected with AHS;~~
 - ~~v. describe the control and/or eradication procedures (e.g. vaccination, modified stamping-out);~~
 - ~~vi. describe the procedures used to confirm that an *outbreak* has been successfully controlled/eradicated, including conditions for restocking;~~
 - ~~vii. give details of any compensation made available when equidae are killed, for *disease* control/eradication purposes.~~~~

~~9. Compliance with the *Terrestrial Code*~~

- ~~a. In addition to the documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2 are properly implemented and supervised, the Delegate of the country must submit a declaration stating:

 - ~~i. The section under paragraph 1 (of Article 12.1.2.) on the base of which the application is made;~~~~

- ii. — there has been no *outbreak* of AHS during the past 12 months;
 - iii. — no systematic vaccination against AHS has been carried out during the past 12 months;
- b. — and that vaccinated equidae were imported in accordance with Chapter 12.1.

10. Recovery of status

Countries applying for recovery of status should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* and provide detailed information as specified in sections 4(a), b), c and 6, and highlight any measures introduced to prevent a recurrence of the infection under section 7 of this questionnaire. Information in relation to other sections need only be supplied if relevant.

AHS FREE ZONE

Report of a Member which applies for recognition of status, under Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2010), as a AHS free zone

Please address concisely the following topics. National legislation, regulations and Veterinary Administration directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate in one of the OIE official languages.

1. Introduction

- a. — Geographical factors. Provide a general description of the country and the zone including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to AHS introduction. Provide a map identifying the factors above. The boundaries of the zone must be clearly defined, including a protection zone, if applied. Provide a digitalised, geo-referenced map with a precise text description of the geographical boundaries of the zone (and of the protection zone) established in accordance with Chapter 4.3.
- b. — Equine sector. Provide a general description of the equine sector and their relative economic importance in the country and the zone. Outline significant changes observed (if relevant documents are available, please attach).
 - i. — Sport and race horses
 - ii. — Breeding stock equidae
 - iii. — Working and production equidae (including horses for slaughter)
 - iv. — Leisure equidae
 - v. — Captive wild, wild and feral equidae

2. Description of equidae population

- a. — Demographics of domestic equidae. What is the equidae population by species within the various sectors in the country and the zone? Provide a description of the methods of animal identification;

~~holding and individual animal registration systems in the country and the zone if in place. How are they distributed (e.g. density, etc.)? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.~~

~~b. Wildlife demographics. What captive wild, wild or feral equidae are present in the country and the zone? Provide estimates of population sizes and geographic distribution. What are the measures in place to prevent contact between domestic and captive wild, wild or feral equidae?~~

~~3. Veterinary system~~

~~a. Legislation. Provide a list and summary of all relevant veterinary legislation in relation to AHS.~~

~~b. Veterinary Services. Provide documentation on the compliance of the *Veterinary Service* of the country with the provisions of Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* and 1.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Manual* and describe how the *Veterinary Services* supervise and control all AHS related activities in the country and in the zone. Provide maps and tables wherever possible.~~

~~c. Role of farmers, keepers, industry, regulatory bodies, and other relevant groups in AHS *surveillance* and control (include a description of training and awareness programmes on AHS).~~

~~d. Role of private veterinary profession in AHS *surveillance* and control.~~

~~4. AHS eradication~~

~~a. History. Provide a description of the AHS history in the country and zone, if applicable, date of first detection, origin of *infection*, date of eradication in the zone (date of last *case*), and serotypes present.~~

~~b. Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated in the zone (e.g. isolation of cases, *stamping-out policy*, zoning), provide time frame for eradication.~~

~~c. Vaccines and vaccination. What type of vaccine was used in the zone and the rest of the country? What equine species were vaccinated? Were vaccinated animals marked or was vaccination recorded in a unique identification document?~~

~~d. Legislation, organisation and implementation of the AHS eradication campaign. Provide a description of the organizational structure at the different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines were used and give a brief summary.~~

~~e. Animal identification. Are equidae identified (individually or at a group level)?~~

~~f. Movements of equidae. How are movements of equidae controlled in, and between zones of the country? Provide evidence on the effectiveness of equidae identification and movement controls in the zone. Please provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related paths of movements.~~

~~g. Leisure and competition movements of equidae. How are movements of competition and leisure equidae 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 equidae.~~

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

5. ~~AHS diagnosis~~

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

- ~~a. Is AHS laboratory diagnosis carried out in the country and the zone? If so, provide a list of approved laboratories. If not, provide the name(s) of and the arrangements with the laboratory(ies) samples are sent to, the follow up procedures and the time frame for obtaining results. Indicate the laboratory (ies) where samples originating from the zone are diagnosed.~~
- ~~b. Provide an overview of the AHS approved laboratories, in particular to address the following points:

 - ~~i. Details on the types of tests undertaken.~~
 - ~~ii. Procedures for the official accreditation of laboratories. Give details of internal quality management systems, e.g. Good Laboratory Practice, ISO that exist in, or planned for, the laboratory system.~~
 - ~~iii. Give details of participation in inter-laboratory validation tests (ring tests).~~
 - ~~iv. Describe biosecurity measures applied, particularly in the case where live virus is handled.~~~~

6. ~~AHS surveillance~~

~~Provide documentary evidence that *surveillance* for AHS in the zone complies with the provisions of 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. Clinical suspicion. What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom), is there a compensation system in place and what penalties are involved for failure to report? Provide a summary table indicating, for the past 2 years, the number of suspect *cases*, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing method(s) and results (including differential diagnosis) from the zone.~~
- ~~b. Surveillance. Are the following undertaken?

 - ~~i. Serological surveillance~~
 - ~~ii. Virological surveillance~~
 - ~~iii. Sentinel animals~~
 - ~~iv. Vector surveillance~~~~

~~If so, provide detailed information on the survey designs. How frequently are they conducted? Which were the equine species included? Are wildlife species included? Provide a summary table indicating detailed results, for at least the past 2 years. Provide details on follow up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results. Provide criteria for selection of populations for targeted *surveillance* and numbers of equidae examined and samples tested. Provide details on the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the *surveillance* system.~~

7. AHS prevention

- a. ~~Coordination with neighbouring countries. Are there any relevant factors about the adjacent countries and/or *zones* that have been taken into account (e.g. size, distance from adjacent border to infected equidae)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with neighbouring countries and zones.~~

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

- b. ~~Import control procedures. From what countries or *zones* does the country authorize the import of equidae or their products into the free zone? What criteria are applied to approve such countries or *zones*? What controls are applied on entry of such equidae and products, and subsequent internal movement? What import conditions (e.g. quarantine) and test procedures are required? Are import permits and health certificates required? What other procedures are used? Provide summary statistics of imports, temporary admissions or re-entry of equidae and their products to the free zone for at least the past 2 years, specifying country or *zone* of origin and volume.~~

~~i. Provide a map with the number and location of ports, airports and land crossings in the zone. Is the service responsible for import controls part of the official services, or is it an independent body? If it is an independent body, describe its management structure, staffing levels and resources, and its accountability to the *Competent Authority*. Describe the communication systems between the *Competent Authority* and the border inspection posts, and between border inspection posts.~~

~~ii. Describe the regulations, procedures, type and frequency of checks at the points of entry into the zone and/or their final destination, concerning the import and follow up of the following:~~

~~— Equidae,~~

~~— genetic material (semen, ova and embryos of the equine species),~~

~~— equine derived (by-)products and biologicals,~~

~~iii. Describe the action available under legislation, and actually taken, when an illegal introduction into the zone is detected. Provide information on detected illegal introductions into the zone.~~

8. Control measures and contingency planning

- a. ~~Give details of any written guidelines, contingency plans (including information on vaccine banks) available to the *Competent Authority* for dealing with suspected or confirmed *cases* of AHS in the country and the zone (including the protection zone if applicable).~~

- b. ~~In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS *outbreak* in the zone:~~

~~i. is quarantine imposed on premises with suspicious *cases*, pending final diagnosis?~~

~~ii. are movement restrictions applied on suspicion?~~

- ~~iii. describe the sampling and testing procedures used to identify and confirm presence of the causative agent;~~
- ~~iv. describe the actions taken to control the disease situation in and around any holdings found to be infected with AHS;~~
- ~~v. describe the control and/or eradication procedures (e.g. vaccination, modified stamping out;~~
- ~~vi. describe the procedures used to confirm that an *outbreak* has been successfully controlled/eradicated, including conditions for restocking;~~
- ~~vii. give details of any compensation made available when equidae are killed, for *disease* control/eradication purposes.~~

9. Compliance with the Terrestrial Code

- ~~a. In addition to the documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2 are properly implemented and supervised, the Delegate of the country must submit a declaration stating:

 - ~~i. The section under paragraph 1 (of Article 12.1.2.) on the base of which the application is made~~
 - ~~ii. there has been no *outbreak* of AHS during the past 12 months in the zone;~~
 - ~~iii. no systematic vaccination against AHS has been carried out during the past 12 months in the zone;~~~~
- ~~b. and that vaccinated equidae were imported into the zone in accordance with Chapter 12.1.~~

10. Recovery of status

~~Countries applying for recovery of status should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* and provide detailed information as specified in sections 4 (a), (b), (c) and 6 and highlight any measures introduce to prevent a recurrence of the infection under Section 7 of this questionnaire.~~