

CHAPTER 1.4.

ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

Australian Comments – indicated in blue font

Article 1.4.3.

Surveillance systems

In designing, implementing and assessing a *surveillance* system, the following components should be addressed in addition to the quality of *Veterinary Services*.

1. Design of surveillance system

d) Epidemiological unit

The relevant epidemiological unit for the *surveillance* system should be defined. Sampling units selected for surveillance testing should reflect the defined epidemiological unit. This to ensure ensures that the system is appropriate to meet the objectives of *surveillance*.

A group of animals may be considered an epidemiological unit because they share a common environment or because of common management. Usually, an epidemiological unit is a herd or a flock. However, it may also be 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, a single animal. The epidemiological relationship may differ from disease to disease, or even strain to strain of the pathogenic agent.

Rationale: The inserted text in Article 1.4.3 point 1.d) links sampling units to *epidemiological units*, which provides more context about how the definition of *epidemiological unit* should influence the design of a surveillance program.