

# WOAH Standards and initiatives for the international movement of competition horses under the WOAH-IHSC Collaboration agreement

Kick-off meeting of the WOAH project to facilitate horse movement in Asia and the Pacific Region international movement of competition horses

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WOAH: World Organisation for Animal Health  
IHSC: International Horse Sports Confederation  
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World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health  
Founded as OIE

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale  
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización  
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The **Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI)**, world governing body for horse sport, and the **International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)**, joined forces in **2013** to create the **International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC)**, the first formal vehicle for co-operation between the world’s leading governing bodies for equestrian sport.



The **key mission** of the **IHSC** is to encourage cooperation and the exchange of information on all matters of mutual interest between the IFHA and the FEI, as well as **representing the collective interests of the horse industry with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)** and other international bodies.



In an effort to strengthen coordination among FEI, IFHA and WOAHA, a **WOAH-IHSC Technical Committee** has been established.



The **WOAH-IHSC Technical Committee** is responsible for coordinating the technical aspects of the collaboration of the IHSC with WOAHA to facilitate the international horse movement.

# Main activities under the WOAHA-IHSC Collaboration Agreement 3

1. Building Diagnostic Capabilities for Equine-related Diseases
2. Improvement of WOAHA standards for horse-related diseases
3. Advocacy and capacity building activities
4. Regional Activities in support of temporary international movement of competition horses
5. Tools to facilitate the safe international movement of competition horses

Extra item for this presentation:

6- African Horse Sickness- free status- Official recognition



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## 1. Building Diagnostic Capabilities for Equine-related Diseases

### Experts from WOAHA Reference Labs' support:

- **Glanders (ANSES):** Meeting with ANSES WOAHA Ref Lab. New GLANDA ELISA Test under study
- **Equine Herpesvirus EHV-1** participation of a WOAHA Ref. Lab. Expert (Irish Equine Centre) in the FEI Task Force: Neurological Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) I
- **Equine Influenza:** An assessment [study](#) on equine influenza vaccination protocols prior to shipment by a WOAHA Reference Laboratory for equine influenza.
- **Surra & dourine:** participation of 2 experts in the June 2022 IHSC-WOAH technical committee meeting. The goal for the international trade of horses: move animals that are serologically negative for both diseases.
- **AHS:** ongoing project AHS new vaccines and potential vaccine banks

### Update of WOAHA international Standards based on Scientific evidence





## 12 WOAH listed diseases affecting equids:

- **Contagious equine metritis** (Chapter last updated 1982)
- **Dourine** (1968)
- **Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern & Western)** (1968)
- **Equine infectious anaemia** (2007)
- **Equine influenza** (2012)
- **Equine piroplasmosis** (2007)
- **Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders)** (2018)
- **Infection with African horse sickness virus** (2014)
- **Infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)** (2014)
- **Infection with equine arteritis virus** (2014)
- **Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis** (1998)
- **Japanese Encephalitis** (2000)

## 2. Improvement of WOAH standards for horse-related diseases





## 2. Improvement of WOAHA standards for horse-related diseases

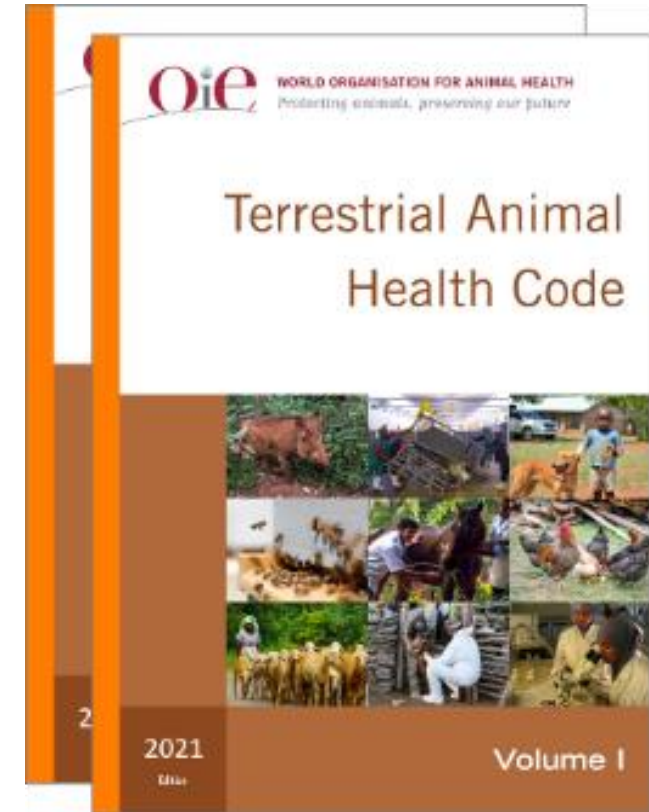
### 3 Chapters newly drafted for potential adoption (WOAH General Session May 2023)

- Contagious equine metritis
- Infection with equine influenza virus
- Equine piroplasmosis

Circulated for Members (and partners') comments: AHS Chapter

### 4 Diseases Chapters proposed for revision in 2023-2024:

- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Surra & Dourine

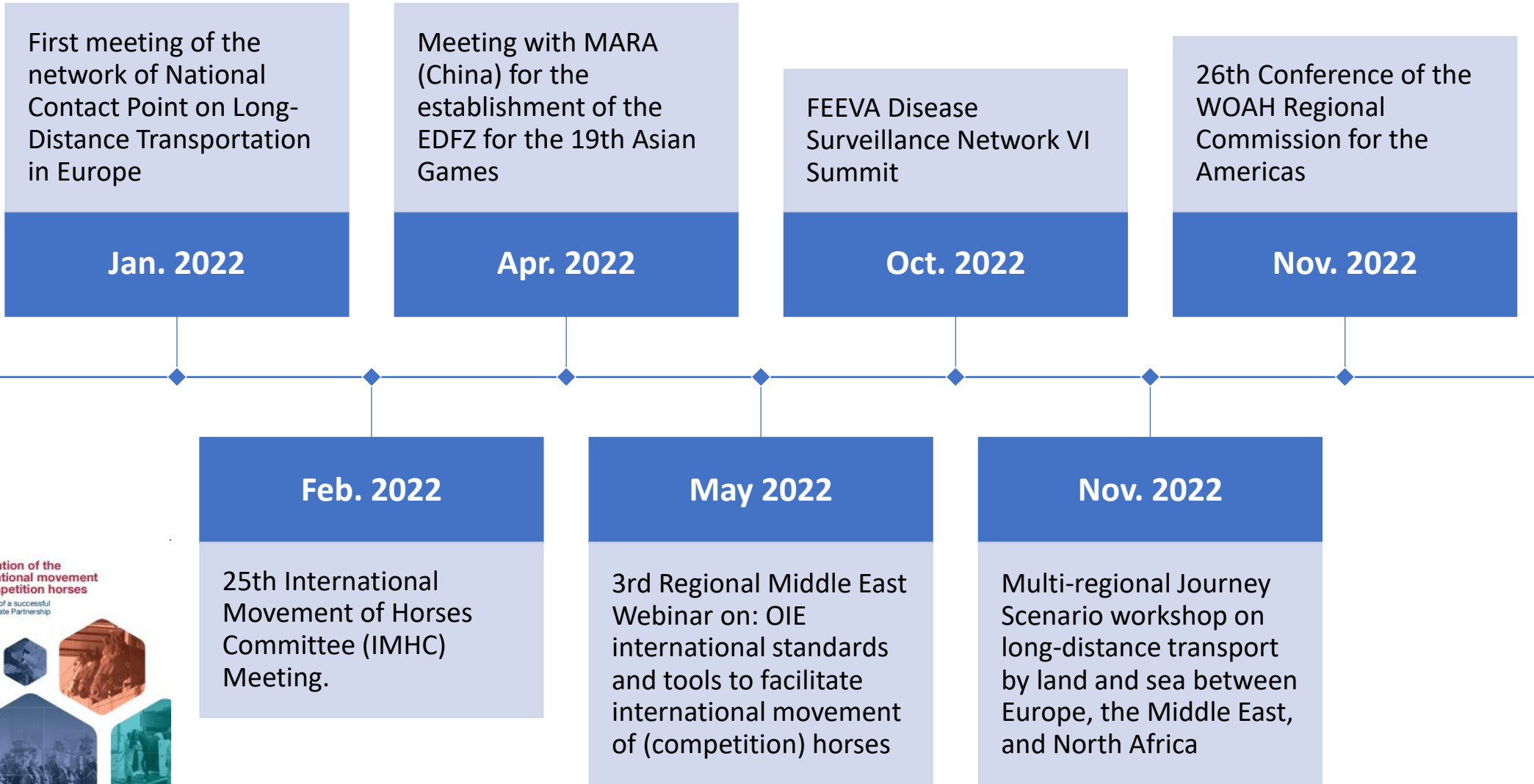


**Inclusion of provisions for temporary importation of competition horses**



# Advocacy activities: joint WOAHIHSC activities were presented at:

## 3. Advocacy and capacity building activities



### Joint initiatives to facilitate international horse movements

As part of this collaboration, the OIE and IHSC hold regional and sub-regional workshops to share skills and knowledge amongst different stakeholders and to facilitate the implementation of tools adapted from OIE Standards.

These workshops help to initiate dialogue between public and private entities. They are key to identifying the main constraints as well as to developing and implementing joint strategies on cross-border movements of horses.

Furthermore, scientific studies carried out under the OIE-IHSC collaboration have contributed to the evolution and update of the relevant OIE international standards and welfare policies. These studies include research on diagnostic tests and the development of new vaccines.

### Facilitation of the international movement of competition horses

Outcomes of a successful Public-Private Partnership

For more information:  
[www.oie.int/competition-horse-movement](http://www.oie.int/competition-horse-movement)  
[www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)  
[www.ihscint.org](http://www.ihscint.org)

#### 4. Regional Activities in support of international movement of competition horses

**6 Regional Joint WOAHIHSC workshops** conducted between 2017 – 2019 to strengthen regional capacities in support of safe international movements of competition horses.

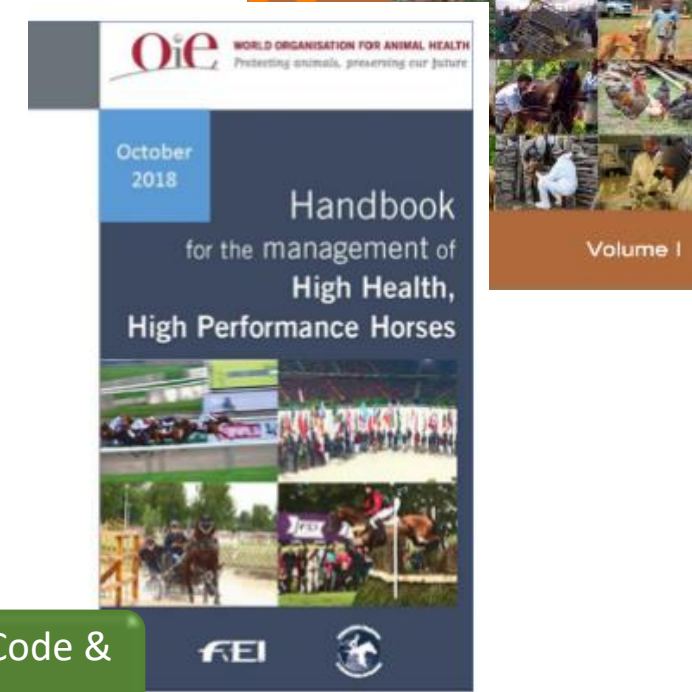
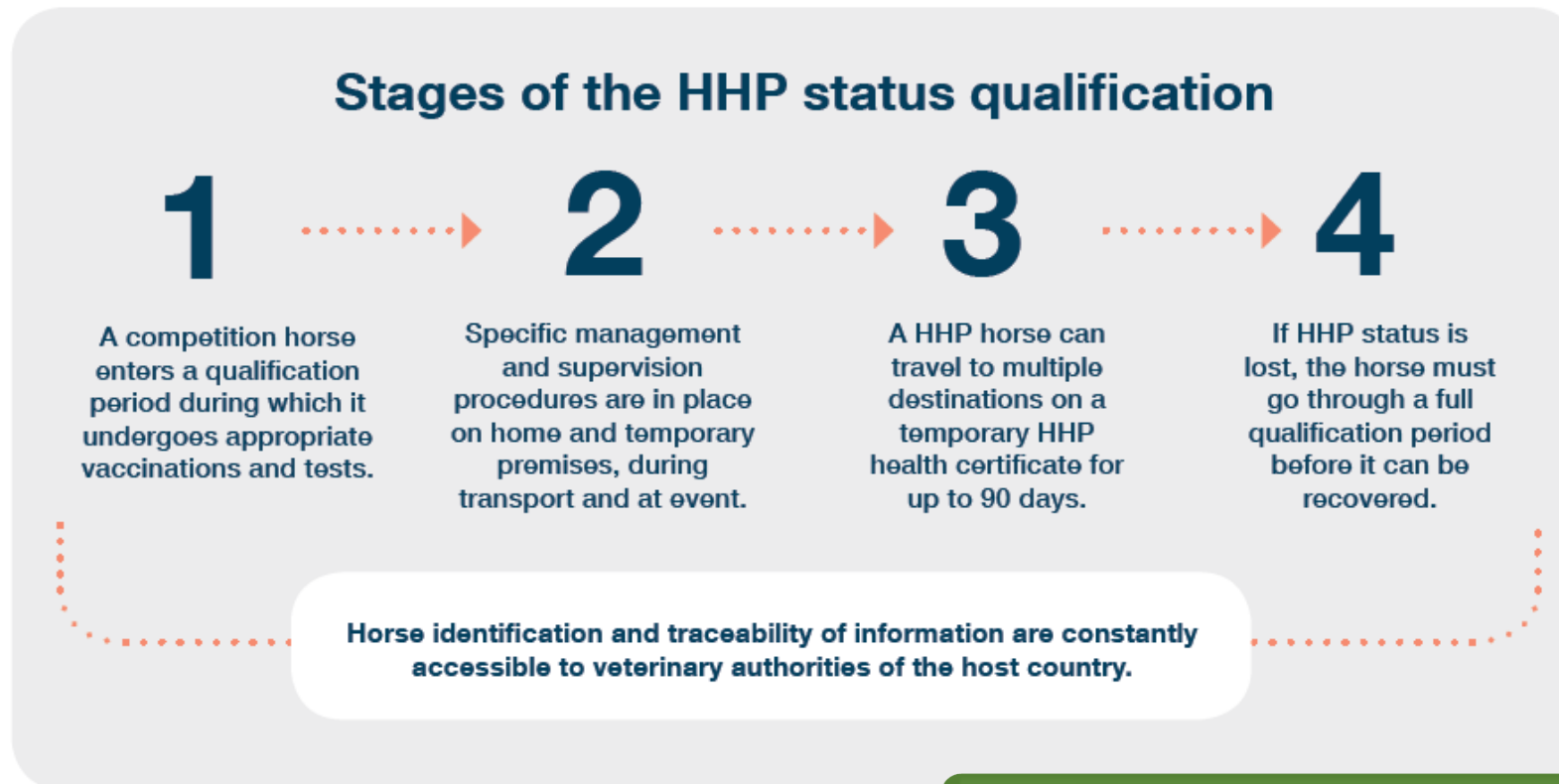
Follow-up workshops were already conducted support of the activities to facilitate movement of competition horses in some of the regions (**Middle East, Europe**)

**Asia Region:** A Joint WOAHIHSC Workshop was conducted in Hong Kong in 2019. Roadmap of activities to overcome challenges to move horses was drafted.



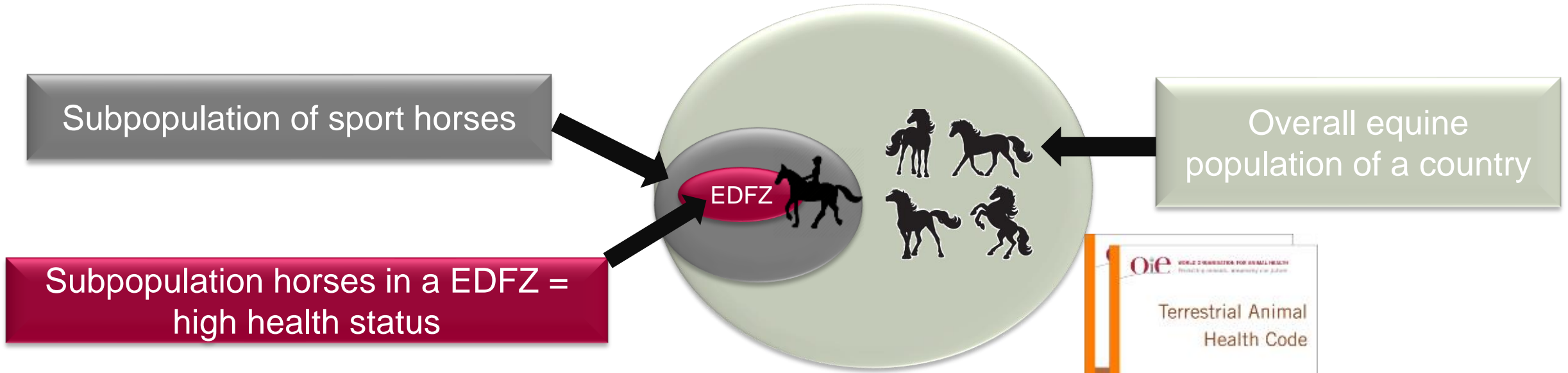


High Health High Performance (HHP) [Chapter 4.17 of the \*Terrestrial Animal Health Code\*](#) on High-Health Status Horse Subpopulation



Chapter 4.17. of the OIE Terrestrial Code & HHP Handbook

## EDFZ: An IHSC-WOAH tool to facilitate hosting on international horse competitions events



### Option for countries

Planning **to host an international sport event**, having not yet controlled/eradicated all equine diseases in their entire territory, BUT are able to do it in smaller zone

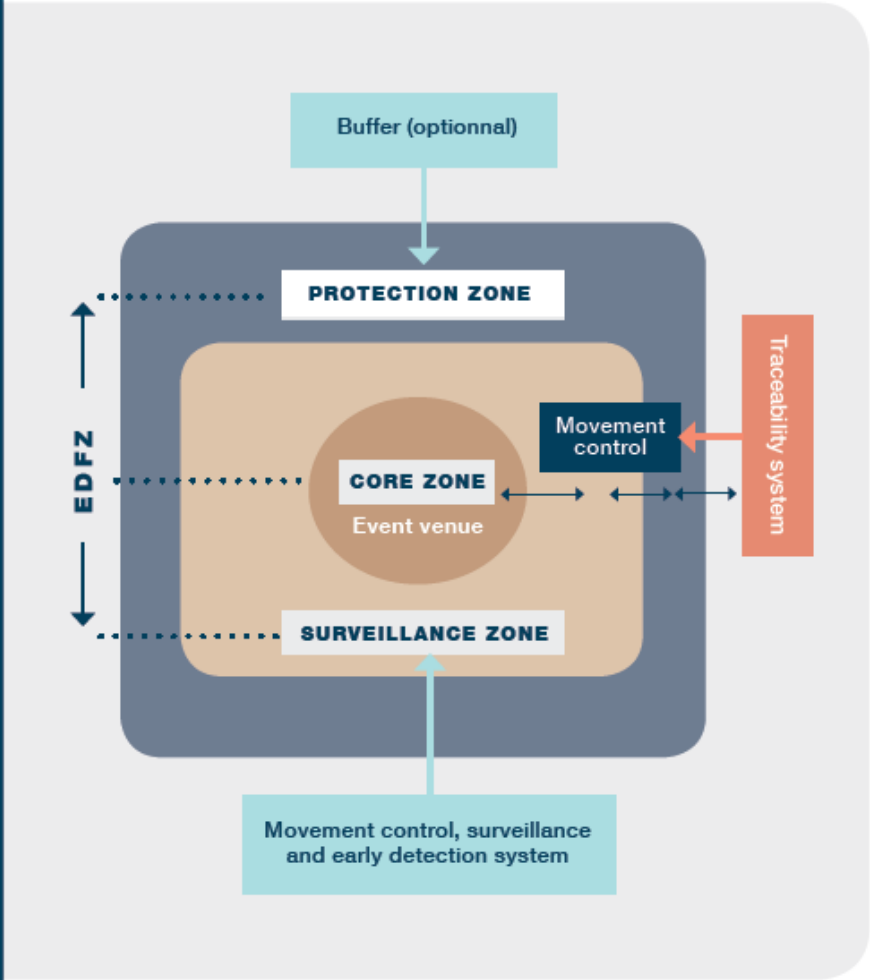


# 5. Tools to facilitate the international movements of competition horses (EDFZ)



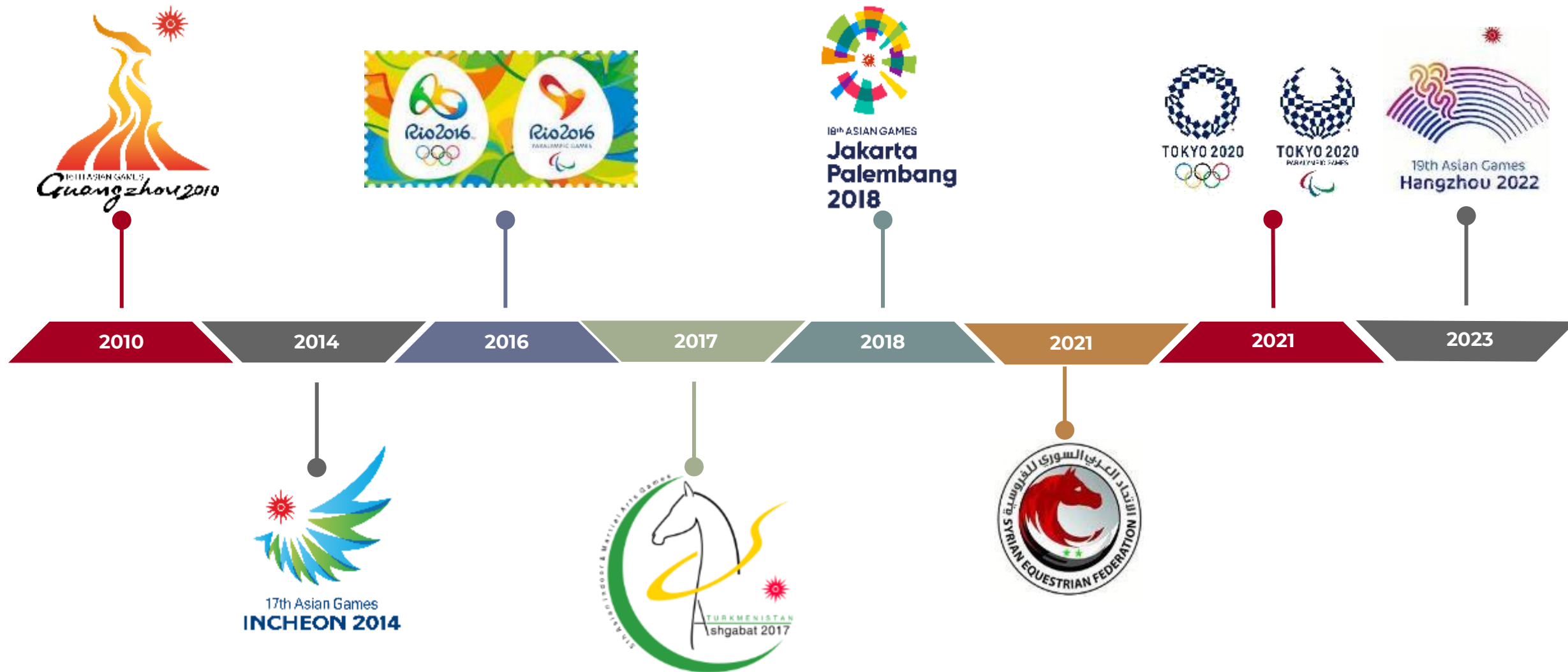
EDFZ Guidelines

- Establishment of a defined area under the control of the Veterinary Authorities.
- Identification of a limited equine population with a known health status.
- Implementation of specific biosecurity measures.
- Traceability and movement control: certification procedures for all horses moving into and out of the zone.
- Existence of a contingency plan for effective risk management.





# 5. Tools to facilitate the international movements of horses (EDFZ)





# 5. Tools to facilitate the international movements of horses (EDFZ)

## Publication by WOAH of a self-declaration of the establishments of an Equine Disease-Free Zone:

- 🏠 The responsibility lies entirely under WOAH Delegate of the Member
- 🏠 There are specific SOP for the application for the publication of a self-declaration by WOAH of animal health status and EDFZ
- 🏠 Self-declaration cannot be made for diseases for which WOAH has an official recognition procedure (i.e., AHS)
- 🏠 No submission deadline

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-offer/self-declared-disease-status/>

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SELF-DECLARATION?**

**WHAT IS A SELF-DECLARATION OF DISEASE FREEDOM?**

**HOW TO MAKE A SELF-DECLARATION?**

**WHEN CAN YOU ASK THE OIE TO PUBLISH A SELF-DECLARATION?**

**DOES THE OIE ENDORSE MEMBERS SELF-DECLARATIONS?**

World Organisation for Animal Health / Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

**PROCEDURE FOR THE APPLICATION FOR THE PUBLICATION OF A SELF DECLARATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS**  
June 2021

**CONTEXT**

WOAH has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to assist Members with the process relating to the official recognition of a specific animal health status or for the endorsement of an official control programme. These SOPs currently apply to six WOAH-listed terrestrial animal diseases, namely: African horse sickness, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, classical swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants.

However, Delegates also have the possibility to self-declare their country or, a zone or a compartment within their territory, free from any disease. Should Delegates request it, WOAH offers to publish the self-declaration(s) on its website. However, WOAH will not publish self-declarations of animal health status related to those diseases for which a specific procedure for official recognition of animal health status has been put in place.

**Standard Operating Procedure on the publication of the self-declaration of animal health status of Members**

Description/ Scope:	This procedure describes the process for the preparation, screening and publication of self-declarations of freedom from any disease (other than those diseases for which WOAH has put in place a specific procedure for official recognition of animal health status). The procedure is composed by four parts: - Part A: Submission of a self-declaration by a Member, - Part B: Screening and publication by WOAH of a self-declaration submitted by a Member - Part C: Loss of self-declared animal health status - Part D: Recovery of self-declared animal health status
Related documents:	Self-Declaration Publication Process – Guidelines (included in this document) Chapter 1.6, of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code
List of acronyms:	Codes: Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Aquatic Animal Health Code SD: WOAH Status Department WAHIA: WOAH World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System DG: Director General DDG: Deputy Director General

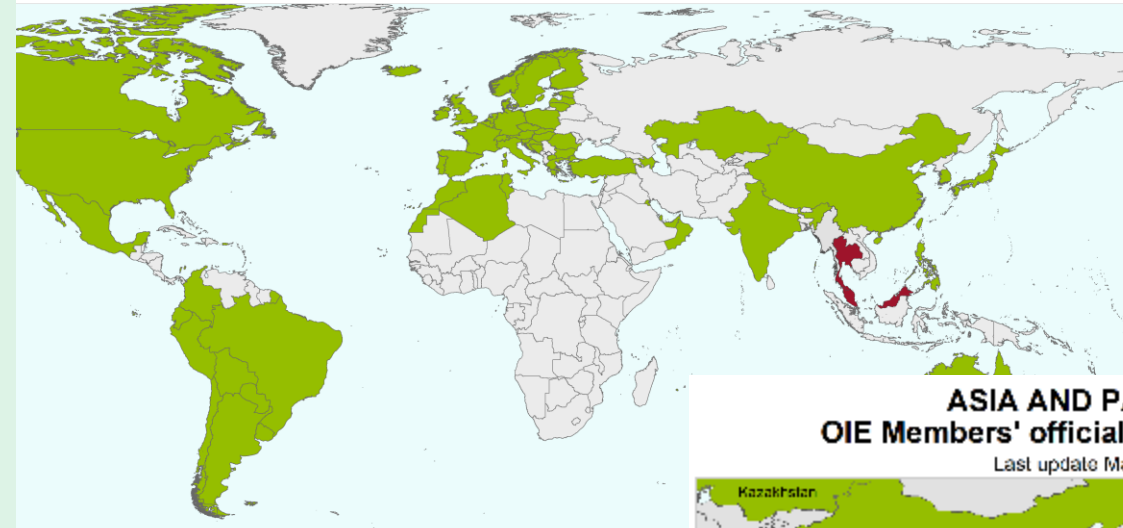
A - SUBMISSION OF SELF-DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS (Section A of Guidelines)				
Step	Time Reference	Responsible person	Action	Reference Document
A-1.		Delegate	Sends the self-declaration to WOAH in one of the forms (Annexes)	\$ A Guidelines



# 6. African Horse Sickness- free status- Official recognition first application

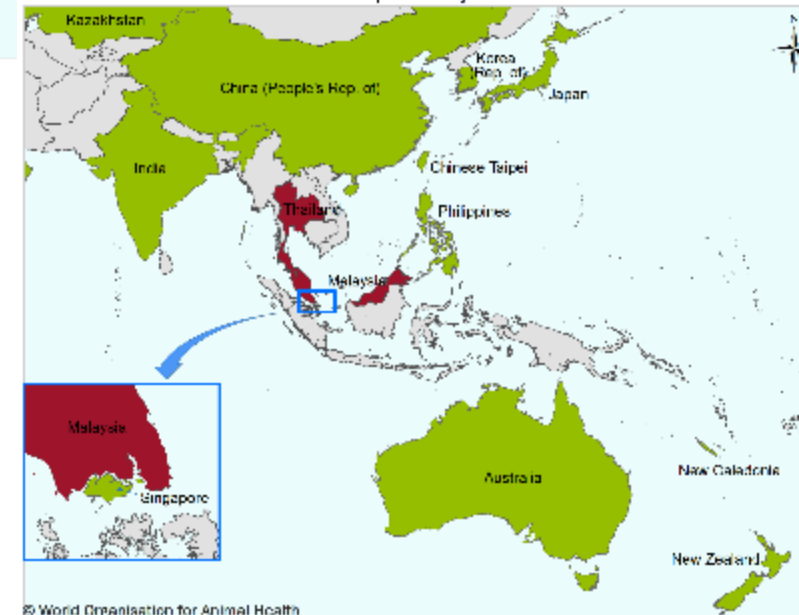
### WOAH Members' official African horse sickness status map

Last update May 2022



### ASIA AND PACIFIC: OIE Members' official AHS status map

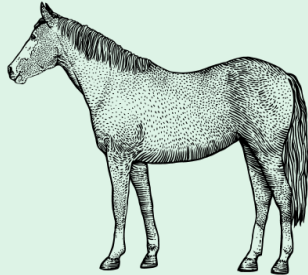
Last update May 2022



World Organisation for Animal Health  
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Animal Diseases | Monkeypox | Avian Influenza | COVID-19 | SEARCH

WHO WE ARE | WHAT WE DO | WHAT WE OFFER | MEDIA | WAHS



## African horse sickness

African horse sickness (AHS) is an infectious but non-contagious arthropod-borne viral disease affecting all species of equidae caused by an orbivirus of the family Reoviridae and characterised by alterations in the respiratory and circulatory functions. AHS is transmitted by at least two species of Culicoides. Nine different serotypes have been described. There are four classical clinical forms of AHS: pulmonary, cardiac, mixed, and horse

**Links to Code and Manual**

- Terrestrial code
- Terrestrial manual

- Members recognised as free from AHS
- Suspension of AHS free status
- Countries without an official status for AHS

- Members recognised as free from AHS
- Suspension of AHS free status
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**More information:**  
[Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members](#)



## 6. African Horse Sickness- free status- Official recognition

**Voluntary applications - WOAAH Members**



**WOAH Headquarters**

Preliminary screening



**AHS ad hoc Group**



**Scientific Commission  
for Animal Diseases**



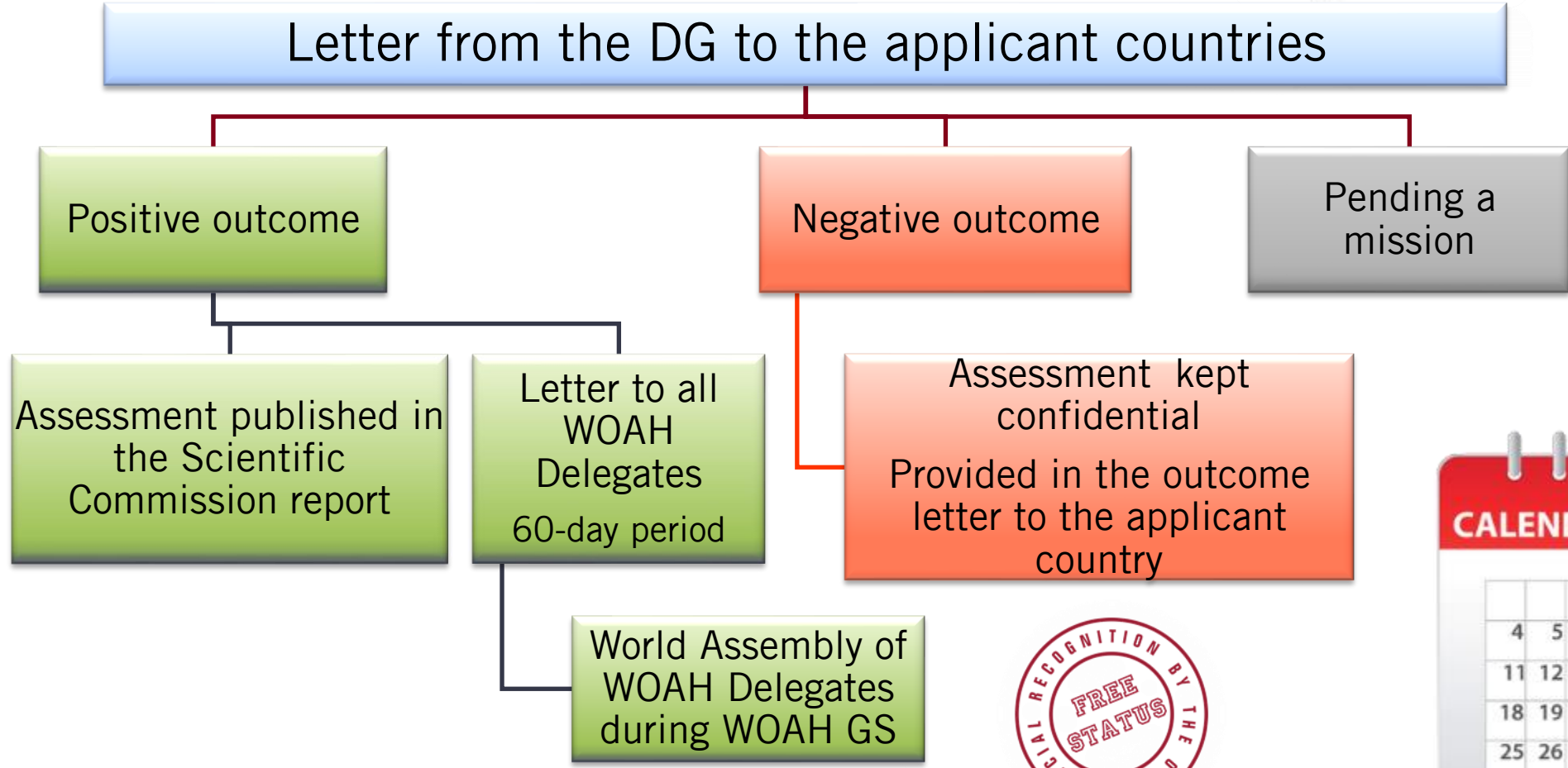
**WOAH Director General**

Communication of the outcome to the applicant Member





### Communication on the outcome



Specific deadline to submit applications







## 6. African Horse Sickness- free status- Recovery of free status

Evaluation of the application for **recovery** of an official disease status



- An AHS free status may be suspended (outbreak, non-compliances, etc.)
- Submission of a recovery dossier
- 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





## 6. African Horse Sickness- free status- Recovery of free status



When the AHS status has not been recovered after **3 years of suspension** – status is **withdrawn**



# Thank you

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