

## TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

## SEPTEMBER 2010 REPORT

## USA COMMENTS

## CHAPTER 8.5.

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

## Article 8.5.1.

**Introduction**

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *incubation period* for foot and mouth disease (FMD) shall be 14 days.

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## Article 8.5.7.

**FMD infected country or zone**For the purpose of this Chapter,

An FMD infected country is a country that does not fulfil the requirements to qualify as either an FMD free country where vaccination is not practised or an FMD free country where vaccination is practised.

An FMD *infected zone* is a *zone* that does not fulfil the requirements to qualify as either an FMD free *zone* where vaccination is not practised or an FMD free *zone* where vaccination is practised.

Article 8.5.7bis.OIE endorsed national FMD control programme

**Rationale/General Comment:** While the United States understands the main intent behind the objective of having the OIE endorse a Member's FMD control program, its inclusion in the FMD Code Chapter itself may not be prudent. The United States supports the idea of Members having the option of seeking guidance and direction for their FMD control/eradication programs. However, there is a risk that, in the event that the OIE gets into the "business" of endorsing FMD control programs, some Members will use such endorsement as evidence of having a low risk for FMD. The United States further believes that the granting of such endorsement should be an agreement between the OIE and the individual Member and not be published on an OIE list like is currently done for disease status recognition. It should also be clear that this is a voluntary process, and any endorsement does not circumvent other established provisions of this chapter. If the intent is to help guide that Member country with its FMD program, then it should suffice to have OIE experts provide that guidance. A country could have the option of sharing that endorsement, but it should not be used to broker trade when it should simply be a measure to ensure their program is on the proper course for controlling or eradicating the disease. If it is a service that the OIE will offer, then it needs to be made explicitly clear that it is merely an option available that Members can use should they desire guidance, input and expert opinion related to their FMD program, and not a condition for achieving freedom recognition. Finally, this option of having the OIE review a Member's FMD program should not be part of the actual FMD Code Chapter, but it is better placed in the appropriate section of Chapter 1.6, on "Procedures for Self Declaration and for Official Recognition by the OIE".