



Mauro MESKE & Neo MAPITSE
OIE HQ

**Standard Operating Procedures on suspension, recovery
or withdrawal and maintenance of officially recognised
disease status of OIE Members**

**6th OIE Webinar series on “African horse sickness”
Impact of African horse sickness on the OIE official
status and on international movement of competition**

Reasons for suspension and withdrawal

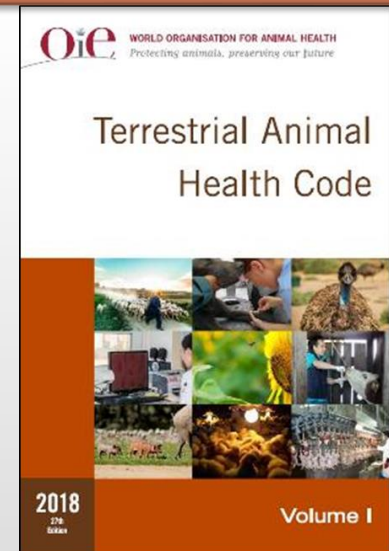
OCCURRENCE OF AN
AHS OUTBREAK



NON-SUBMISSION OF AN
ANNUAL
RECONFIRMATION



NON-COMPLIANCE WITH
THE TERRESTRIAL CODE



SUSPENSION

Communication on suspension



- Conveyed by the Director General to the concerned OIE Delegate

- Published simultaneously on the OIE website <https://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/african-horse-sickness/en-ahs-carte/>



- Suspension takes effect at the date when country is not compliant anymore with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*



SUSPENSION

Recovery of free status after the occurrence of an outbreak

- Submission of an application for recovery status
 - one page executive summary
 - core document with possible relevant cross-referenced appendices
 - contact details
- Compliant with requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*
- Format specified in the procedure
- Based on the questionnaire in Chapter 1.7.



Evaluation of the application for recovery of an official disease status



- First screening by the Disease Status Department
- Assessment by the Scientific Commission (with the inputs of relevant *ad hoc* Group when necessary)
- Final decision taken by the Scientific Commission
- The evaluation may involve an experts' mission
- Flexible calendar



Communication on the outcome of the evaluation



Decision on **evaluation** on recovery of a previously recognised official status

Positive evaluation

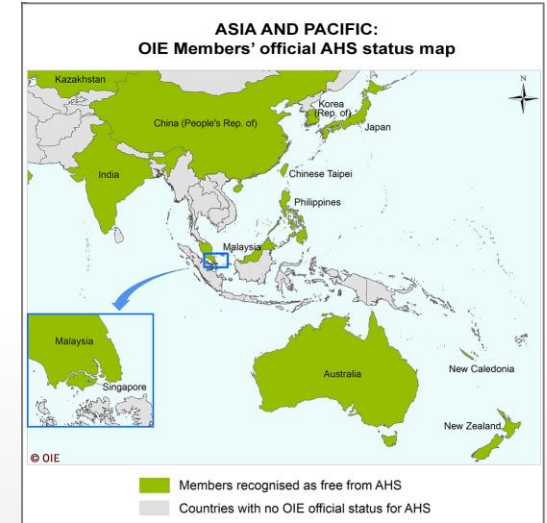
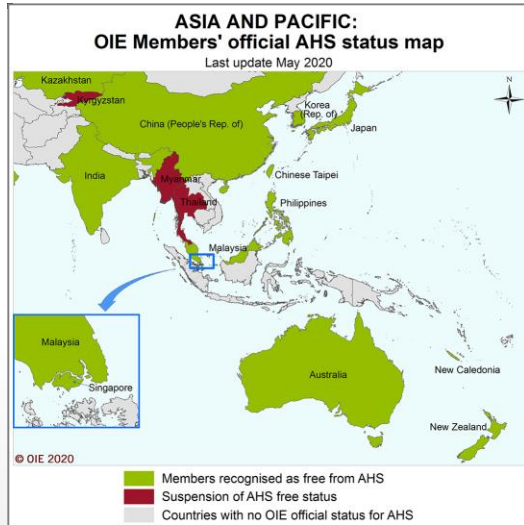
Negative evaluation

Letter of the Director General

Publication on the **OIE website**



Withdrawal of an official disease status



When the status has not been recovered within **2**
years of suspension – status is **withdrawn**



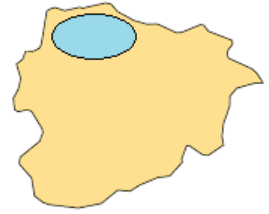
Containment zone

- A defined zone **around and including suspected or infected establishments**, taking into account the epidemiological factors and results of investigations, where control measures to prevent the spread of the infection are applied.
- AHS: **Article 12.1.4.** → **Establishment of a containment zone within an AHS free country or zone**



Rapid response

Application for a containment zone



Further to a suspension, a containment zone could be established in accordance with Chapter 4.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* and relevant disease's chapter

Procedure for application & evaluation process for a containment zone

Containment zone for AHS
Article 12.1.4. of the
Terrestrial Code

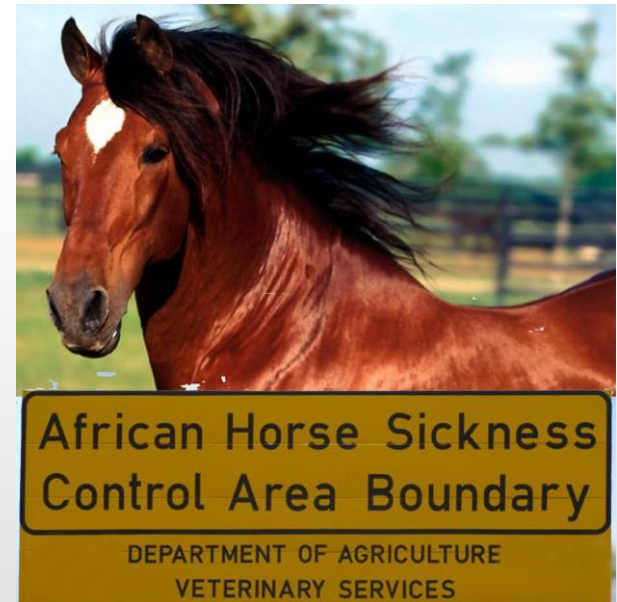


Procedure for application & evaluation process for a recovery

Recovery of AHS free status
Article 12.1.5. of the
Terrestrial Code

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



Maintenance of an officially recognised AHS status: Scope



- Maintain the compliance with the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for AHS
- Annual reconfirmation mandatory for Members having an officially recognised AHS free status



OIE GS



Mandatory

In accordance with Resolution 15 of the 83rd General Session

Assessment

November each year



MAINTENANCE OF OFFICIAL DISEASE STATUS

Support from: OIE RR and SRR OIE Status Dept.

An online interface is available

Supportive information, as requested

rr.asiapacific@oie.int
srr.seasia@oie.int
disease.status@oie.int



Form for the annual reconfirmation of the African horse sickness (AHS) status of OIE Member Countries

To be filled in, dated, signed by the Delegate and sent back to disease.status@oie.int during the month of November each year

YEAR _____ COUNTRY _____

AHS free country

In accordance with Resolution No. 15 adopted at the 83rd General Session and other relevant Resolutions previously adopted, Member Countries having an officially recognised disease status or BSE risk status should reconfirm every year, during the month of November, that their status has remained unchanged.

QUESTION	YES	NO
1. Has there been any outbreak of AHS during the past 12 months?		
2. Has any evidence of infection with AHS virus been found during the past 12 months?		
3. Has systematic vaccination against AHS been carried out during the past 12 months?		
4. If equids are imported (including for temporary residence, return and transit), are they imported in accordance with requirements at least as strict as those in Articles 12.1.6. and 12.1.7.?		
5. If equine semen, embryos and oocytes are imported, are they imported in accordance with requirements at least as strict as those in Articles 12.1.8. and 12.1.9.?		
6. If your country is not historically free from AHS in accordance with Article 1.4.6., is		

SOPs

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/SOP/EN_SOP_Susp_Recovery.pdf

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Health_in_the_World/docs/pdf/SOP/EN_SOP_Reconfirmation.pdf



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Reconfirmation_SOP

Standard Operating Procedure on the reconfirmation of officially recognised disease status and of the endorsement of national official control programmes of Member Countries

Description/ Scope: This procedure describes the process for the submission of annual reconfirmations for the maintenance of official disease status or endorsed official national control programmes.
The subprocess for the reconfirmation of a status or of an endorsed control programme fits in the overall Official Status Recognition Process.

Related documents Reconfirmation of a Status or Programme - Guidelines¹ (annexed)
Resolution No. 15 adopted at the 83rd General Session
Resolution No. 16 adopted at the 83rd General Session

Related process Official Status Recognition Process

- Procedure (Application_SOP)
- Application_Guidelines

Expert Mission Deployment

- Procedure (Mission_SOP)
- Mission_Guidelines

Suspension, Recovery and Withdrawal

- Procedure (Suspension_SOP)
- Suspension_Guidelines

List of acronyms: AHG: Ad hoc Group
DDG: Deputy Director General, Standards and Science
DG: Director General
DSD: Disease Status Department
SCAD: Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Step	Time Reference	Responsible person	Action	Reference Document
1.	September	SCAD	Selects 10% of official status reconfirmations and all the national official control programmes for a comprehensive review at its forthcoming February meeting.	
2.	October	DG	Sends reminder letters for Delegates of Member Countries with an officially recognised status or endorsed national control programme	



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Suspension, Recovery and Withdrawal

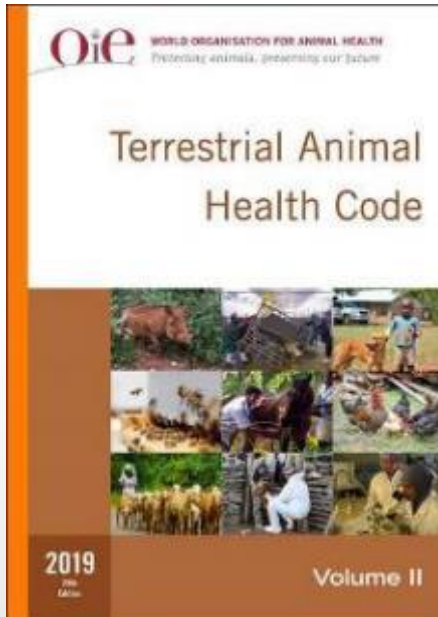
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Requirements of the Terrestrial Code for maintenance of official AHS free status



Retention on the list requires the **annual reconfirmation** that during the last year:

- no evidence of infection** with AHS virus has been detected
- no routine vaccination** against AHS
- Equids are **imported** in accordance with AHS Code chapter

- Regulatory measures for the **early detection**, prevention and control of infection with AHSV have been implemented.
- Documented evidence of **surveillance** conducted in accordance with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13., unless historically free (>25 years without cases)

Status Maintenance: Provisions when adjacent to an infected country

- **An AHS free country or zone which is adjacent to an infected country** (or undetermined status) should include a zone in which surveillance is conducted in accordance with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13 of the AHS Code Chapter.
- **Serological surveillance** (random or targeted sampling) in a free country or zone should be carried out over an appropriate distance from the border with an infected country of at least **100 kilometres**, but a lesser distance could be acceptable if there are relevant ecological or geographical features likely to interrupt the transmission of AHSV.
- An AHS free country or zone may be protected from an adjacent infected country or zone by a **protection zone**.

Conclusions:

- **SOP's available for suspension, containment zone, recovery and maintenance of official status**
- **Withdrawn of Status after 2 years of Suspension**
- **Recovery dossier format: based on the SOPs and questionnaire of Chapter 1.7 of the Code**
- **Final decision of the recovery dossier by Scientific Commission**
- **Final decision on Maintenance of AHS status by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates**
- **Specific provisions for surveillance in the AHS Code Chapter**
- **Maintenance of AHS status requires serological surveillance at the borders of countries with undetermined AHS status**



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Mauro Meske

Neo Mapitse

diseasestatus@oie.int

n.mapitse@oie.int

m.meske@oie.int



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
www.oie.int
disease.status@oie.int - oie@oie.int

