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South African Equine Health and Protocols NPC (SAEHP)

Official Recognition of AHS Disease Status: Zoning and Surveillance

6th OIE Webinar series on “African horse sickness”

Impact of African horse sickness on the OIE official status
and on international movement of competition horses



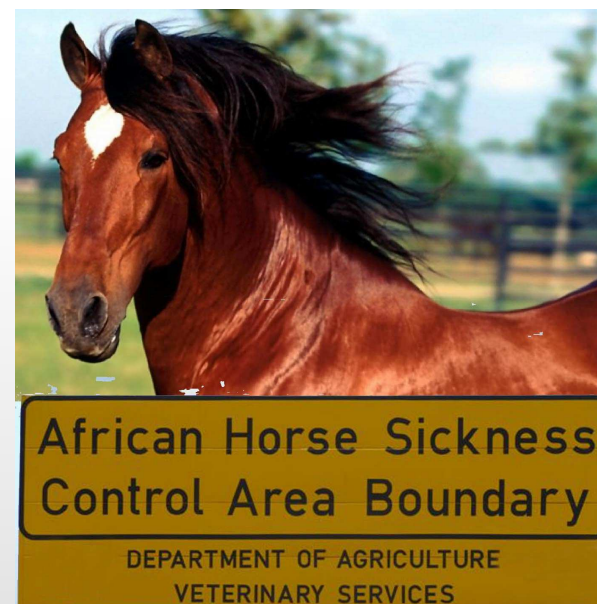
WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH *Protecting animals, preserving our future*

Evolution of country freedom approach over years

- Initially only country freedom from disease
- Not all OIE Member countries could comply with country freedom
- Introduced concept of **zone free** from disease
- Introduced concept of buffer zone – later replaced by **protection zone**
- (Introduced concept of a smaller area of freedom based on biosecurity principles – compartment)
- Introduced concept of **containment zone**
- All of the above are trade facilitating mechanisms

Principles for defining and establishing a zone

- Extent of a zone/geographical limits established by the Veterinary Authority
 - Natural, artificial and/or legal boundaries
 - Made public through official channels
- Valid animal identification system and traceability of movements
- Prevent movement of animals and their products across boundaries
- Cooperation of industry and Veterinary Services for the development of biosecurity and surveillance



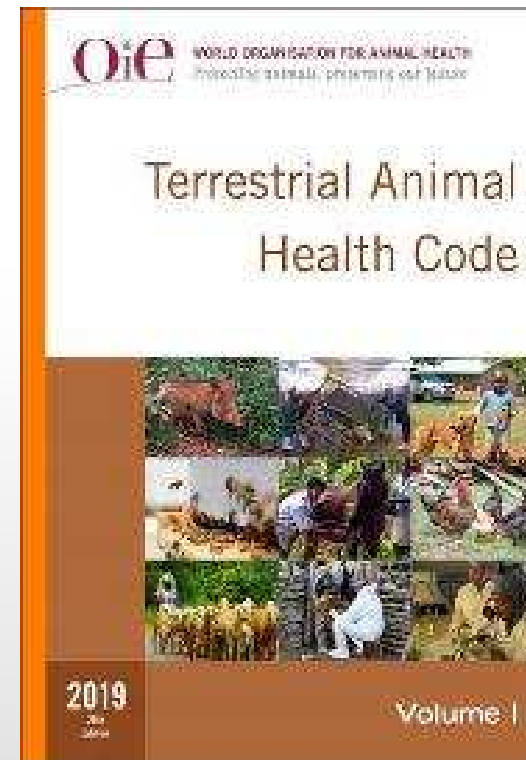
Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Horizontal Chapters

- Disease notification (1.1.)
- Animal health surveillance (1.4.)
- Import risk analysis (2.1.)
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services (3.2.)
- Veterinary legislation (3.4.)
- Identification and traceability (4.2.)
- **Zoning and compartmentalisation (4.3.)**
- Vaccination (4.18.)
- Import/export procedures (5)

Disease Specific Chapters

- General provisions, case definition
- Criteria for disease status: country or zone
- Provisions for import of commodities
- Specific disease surveillance



www.oie.int/terrestrial-code

Article 12.1.2.

AHS free country or zone



Absence of disease

- **Pre-requisites for confidence in the demonstration of absence of disease:**
 - AHS is notifiable in the whole country (Legal framework + evidence of implementation)
 - There is a record of regular and prompt disease reporting
- **Demonstration of absence of disease:**
 - Historical freedom
 - **No case for 2 years and not adjacent to an infected country or zone**
 - **No evidence of infection for 2 years (AHS specific surveillance)**
 - No case of AHS for > 40 days and no evidence of Culicoides for > 2 years

Article 12.1.2. AHS free country or zone

Demonstration of absence of disease is NOT the only requirement for an AHS free status

Other requirements include:

- No routine **vaccination** against AHS during the past year
- **Importations** (equids, semen, oocytes, embryos) carried out in accordance with AHS chapter
- AHS **surveillance** in accordance with AHS chapter (unless historically free and not adjacent to a infected country or zone)
- Regulatory measures for **early detection, prevention,** and control implemented

Article 4.4.6. Protection zone

- May be established to preserve the health status of animals in a free country or zone, i.e. animals in a free country or zone are protected from animals of a different health status in adjacent countries or zones.
- Can be established as part of a recognized free zone (inside) or the protection zone may fall outside the officially recognised AHS free zone.
- Control measures are based on the epidemiology of AHS to prevent introduction of the virus and to ensure early detection of an incursion.

Article 4.4.6. Protection zone

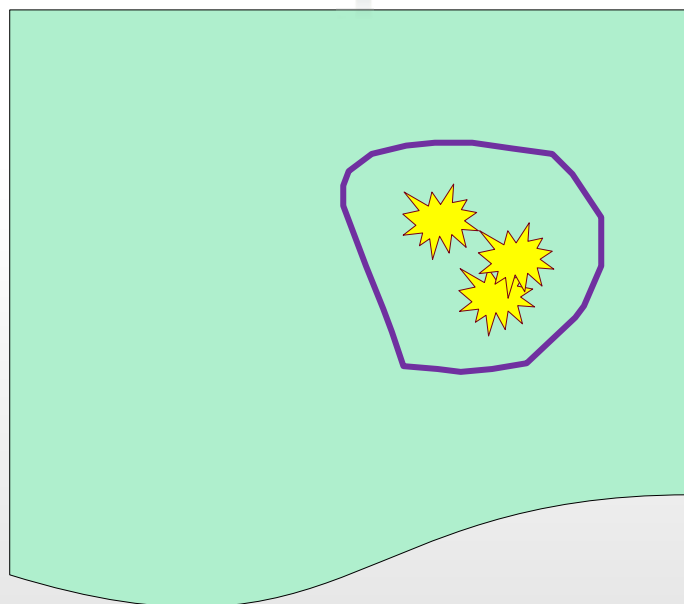
- Control measures for AHS should include intensified movement control and surveillance, animal identification, traceability, education and awareness.
- Sanitary measures may also include vaccination, testing, surveillance in wildlife and vector surveillance **where it makes epidemiological and management sense.**
- **Prevent introduction of the pathogen!**
- The status of the protection zone affects the status of the country or zone in which it was established.
- NB cooperation between Industry and Veterinary Services

Article 4.4. and Article 12.1.4. Containment zone

- Limited AHS outbreaks in a free country/zone – **option to establish a single containment zone to minimize the impact on trade** (Rapid response detailed in a contingency plan)
- Standstill, establish source. Trace-back and trace-forward investigation and surveillance –to prove all cases are included and all outbreaks are epidemiologically linked
- Individual animal identification and traceability, movement control, surveillance, no new case for at least two infectious periods (80d), strategy aimed at eradication
- The free status of the area outside of the containment zone is suspended while the containment zone is established

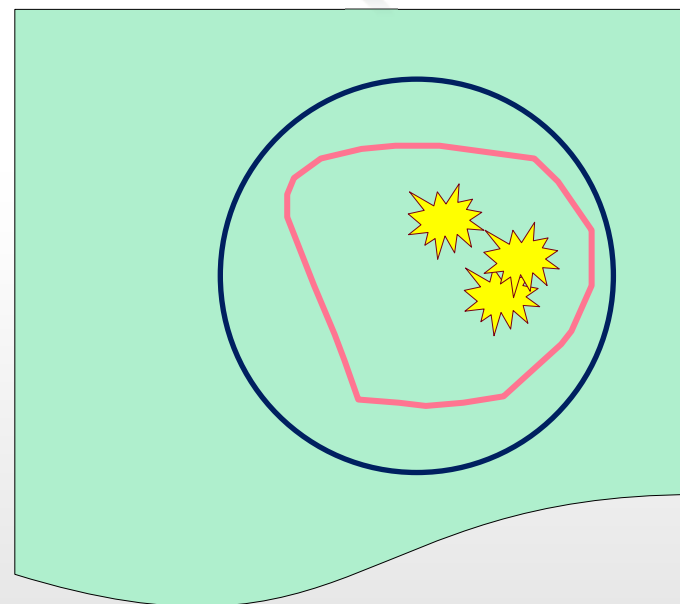
Article 4.4. and Article 12.1.4. Containment zone- 2 OPTIONS

1



- Original concept included in the OIE Code
- No outbreaks > 2 infective periods (80d) after the disposal of the last detected case
- Case in the containment zone (**purple**) will result in suspension

2



- **New concept** adopted at the GS in May 2018 (Ch. 4.3. of the OIE Code)
- Cases may continue to occur (infected zone; **pink**)
- Case in protection zone (**dark blue** circle) will result in suspension

Article 4.4. and Article 12.1.4. Containment zone

- **Reinstatement of the free status of the rest of the free country or zone**, once the containment zone is clearly established and recognized by the OIE
- The containment zone is and remains an infected zone. To regain free status Article 12.1.2. applies, irrespective of whether emergency vaccination has been applied or not
- **Key principle:** Measures are in place to prevent spread of the infection from the containment zone to the rest of the country or zone
- Practically the containment zone needs to be managed as an infected zone for two years and then free status must be recovered.

AHS surveillance

Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13

A surveillance system:

- Is required to demonstrate freedom from infection with AHSV
- Should be under the responsibility of the Veterinary Authority
- Should be supported by accredited laboratories that are able to perform validated tests
- Should include a formal system for detecting and investigating outbreaks
- Should include a system to record, manage and analyse data
- Must fit the prevailing epidemiology of AHS.

AHS surveillance

Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13.

End goal ? Risk Analysis ? Surveillance Strategy?

Surveillance strategies:

- Clinical surveillance
- Serological surveillance
- Virological surveillance
- Sentinel animals
- Vector surveillance



Enlist the help of competent experienced professionals

Serological surveillance

Article 12.1.13 point 2

AHS free country or zone: Serological surveillance is useful to confirm the absence of infection or transmission.

AHS infected country or zone : Serological surveillance can be used to monitor changes in the distribution of the virus and identify the AHSV types circulating.

Serological surveillance in a free country or zone should be carried out over an appropriate distance from the border with an **infected country or zone (= a country or zone that has not qualified for official freedom from AHSV)**

- Over a distance of at least 100 kilometres from the border (Lesser distance acceptable if relevant ecological or geographical features are likely to interrupt the transmission of AHSV.)

How can you demonstrate that your country/zone complies with the OIE Code requirements for an AHS free status?



Chapter 1.6.

Procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE

Chapter 1.7.

Application for official recognition by the OIE of free status for AHS (Questionnaire)

Thank You For Your Attention



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