

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

SEPTEMBER 2011 REPORT

CHAPTER 1.6.

**PROCEDURES FOR SELF DECLARATION AND
FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE OIE**

Article 1.6.6. bis

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 sectors. Provide a general description of the equine sector and their relative economic importance in the country. Outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector grouping(s) (if relevant documents are available, please attach).
 - i. Sport and race horses
 - ii. Breeding stock equids equidae
 - iii. Working and production equids equidae (including horses for slaughter)
 - iv. Leisure equids equidae
 - v. *Captive wild*, wild and *feral* equids equidae.

2. Description of equine equid population

- a. Demographics of domestic equids equidae. What is the equine 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* equids 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 *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.
- e. Provide information on any OIE PVS evaluation of the country and follow-up steps within the PVS pathway

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 equids equidae identified (individually or at a group level)?
- f. Movements of equids equidae. How are movements of equids equidae controlled in the country? Provide evidence on the effectiveness of equidae identification and movement controls of equids. Please provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related movements.
- g. Leisure and competition movements of equids equidae. How are movements of competition and leisure equids 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 equids equidae.
- h. Describe the market systems for equids equidae, in particular, if markets require the international movement of equids 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 equids 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 equids 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 equids equidae or their products? What criteria are applied to approve such countries or *zones*? What controls are applied on entry of such equids 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 equids 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:
 - Equids 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 equids 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 1224 months;
 - iii. no systematic vaccination against AHS has been carried out during the past 12 months;
- b. and that vaccinated equids 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 sectors. Provide a general description of the equine sector and their relative economic importance in the country and the *zone*. Outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector grouping(s) (if relevant documents are available, please attach).
 - i. Sport and race horses
 - ii. Breeding stock equids equidae
 - iii. Working and production equids equidae (including horses for slaughter)

- iv. Leisure equids equidae
- v. *Captive wild*, wild and *feral* equids equidae.

2. Description of equine equidae population

- a. Demographics of domestic equids equidae. What is the equine 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* equids 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 *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 equids equidae identified (individually or at a group level)?
- f. Movements of equids equidae. How are movements of equids equidae controlled in, and between *zones* of the country? Provide evidence on the effectiveness of equidae identification of equids and movement controls in the *zone*. Please provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related movements.

- g. Leisure and competition movements of equids equidae. How are movements of competition and leisure equids 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 equids equidae.
- h. Describe the market systems for equids equidae in the country and the *zones*, in particular, if markets require the international movement of equids 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 *equids 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 *equids 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 *infected 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 *equids 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 *equids 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 *equids 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:
- *equids 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 equids 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 1224 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 equids 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 introduced to prevent a recurrence of the *infection* under Section 7 of this questionnaire.