

USA Comments

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES, INFECTIONS, INFESTATIONS AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

General Comment: The United States supports the inclusion of Article 1.1.3 bis which provides a distinction between the notification of listed diseases and that of emerging diseases.

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, Member Countries 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) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal *diseases*, and their aetiological agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries 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 *diseases* and their aetiological agents is constantly developing and that the presence of an aetiological agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a *disease*, Member Countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above. This means that the detection of the aetiological agent of a *listed disease* in an *animal* should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs ~~*disease*~~.
- 5) In addition to notifying new findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*, *infections* and *infestations*; including quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of *animals*, animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for their transmission. 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 fax or e-mail, within 24 hours, of any of the following events:
 - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease*, *infection* or *infestation* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

- b) re-occurrence of a *listed disease, infection or infestation* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following a the final report that declared the *outbreak* ended;
- c) first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen of a *listed disease, infection or infestation* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

Annex VI (contd)

- d) a sudden and unexpected change ~~increase~~ in the distribution, or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality of caused by the aetiological agent of a listed disease, infection or and infestation ~~prevalent present~~ 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 occurrence of a listed disease, infection or infestation in an unusual host species (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact;~~
- 2) weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease, infection or infestation* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country; ~~in any for each event notified ease~~, a final report on the event should be submitted;
 - 3) six-monthly reports on the absence or presence, and evolution of *listed diseases, infections or infestations* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
 - 4) annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

~~Although Member Countries are only required to notify listed diseases, infections and infestations and emerging diseases according to points 1 to 4 above, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other important animal health events.~~

Article 1.1.3.bis

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

- 1) a notification through WAHIS or by fax or e-mail, when an emerging disease has been detected in a country, a zone or a compartment.
- 2) periodic reports subsequent to a notification for emerging disease, as described under point 1. These should continue until the disease, infection or infestation has been eradicated or the situation becomes sufficiently stable or scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing.

Article 1.1.4.

- 1) The *Veterinary Authority* of a country in which an *infected zone* was located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this zone is free from the *disease, infection or infestation*.
- 2) An *infected zone* for a particular *disease, infection or infestation* 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, infection or infestation*. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*.
- 3) A Member Country may be considered to regain freedom from a specific *disease, infection or infestation* when all relevant conditions given in the ~~relevant chapters of the~~ *Terrestrial Code* have been fulfilled.
- 4) The *Veterinary Authority* of a Member Country which sets up one or several *free zones* shall inform the *Headquarters* 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 Country.

Article 1.1.5.

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases, infections and infestations* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to inform the OIE of other important animal health events.
- 2) The *Headquarters* shall communicate by e-mail or World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) to *Veterinary Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4. and other relevant information.

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