

WOAH Standards on Zoning

and their practical implementation in the context of FMD

Dr Min-Kyung PARK

Head of Status Department
WOAH Headquarters

Private Sector Consultative Committee (PSCC) Virtual Meeting

18 March 2025



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



INDEX

- Evolution of the Zoning standards of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code
 - Brief history
- General principles and requirements of Zoning
- Application of a disease-free zone
 - Official recognition of FMD-free status



Brief overview: Evolution of the Zoning standards of the WOAH Terrestrial Code

3

- Initially only country freedom from disease
- Not all Members could comply for country freedom
- Introduced concept of **zone free** from disease – with or without vaccination (for FMD)
- Introduced concept of buffer zone – later replaced by **protection zone**
- Further refined to smaller area of freedom based on biosecurity principles – **compartment**
- Introduced concept of **containment zone**
- All of the above are trade facilitating mechanisms

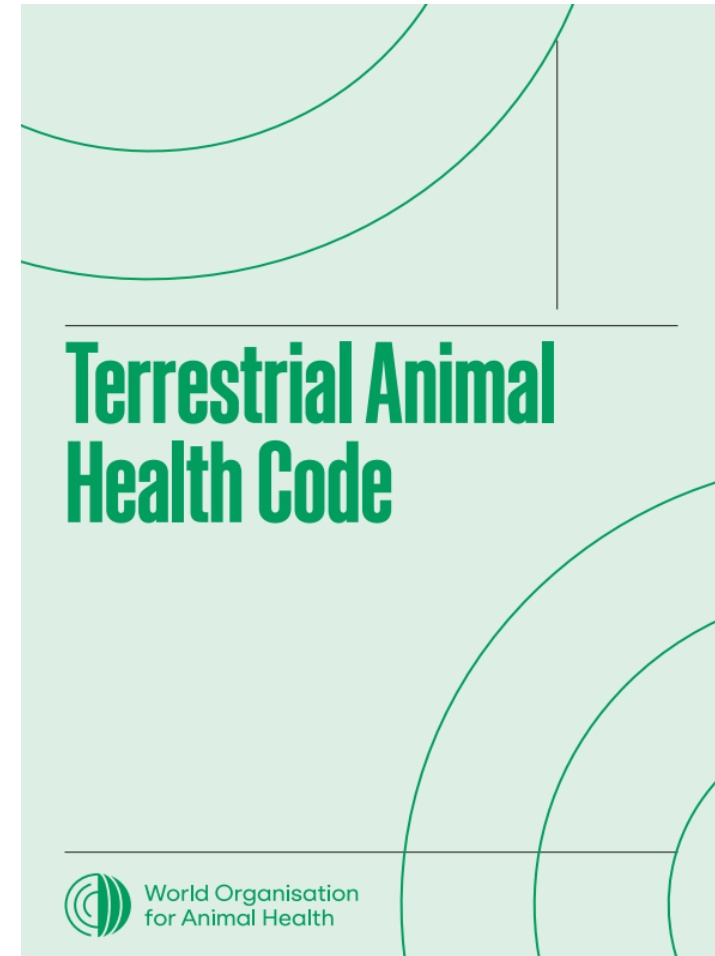


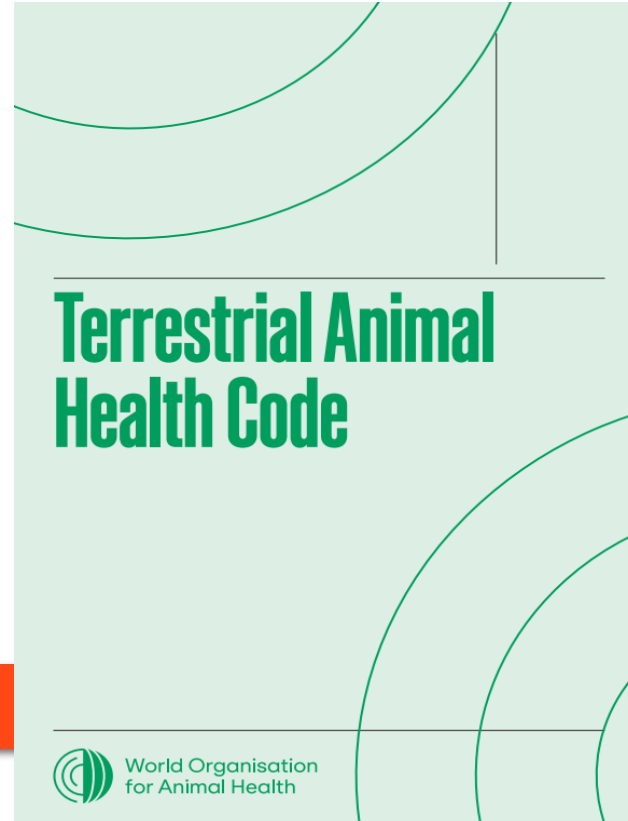
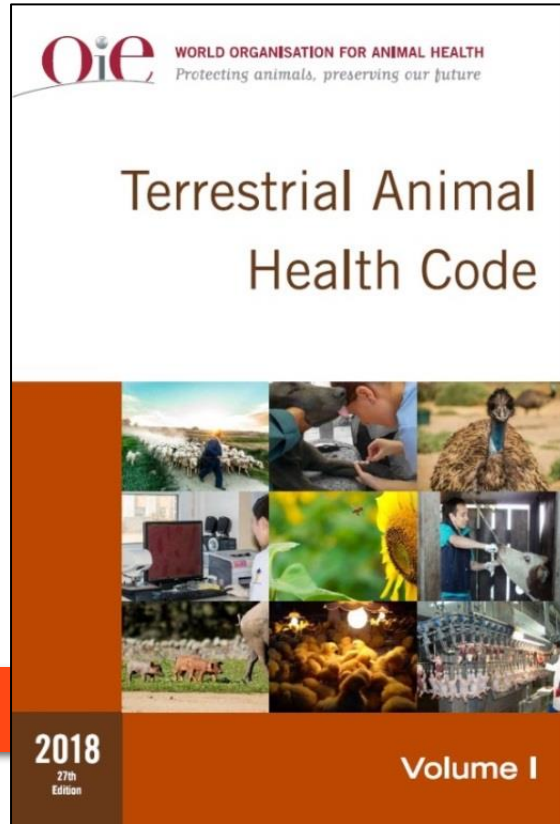
Horizontal Chapters (Vol. I)

- Disease notification (1.1.)
- Animal health surveillance (1.4.)
- Import risk analysis (2.1.)
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services (3.3.)
- Veterinary legislation (3.4.)
- **Zoning and compartmentalisation (4.4.)**
- Vaccination (4.18.)
- Official control programmes (4.19.)
- Import/export procedures (5)

Disease Specific Chapters (Vol. II)

- General provisions, case definition
- Safe commodities, if any
- Criteria for disease status: country, zone or compartment
- Provisions for import of commodities
- Pathogen inactivation
- Endorsement of official control programme
- Specific disease surveillance





www.woah.org/terrestrial-code

- ☐ Glossary
- ☐ Chapter 4.4. Zoning and Compartmentalisation
- ☐ Chapter 8.8. Infection with FMD virus



ZONE

means a part of a country defined by the [Veterinary Authority](#), containing an animal [population](#) or [subpopulation](#) with a specific [animal health status](#) with respect to an [infection](#) or [infestation](#) for the purposes of [international trade](#) or disease prevention or control.

SUBPOPULATION

means a distinct part of a [population](#) identifiable in accordance with specific common animal health characteristics.

FREE ZONE

means a [zone](#) in which the absence of a specific [infection](#) or [infestation](#) in an animal [population](#) has been demonstrated in accordance with the relevant requirements of the [Terrestrial Code](#).

ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS

means the status of a country, [zone](#) or [compartment](#) with respect to an animal disease in accordance with the criteria listed in the relevant disease-specific chapter or Chapter [1.4](#) of the [Terrestrial Code](#).



Principles for defining and establishing a zone

7

- Extent of a zone/geographical limits established by the *Veterinary Authority*
 - Natural, artificial and/or legal boundaries
 - Made public through official channels
- Management practices: 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





“Containing an animal population or subpopulation”

8

“Specific animal health status with respect to an infection”

- Animals and herds belonging to the subpopulation should be recognizable
- Valid animal identification system
- The distinct health status should be established and maintained based on appropriate epidemiological separation



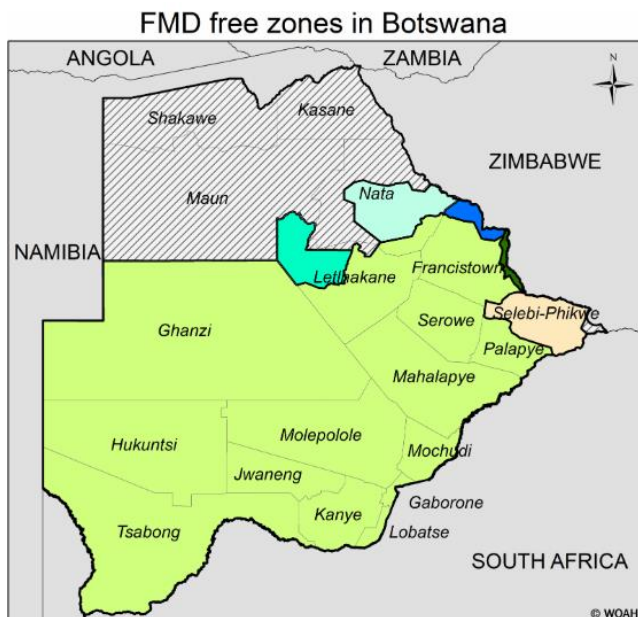
- Key principle in terms of the *Terrestrial Code* is to **prevent the introduction** of the pathogen



Practicalities of zoning approach

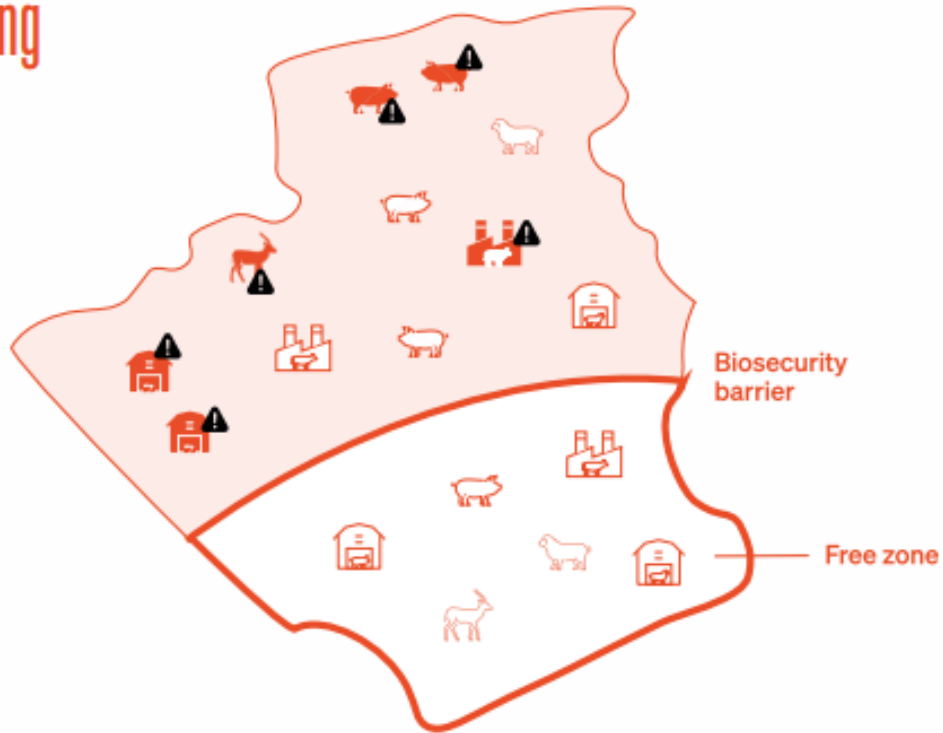
9

- Encourage more efficient use of resources within certain parts of a country
- Progressive approach
- In case of an outbreak in an officially recognised zone, the status of other officially recognised zones would not be suspended
- Maintenance can be inconvenient and costly

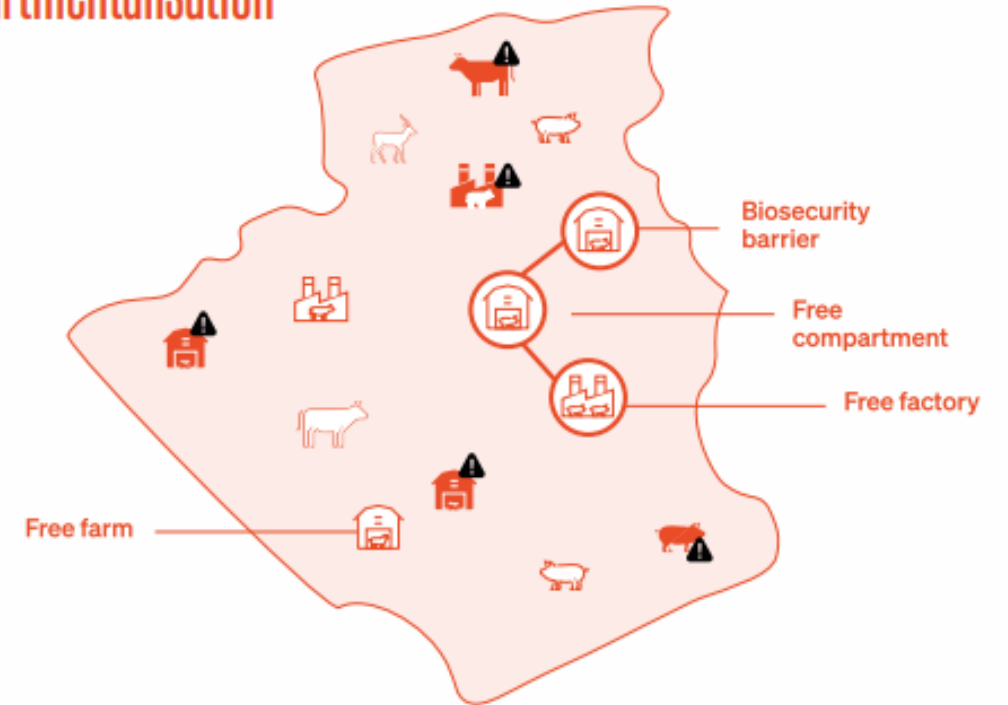


Zoning vs. Compartmentalisation

Zoning



Compartmentalisation



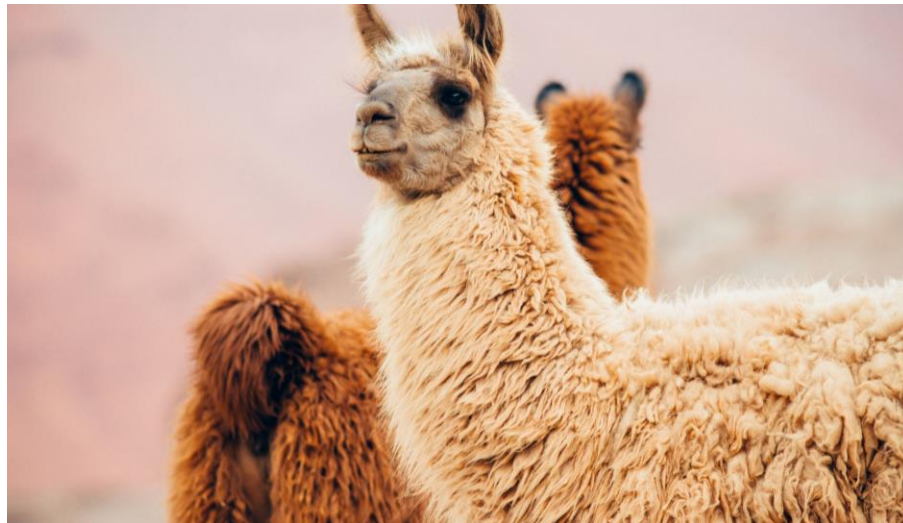
Important factors for successful zoning

- Zone size is appropriate for disease of concern.
- Borders are controlled to prevent illegal movements.
- Good surveillance design within and outside of the zone.
- Well enforced movement controls for animals and animal products, with good traceability.
- Zoning plans address risks of wildlife, feral animals and non-commercial animal production and movements.
- Good laboratory capacity and reliability.
- Competent authority has adequate resources to implement zoning plan.
- Cooperation and communication with private sector and state and local authorities.
- Transparency among stakeholders and trading partners.
- Excellent emergency response plan for disease outbreak within or near a free zone.



Important factors for successful compartmentalisation

- Compartment is properly designed to incorporate all appropriate facilities and address all risk factors.
- Biosecurity plan addresses risks of disease introduction and vigilance is maintained.
- Good surveillance design within the compartment to quickly catch disease incursions.
- Well enforced movement controls for animals and animal products, with good traceability.
- Good laboratory capacity and reliability.
- Compartment management ensures regular training of staff with high compliance.
- Cooperation and communication between different facilities that form the compartment.
- Regular audits of the Veterinary Services to ensure compliance.





WOAH Observatory Thematic Study

- WOAHA's Observatory monitors the implementation of WOAHA standards and did a thematic study on implementation of zoning.
- Member survey looked at use of zoning for avian influenza, African swine fever, and foot and mouth disease from 2018-2022
- Report published in January 2024
- Second report with more focus on quantitative evaluation of the data is in progress.

Use, challenges and impact of zoning and compartmentalisation -
WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health



Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements on FMD





2024

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Article	Topic/provision
8.8.1.	General provisions, including case definition
8.8.2	Safe commodities
8.8.3 to 8.8.11	Articles related to status: FMD-free country (without & with vaccination) /zone/compartment/ Protection zone / Containment zone / Recovery of free status
8.8.12. to 8.8.33.	Recommendations for importation of commodities from <ul style="list-style-type: none">- FMD-free countries, zones, or compartments- FMD-infected countries or zones
8.8.34 to 8.8.41.	FMD virus inactivation
8.8.42.	Requirements for endorsement of an official FMD control programme
8.8.43. to 8.8.45.	FMD surveillance: General principles, Methods, Use and interpretation of serological tests

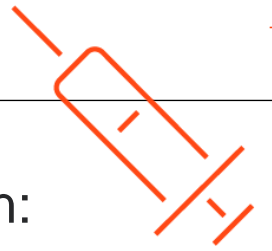


OLD vs NEW

	Version 2023 (last update in 2015)	Version 2024
FMD-free without vaccination	Article 8.8.2.	Article 8.8.3.
FMD-free with vaccination	Article 8.8.3.	Article 8.8.4.
Transition of vaccination status in FMD-free country/zone	-	Article 8.8.5.
Containment zone within an FMD-free country or zone	Article 8.8.6.	Article 8.8.10.
Recovery of free status	Article 8.8.7.	Article 8.8.11.
Endorsement of an official control programme for FMD	Article 8.8.39.	Article 8.8.42.



Article 8.8.4 : FMD free country or zone where vaccination is practised



A country or zone may be considered free from FMD where vaccination is practised when:

1. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting;
2. no infection with FMDV; no transmission of FMDV
3. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of, and authority over, all herds of domestic and captive wild susceptible animals in the country or zone;
4. the Veterinary Authority has current knowledge of the distribution and habitat of wild and feral susceptible animals in the country or zone;
5. compulsory systematic vaccination in the target population has been carried out to achieve adequate vaccination coverage and population immunity; based on the epidemiology of FMD in the country or zone, the target population should be defined in accordance with Chapter 4.18.;
6. vaccination has been carried out following appropriate vaccine strain selection;
7. measures to prevent the introduction of the infection have been in place; importations or movements of commodities into the country or zone (between zones within same country)
8. for the **past 24 months** appropriate surveillance has been implemented in accordance with Articles 8.8.43. to 8.8.45.

Demonstrate by EVIDENCE





Official recognition of animal health status

Objectives & Benefits include:



- Demonstration of compliance with WOAH international standards
- Guarantees to trading partners
- Facilitate safe trade of animals and their products
- Increase of economic potentialities and access to regional and international markets
- Demonstration of the quality of Veterinary Services
- Documented and updated evidence on the disease-free situation
- Objectives of the Global Strategies (FMD, PPR and dog-mediated rabies)



Successful recognition & maintenance of Official Status & endorsed programmes



Certificate

FMD



Foot and mouth disease status of Cattleland

This is to certify that, following a recommendation of the WOAHP Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the World Assembly of Delegates of WOAHP approved on 30 May 2024 the proposal that Cattleland be recognised by WOAHP as a country free from foot and mouth disease (FMD) where vaccination is not practised in accordance with the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (2023).

This recognition is based on the documentation submitted to WOAHP by Cattleland. Cattleland has the obligation to notify WOAHP immediately if there is any change in the epidemiological situation relating to FMD in Cattleland and to confirm annually that the epidemiological situation has remained unchanged, according to the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.



Paris, 30 May 2024

Thank you

Official status page: www.woah.org/official-status
For more information please contact: disease.status@woah.org
Terrestrial Code and Manual:
www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87