

GLOSSARY

Australian Comments – indicated in blue font

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UNIT

means a group of *animals* with a defined epidemiological relationship that share approximately the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent. In certain circumstances in which such relationships do not exist, the epidemiological unit may constitute a single animal. This may be because they share a common environment (e.g. *animals* in a pen), or because of common management practices. Usually, this an epidemiological unit is a herd or a flock. However, an epidemiological unit it may also refer to be groups such as a group of animals in a pen or a group of animals belonging to residents of a village, or a group of animals sharing a communal animal handling facility or, in some circumstances, to a single animal. The epidemiological relationship may differ from disease to disease, or even strain to strain of the pathogenic agent.

Rationale: Australia notes that the majority of the deleted text in this definition has been moved to Article 1.4.3 point 1(d) in Chapter 1.4.

The term *epidemiological unit* is used in multiple Code Chapters, and users may be unaware of the more comprehensive description of *epidemiological unit* provided in Chapter 1.4.

As such, Australia suggests the insertion of the above text to clarify that in certain (albeit uncommon) circumstances, individual animals may constitute their own *epidemiological unit* (e.g. individually housed cattle on remote smallholder farms). This is unclear in the current definition, which refers to a plural 'group of animals'.