

WOAH Standards on Zoning

In outbreak situation or in face of increased threat

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World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



Topics covered in this presentation

1. WOAH Standards on FMD & Zoning
 - *General principles and requirements*
2. Practical use of Zoning
(in face of outbreak or disease threat)
 - Containment zone
 - Protection zone

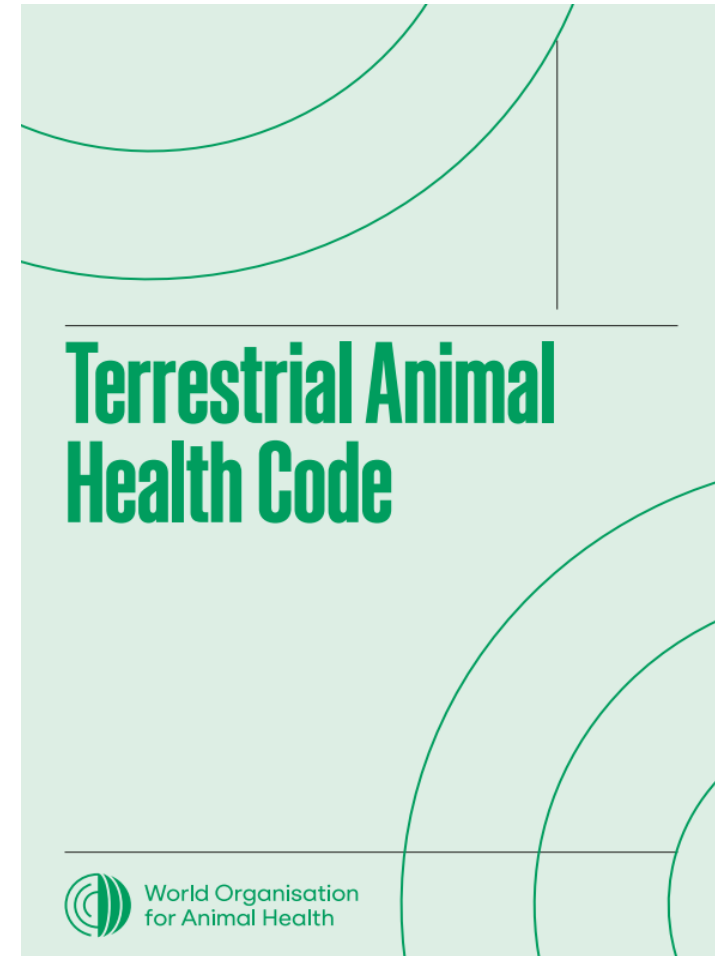


Horizontal Chapters (Vol. I)

- 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

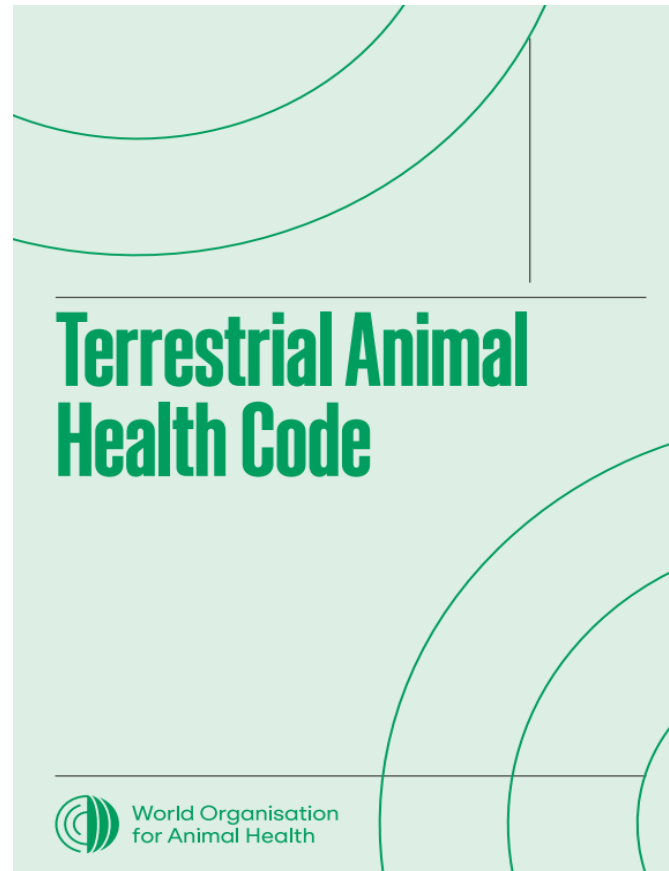




2024

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 - 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



www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/

- ☐ 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



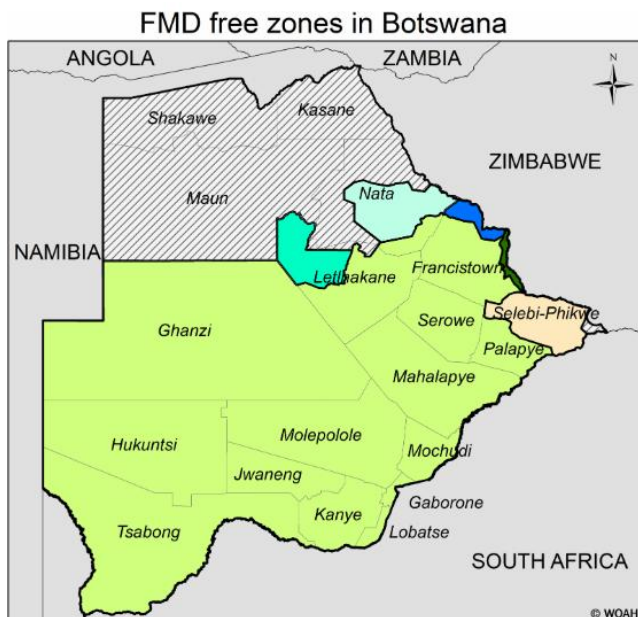
- Key principle in terms of the *Terrestrial Code* is to **prevent the introduction** of the pathogen



Practicalities of zoning approach

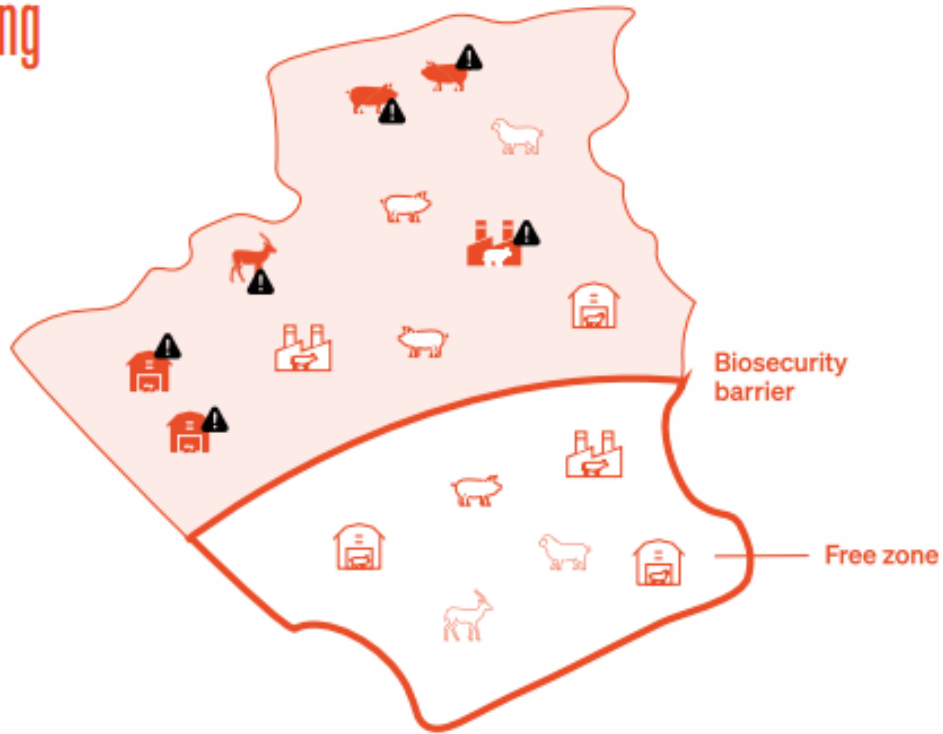
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- Encourage more efficient use of resources within certain parts of a country
- Progressive approach
- In case of an outbreak in an officially recognised zone, the status of other officially recognised zones would not be suspended
- Maintenance can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

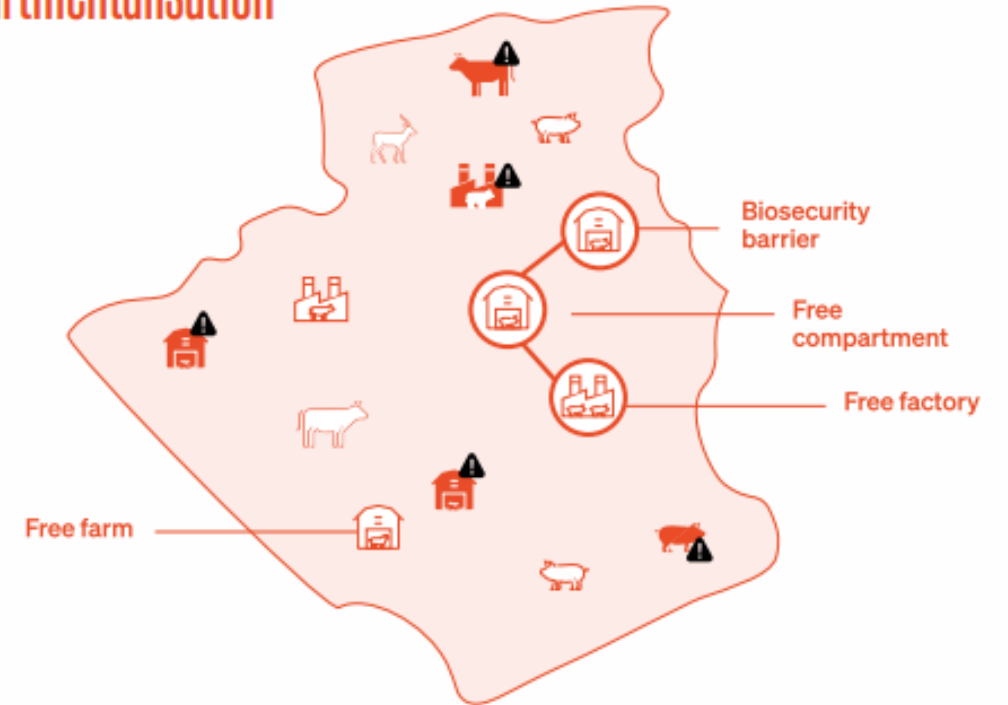


Zoning vs. Compartmentalisation

Zoning



Compartmentalisation



Practical use of Zoning

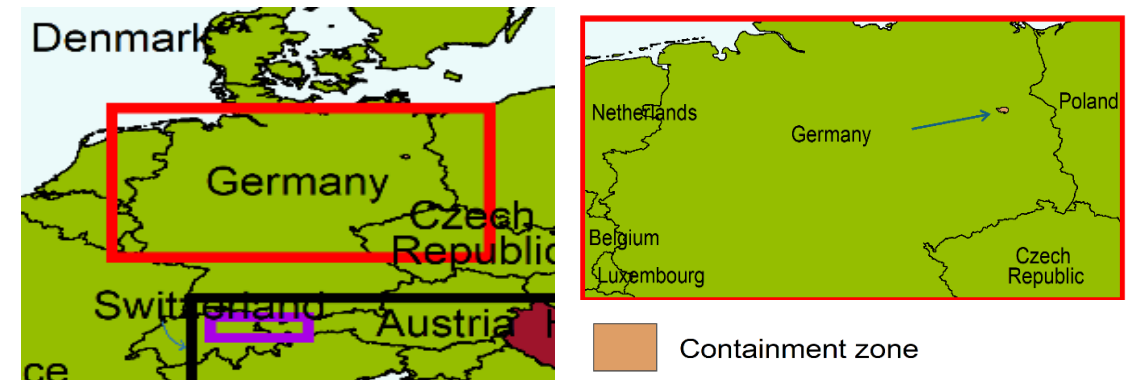
- *Containment zone*
- *Protection zone*





- an infected zone defined within a previously free country or zone, which includes **all suspected or confirmed cases that are epidemiologically linked** and where movement control, biosecurity and sanitary measures are applied to prevent the spread of, and to eradicate, the infection or infestation (*Terrestrial Code Glossary*)
- Chapter 8.8. Infection with FMDV - **Article 8.8.10.**
- Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation - **Article 4.4.7.**

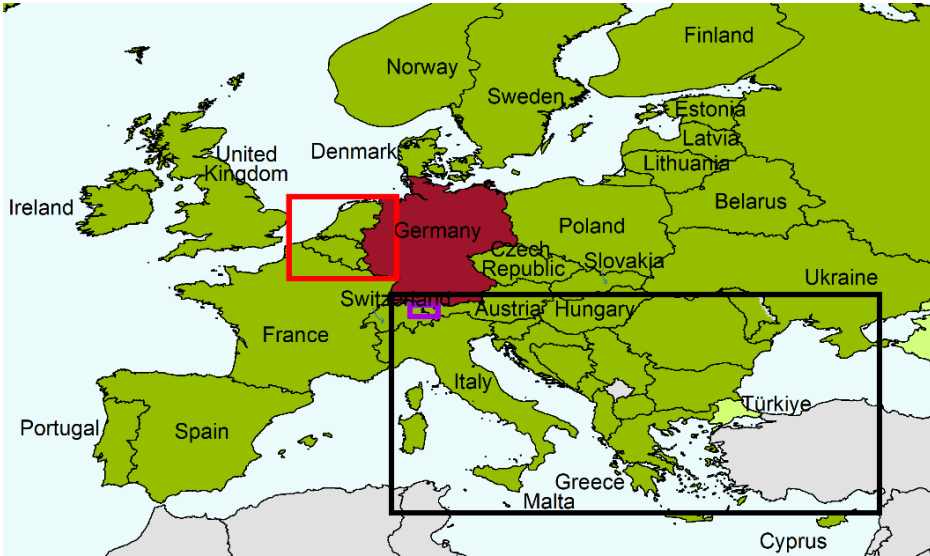
►► **Establishment of a containment zone
& Reinstatement of the free status
of the rest of the country or zone**





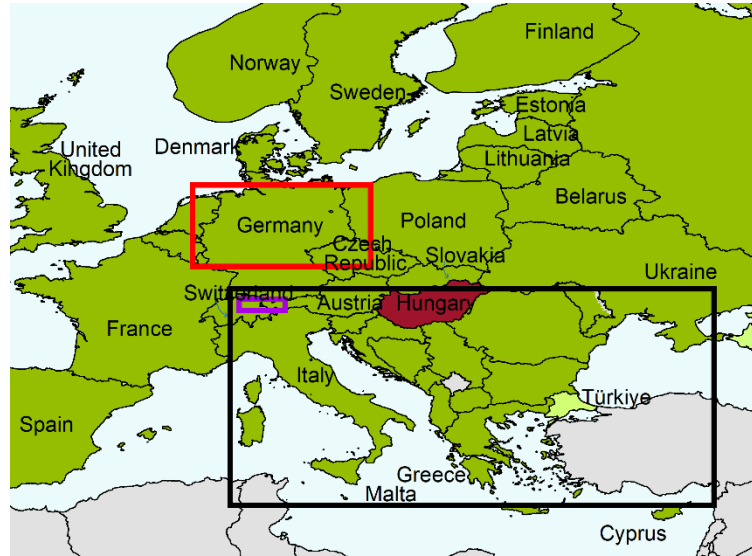
Germany: timeline of events

13

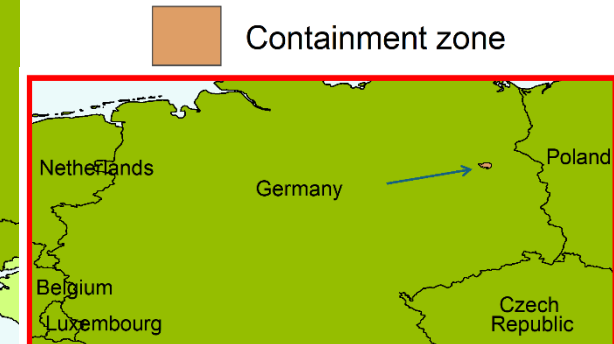


9 January 2025: Suspension

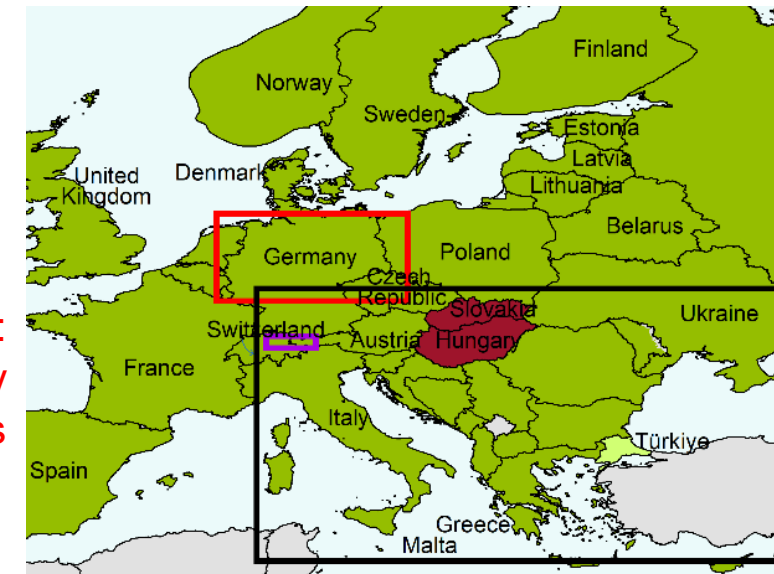
Suspension to full reinstatement: **95 days**
Suspension to containment zone: **62 days**
(~1 month advanced for the majority of the territory)



14 April 2025:
Reinstatement of FMD-free country
without vaccination status



12 March 2025: Approval of CtZ





Requirements for establishing a Containment Zone for FMD – Article 8.8.10

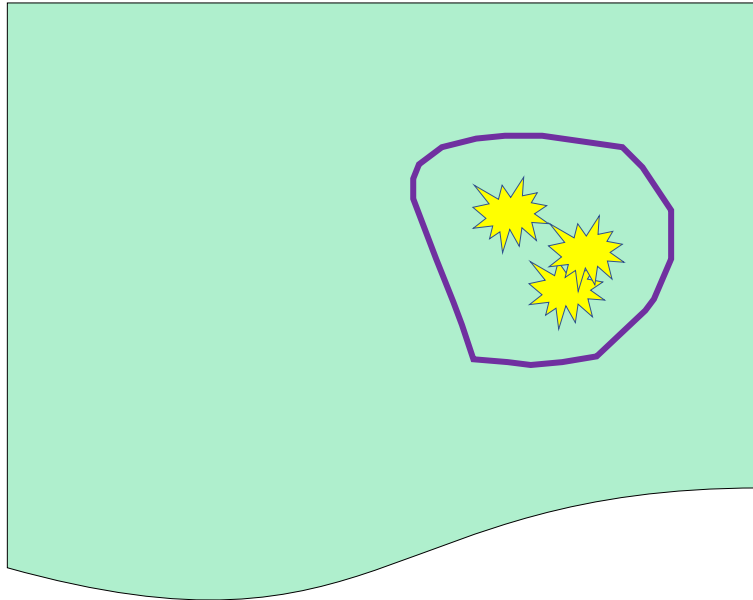
1. the outbreaks are limited based on:
 - rapid response
 - standstill of animal movements and effective controls on the movement of other commodities
 - epidemiological investigation
 - identification of the primary outbreak and the likely source of the outbreak investigated
 - all cases epidemiologically linked
 - **no new cases** have been found in the containment zone **with a minimum of two incubation periods (i.e. 28 days) after the stamping-out of the last detected case** is completed;
2. stamping-out policy or another effective emergency control strategy aimed at eradicating the disease have been applied;
3. the susceptible population within the containment zone is clearly identifiable
4. increased passive and targeted surveillance in the rest of the country
5. measures in place to effectively prevent the spread of the FMDV to the rest of the country
6. ongoing surveillance in place in the containment zone



2 Options for establishing a containment zone – Article 4.4.7.

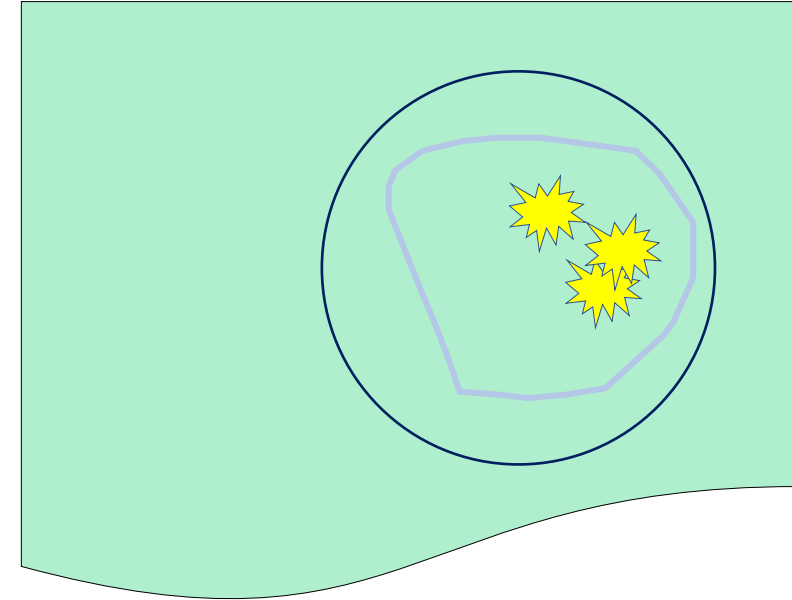
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Option 4.4.7. a)



- No outbreaks > 2 incubation periods (28d) after the disposal of the last detected case
- Case in the containment zone (**purple**) will result in suspension

Option 4.4.7. b)



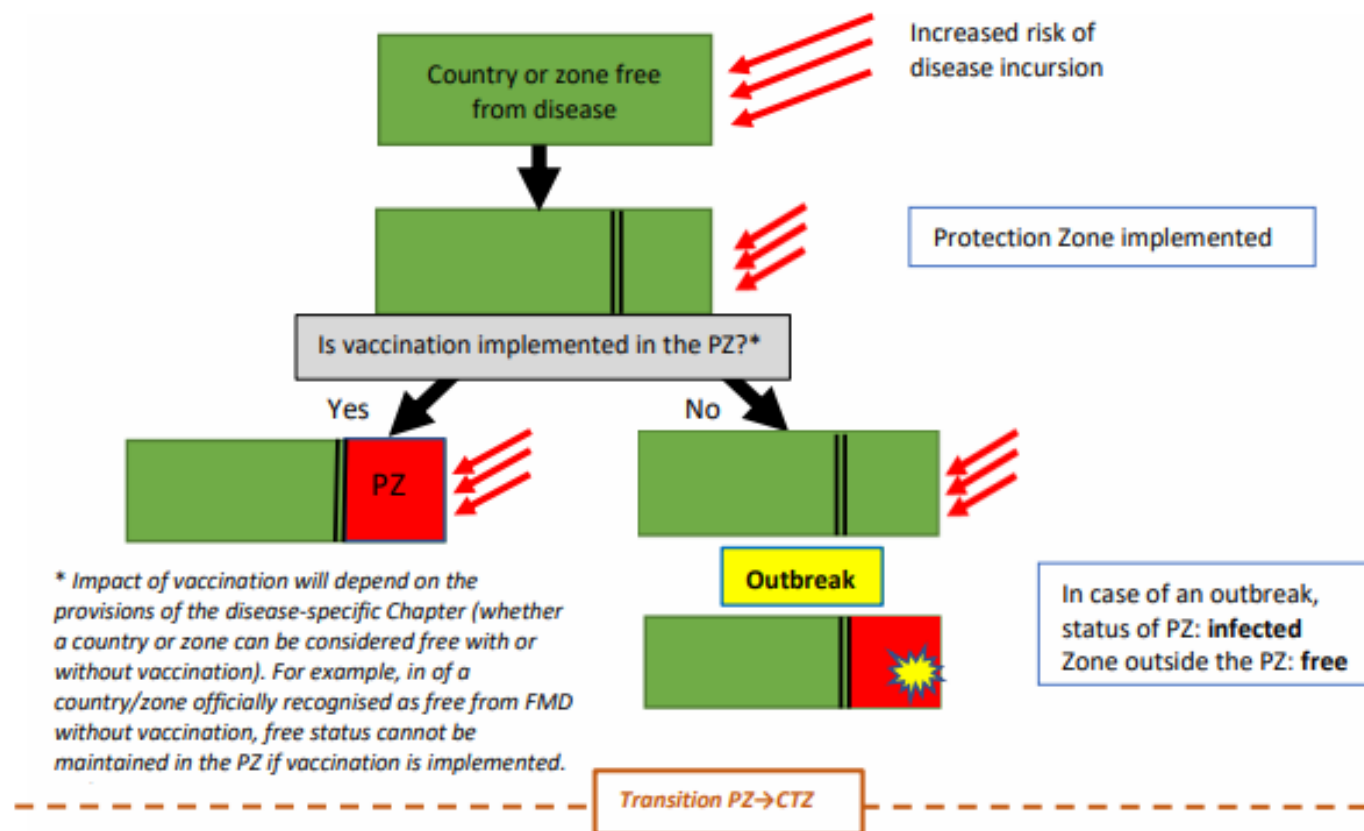
Cases may continue to occur (inner zone; **light blue**)

No outbreaks > 2 incubation periods (28d) in outer zone (**dark blue** circle) after control measures in place.

Case in the outer zone will result in suspension



- A protection zone may be established, **in response to an increased risk of FMD** (within an FMD-free country/zone) [Art. 8.8.9.]
- Temporary measure
- It may be maintained up to 24 months [Art. 4.4.6.]



Annex 23

CHAPTER 4.4.

**DEFINING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING
SUBPOPULATIONS OF ANIMALS**

Article 4.4.1.

**Code Commission Feb/2026
report:**https://www.woah.org/en/document/terrestrial-animal-health-standards-commission_report_february-2026/**Under revision****General provisions**

There may be benefits to a Member Country in the management of animals within its territory for the purpose of maintaining the health of subpopulations. Subpopulations may be defined by geographical, management or other factors.

The maintenance of animal health and welfare is a concern, including the role of environmental factors, animal production systems, animal traceability, movement controls and other factors.

Zoning (described in Chapter 4.Y.) and other methods to establish and maintain subpopulations are risks associated with diseases. The essence of an animal subpopulation defined primarily on the basis of animal health status is the application of practices related to biosecurity. However, in the application of both concepts.

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the application of zoning to subpopulations of animals.

Annex 24

CHAPTER 4.Y.

APPLICATION OF ZONING

Article 4.Y.1.

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this chapter is to provide recommendations to Member Countries on the application of zoning to establish and maintain distinct animal subpopulations with a specific animal health status within their territory. Zoning applies to subpopulations defined primarily on a geographical basis, separated by natural, artificial, or administrative boundaries and supported by appropriate surveillance, biosecurity and sanitary measures. These recommendations should be applied in conjunction with the relevant disease-specific chapters of the Terrestrial Code.

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/

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