



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



中国兽医药品监察所  
China Institute of Veterinary Drug Control  
国家动物布鲁氏菌病参考实验室  
National Reference Laboratory for Animal Brucellosis

# Eradication of bovine brucellosis and self-declaration

JAPAN

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Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

WOAH Regional Training Workshop on Brucellosis Diagnosis  
Beijing, China P.R., 5 – 8 August 2025

4th International Academic Conference on Brucellosis  
(5 August)





# Member's Profile (Brief description of susceptible populations)

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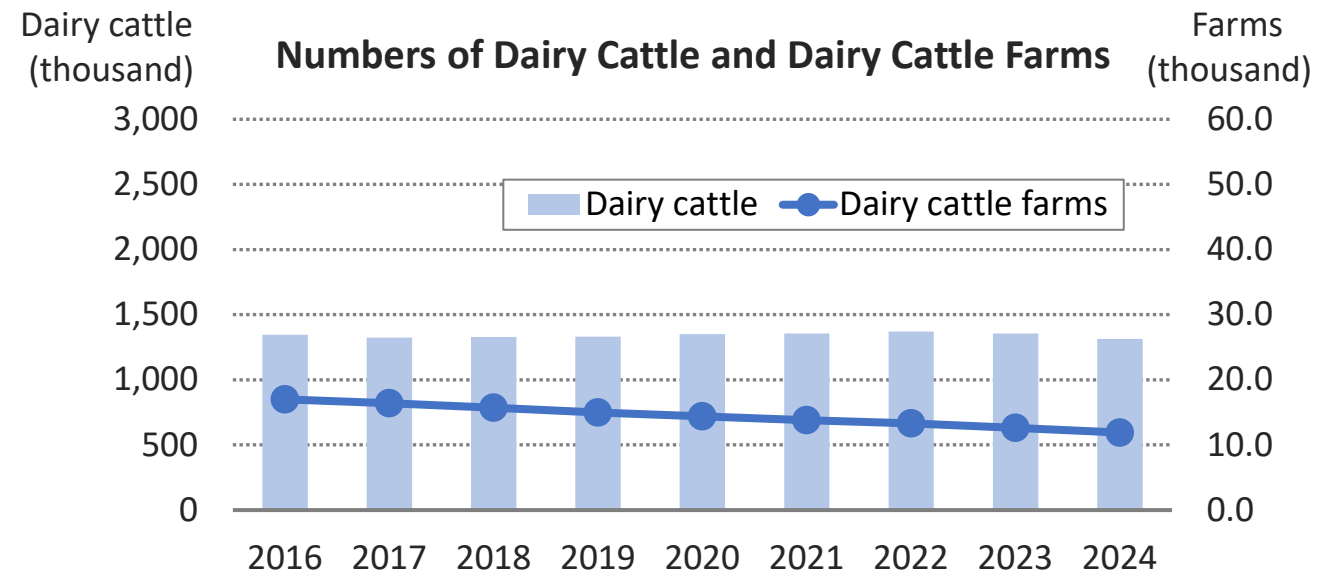
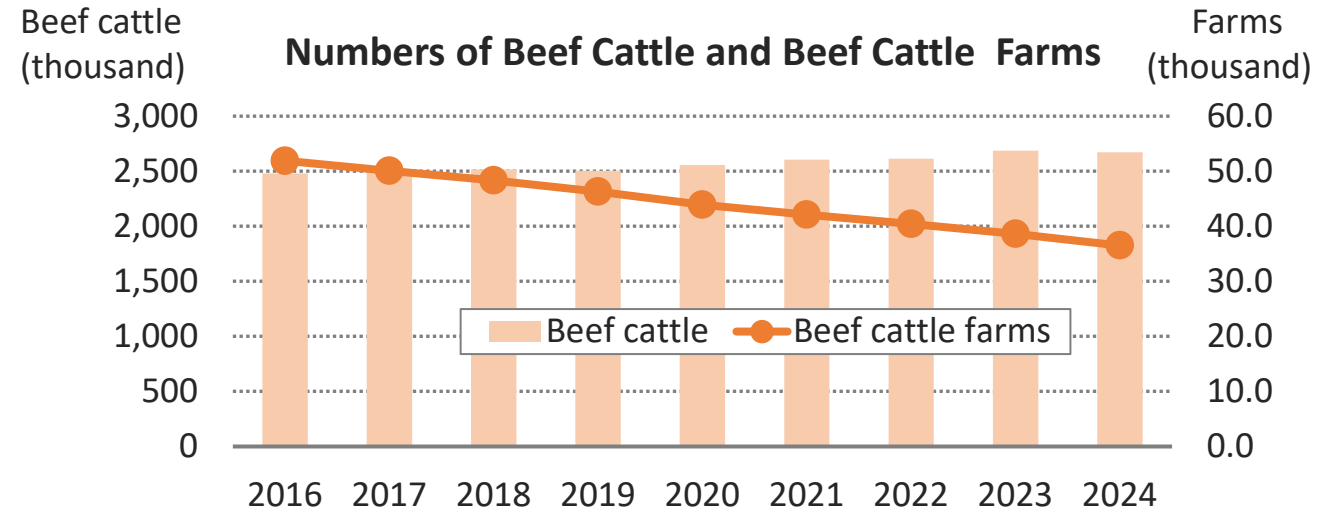
Self-declaration

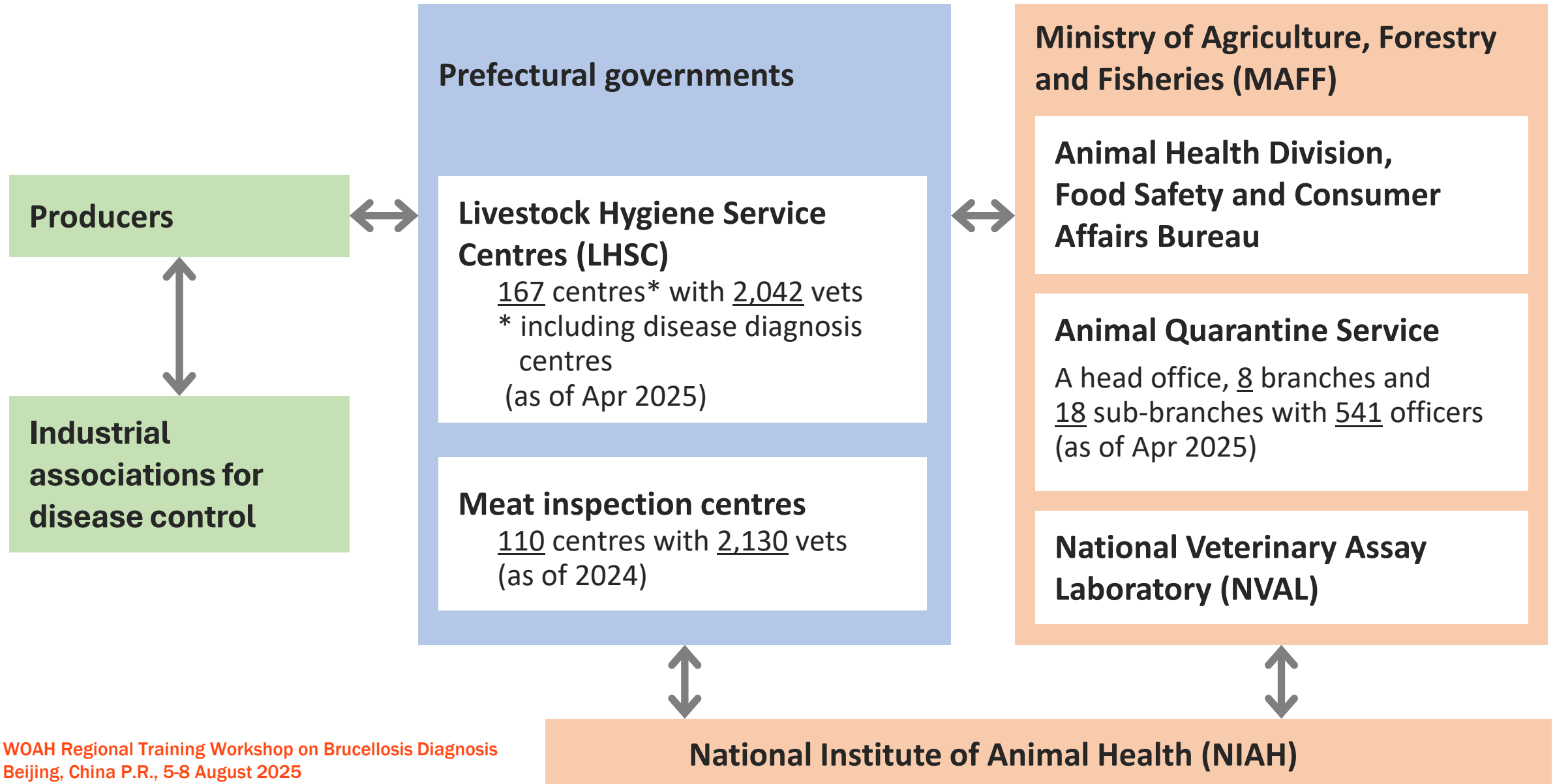
As of 1 February 2020:

- Approximately 2,555,000 beef cattle in 43,900 farms, and 1,352,000 dairy cattle in 14,400 farms were kept in Japan.
- There were approximately 220 water buffalos in 11 farms.
- There were no bison farms in Japan.

As of 1 February 2024,

- Approximately 2,672,000 beef cattle in 36,500 farms, and 1,313,000 dairy cattle in 11,900 farms are kept in Japan.

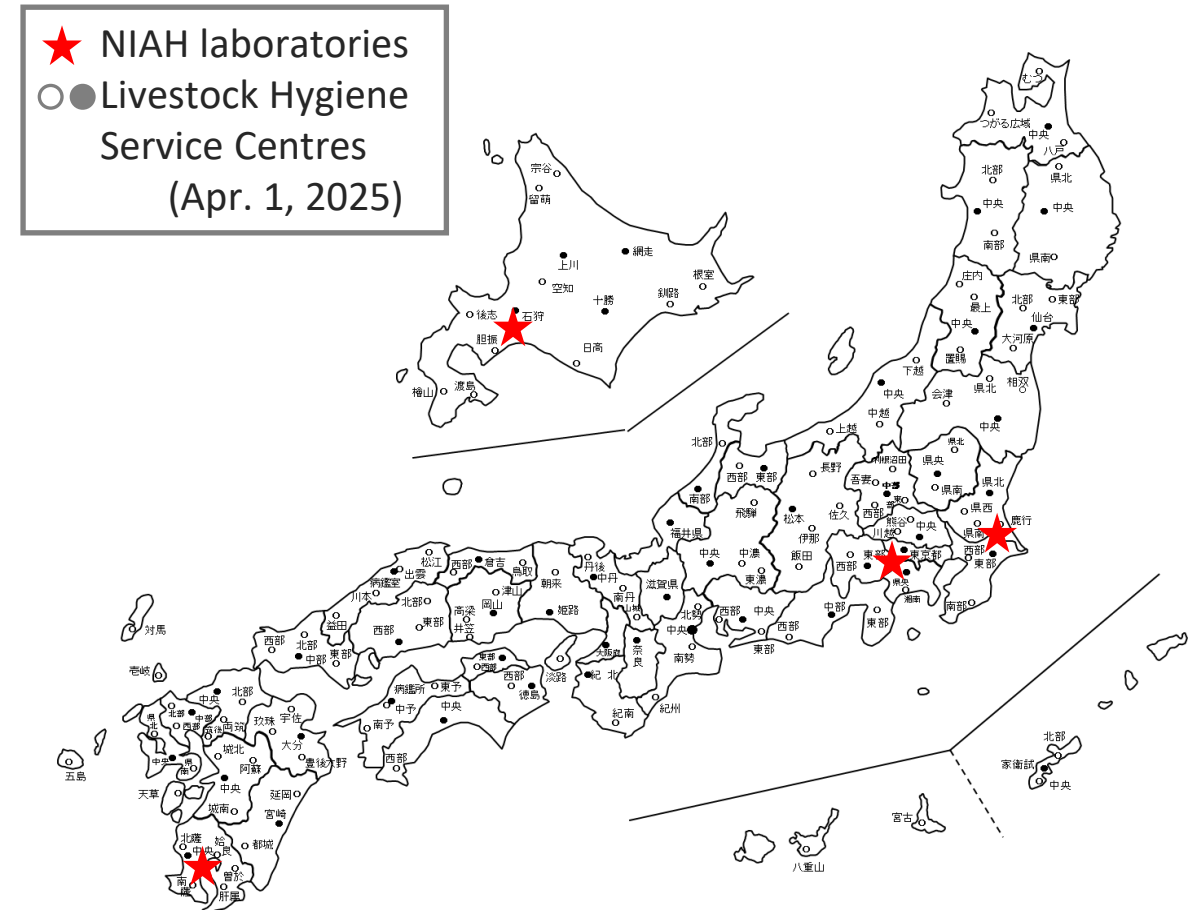






- **National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH)** is the national reference laboratory for animal health that provides 'confirmatory diagnosis'.
- NIAH, together with NVAL, is recognised as a WOAH Collaborating Centre for the 'Diagnosis and Control of Animal Diseases and Veterinary Product Assessment in Asia'.
- Each of 117 **LHSCs** has a laboratory; 50 laboratories are designated for advanced diagnosis.
- LHSCs send samples to NIAH for confirmation if necessary.

## Location of Livestock Hygiene Service Centres and National Institute of Animal Health



## In bovine animals

Japan is **free from brucellosis in bovids (Self-declaration in April 2021)**.

Last case: A case was recorded in 2010.

But *B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* or *B. suis* was not isolated :  
the case **does not meet the case definition** in the *Terrestrial Code*.  
The last time that the causative agent was isolated is in 1970.

Vaccine: not approved

## In wildlife

No evidence of infection with *B. abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*

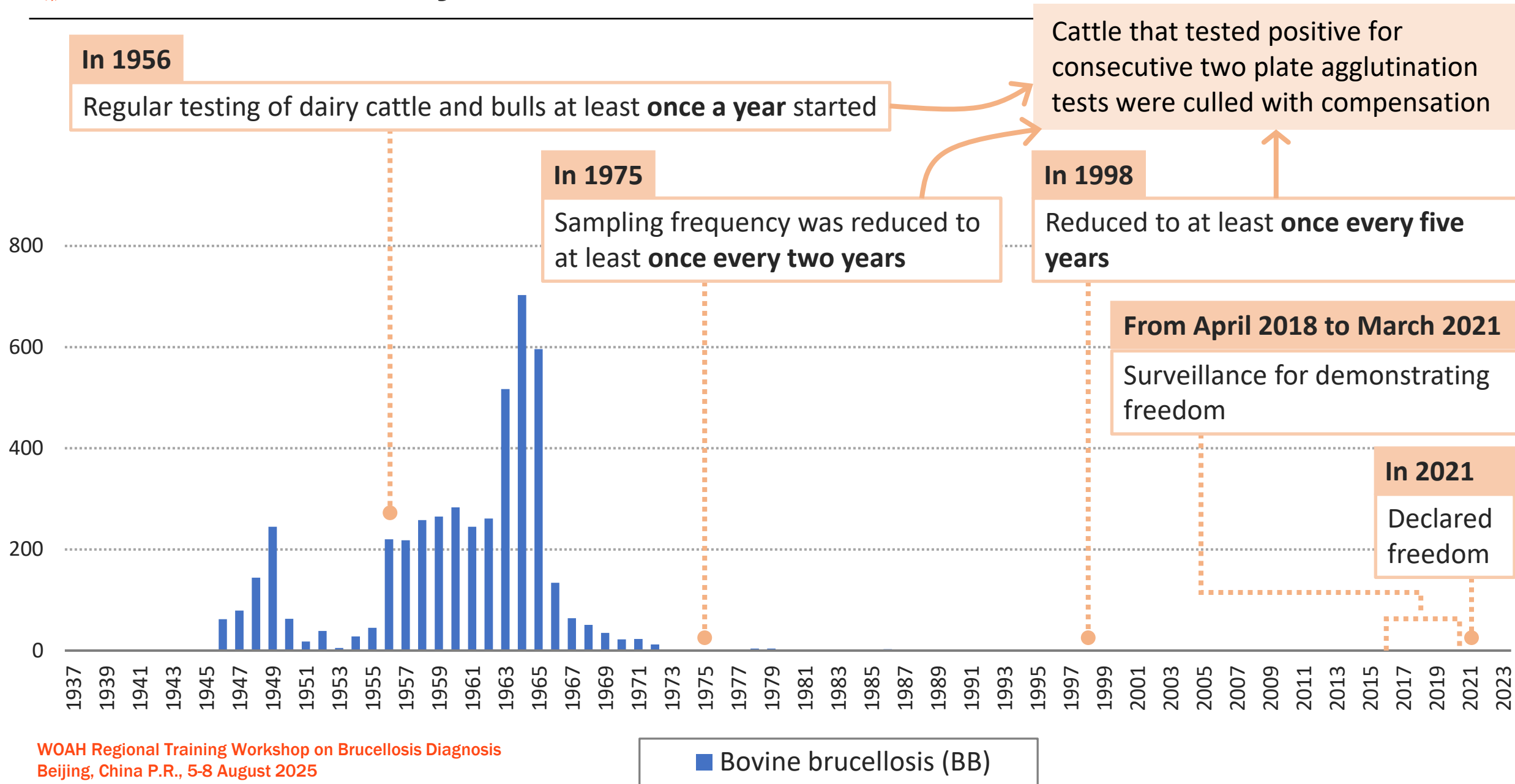
## In human

Recently, all human brucellosis cases are **imported ones**.  
(except infection with *B. canis*)



# Eradication history

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## Terrestrial Code

### Point 1(c) of Article 8.4.4.

regular testing of all *herds* has been in place for the **past three years**; and this testing has demonstrated that

**during this period, infection with *Brucella* was not present in at least 99.8% of the herds representing at least 99.9% of bovids in the country or zone**

## Surveillance conducted in Japan (from April 2018 to March 2021)

All negative!

**43,691 cattle** in **3,167 farms**\* were tested with buffered plate agglutination test and ELISA for screening, and then with bacterial isolation and PCR for confirmation.

\* To detect at least one farm with more than 95% probability if the farm level prevalence was more than 0.1%

All negative!

**971 abortion cases** were tested with ELISA (using serum from dam), bacterial isolation (using vaginal swabs or aborted foetal tissue) and then with PCR for confirmation.



## Key measures

- **Active surveillance** and **test & slaughter** for dairy cattle and breeding bulls by LHSC with compensation (80% of the estimated market price)
- Passive surveillance on farm :  
test all abortion and abnormal birth cases reported to LHSC
- Import quarantine measures

## Joint approach to eradication of brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis

## Advantages of the joint approach

### **Efficient!**

- Visit a bovine farm once to carry out two tests.  
(serological tests for brucellosis and tuberculin test for bovine TB)

### **Easier to explain necessity** to eradicate the diseases

- Both are high priority diseases from the public health perspective.
- Joint approach maximise the cost-effectiveness



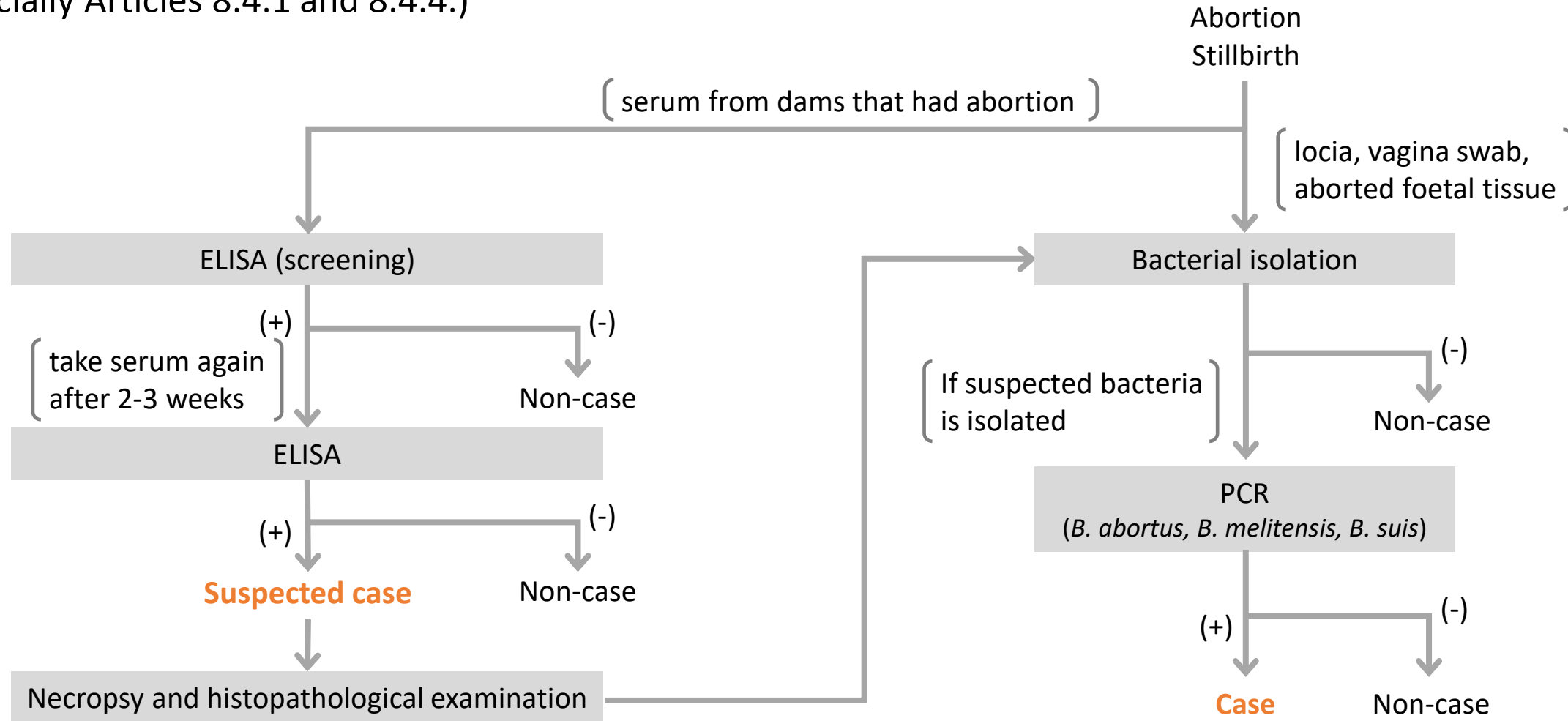


# Diagnosis and surveillance (for maintenance of freedom)

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The case definition and surveillance programme are in line with the *Terrestrial Code*. (especially Articles 8.4.1 and 8.4.4.)

## Targeted surveillance for abortion and stillbirth cases





The case definition and surveillance programme are in line with the *Terrestrial Code*.

## Risk-based surveillance for imported breeding cattle

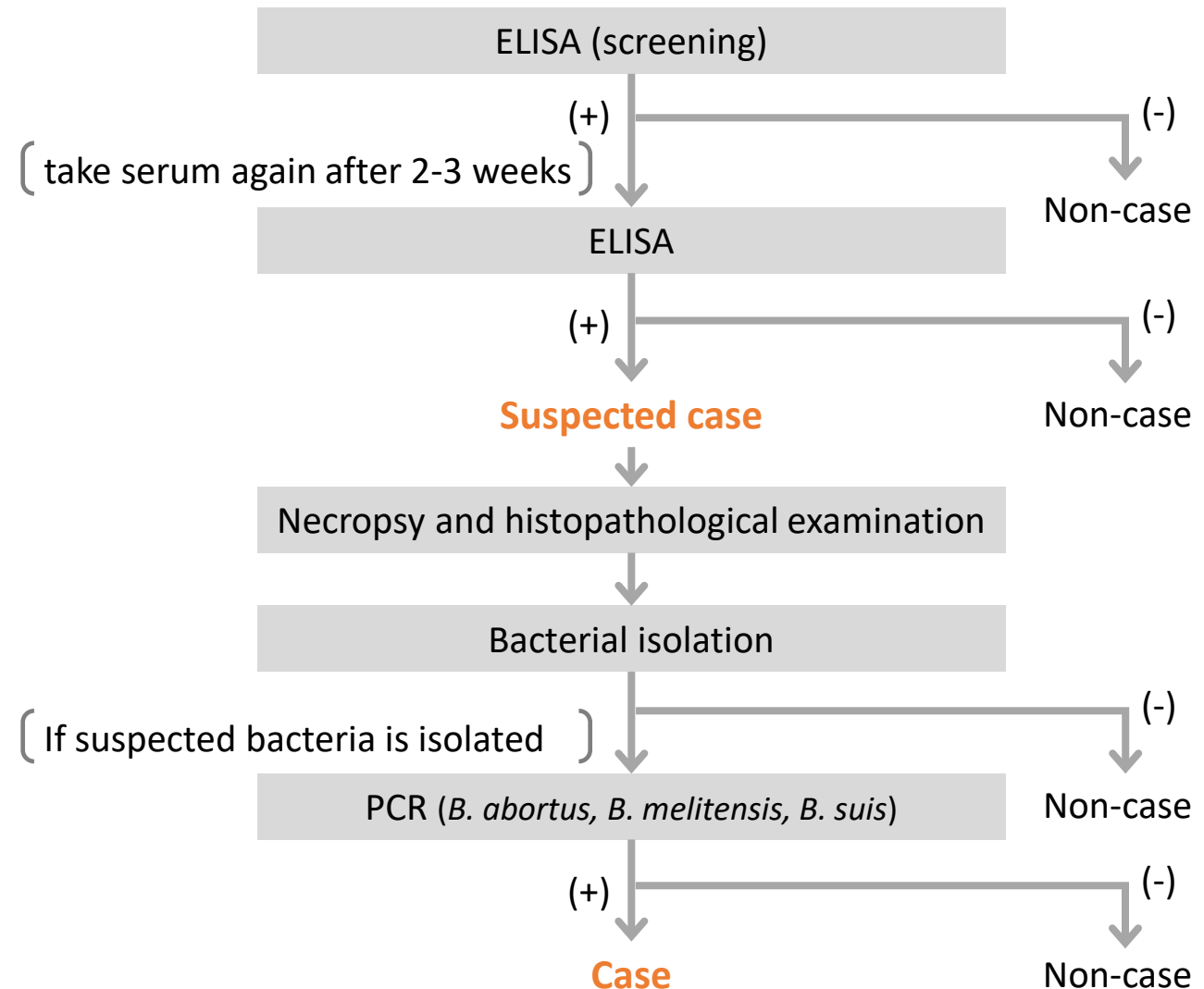
- All cattle are tested one year after their import once in their lifespans

## Active surveillance for donor bulls for artificial insemination (AI)

- All bulls registered as donor animals for semen distribution for AI are tested once in their lifespans.

### Active surveillance for imported breeding cattle

### Active surveillance for donor bulls





# Self-declaration of freedom from bovine brucellosis

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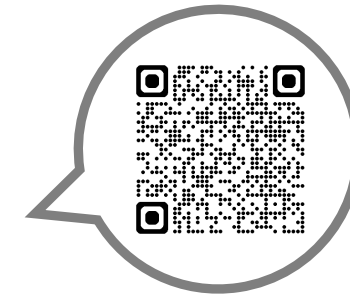
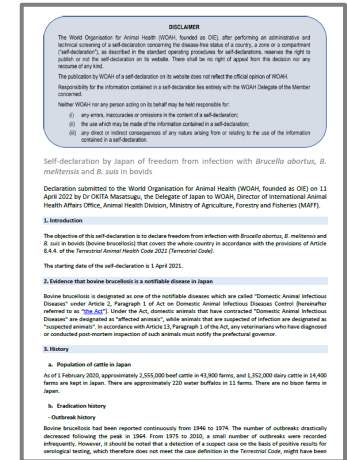
The WOAHA Delegate of Japan declared the country's freedom from infection with bovine brucellosis in bovids as of 1 April 2021 in compliance with the *Terrestrial Code* (2021 edition).

A Member can ask WOAHA to publish a self-declaration:

- when a Member country, zone or compartment is **free** from a disease.
- when information **documenting compliance** with the provisions of the Codes has been compiled.

## How to make a self-declaration

1. Follow the steps described in the **Standard Operating Procedure**.
2. Refer to the **relevant disease-specific Chapters** of the Codes.
3. **Document compliance** with the provisions of the Codes.
4. Ensure **consistency** with the information reported in WAHIS.



After a Member send the self-declaration to the Status Dept. of WOAHA, the Dept. may request **additional information, clarification** and/or an **update of the information in WAHIS**.



# Thank you!

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