Questionnaire (*Terrestrial Code* Chapter 1.11.) for countries applying for official recognition of FMD- free status or endorsement of official control programmes for FMD and common shortcomings

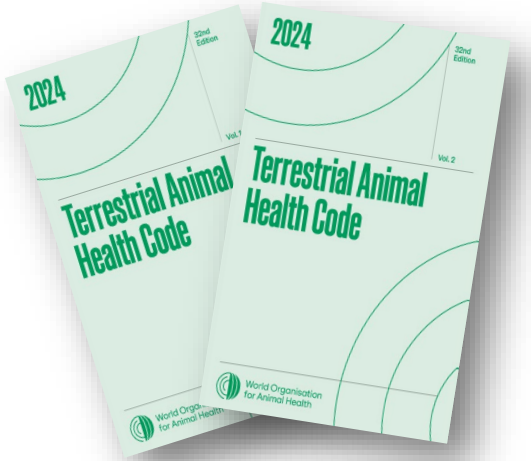
Marija Popovic
Senior Disease Status Officer
WOAH Status Department

PVS Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Targeted Support Workshop for development of FMD free zones in India, New Delhi, 15-17 September 2026

World Organisation for Animal Health

KEY QUESTION

How can I show in my dossier that we follow the requirements of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*?







Demonstrate by EVIDENCE

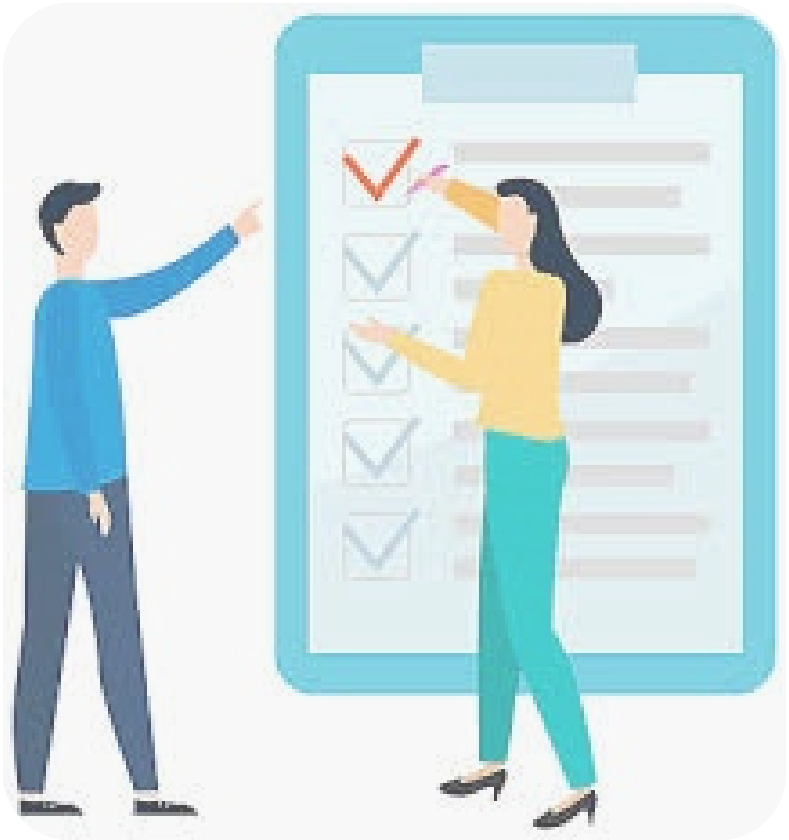
How to provide this information in a comprehensive manner?

Relevant **questionnaire** for **FMD** published in Chapter 1.11. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code)*

Structure & flow

Respond to each question

Documented evidence



Compliance with Chapter 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*

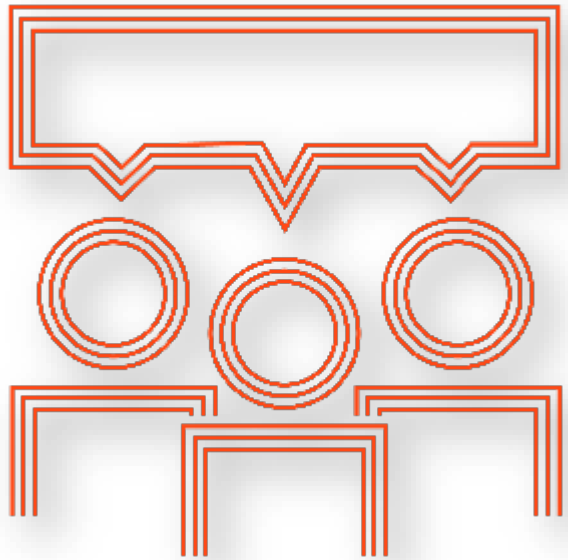
ROLE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

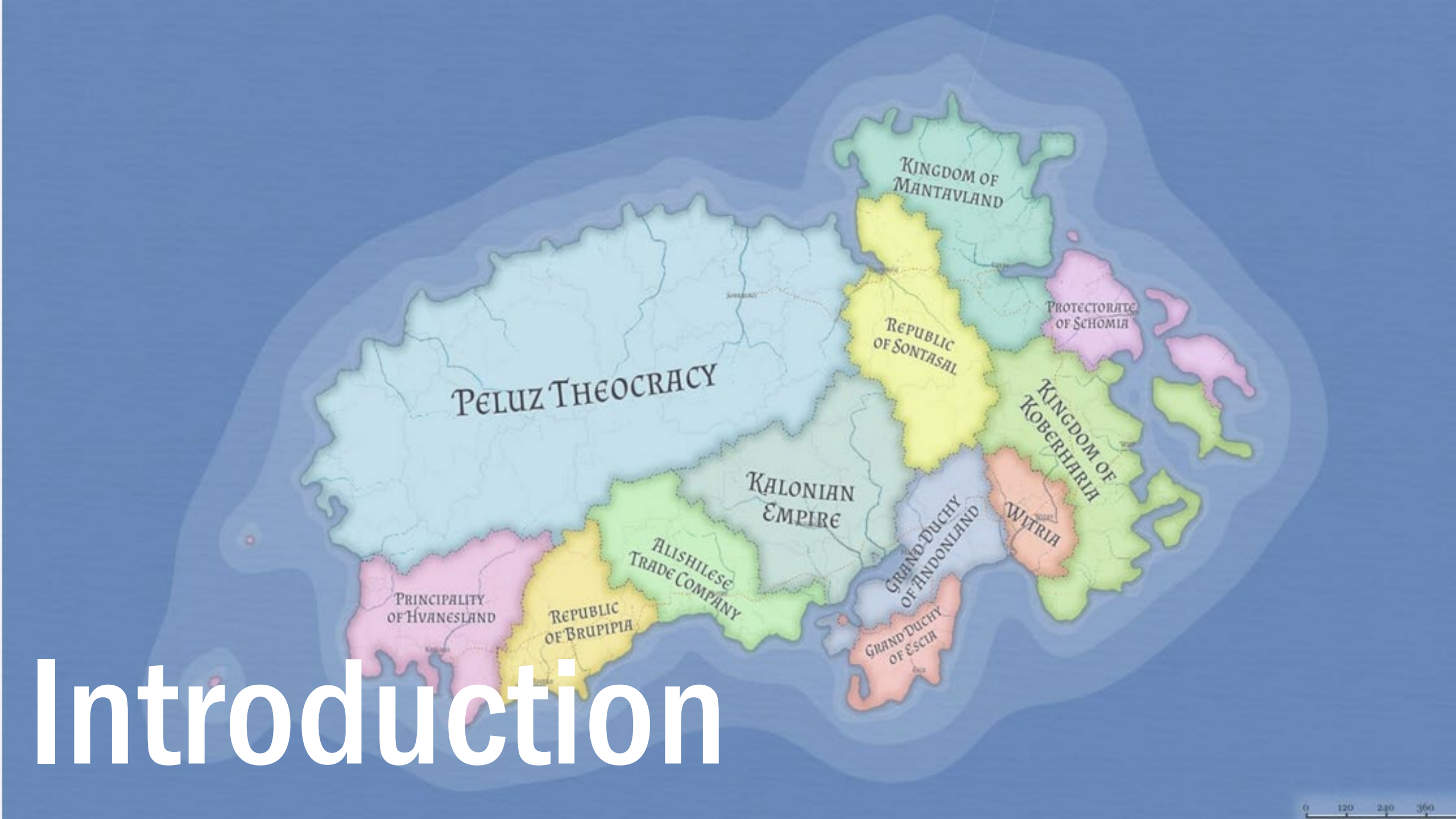
- ✓To assist Members
- ✓To assist experts
- ✓To give more transparency to the evaluation process
- ✓To standardise the evaluation among countries



QUESTIONNAIRE LAYOUT

1. Introduction
2. Veterinary system
3. FMD eradication
4. FMD diagnosis
5. FMD surveillance
6. FMD prevention
7. Control measures and emergency response





Introduction

INTRODUCTION

When describing a **zone**, provide:

- Clear criteria used to establish and maintain zone(s)
- Physical, geographical or administrative boundaries
- Measures ensuring separation between zones of different status
- Epidemiological justification for the establishment of the zone
- A digitalised map with geo-referenced elements



Veterinary system

AI generated image

VETERINARY SYSTEM

Documented evidence on the **capacity of Veterinary Services**

- PVS missions, if any, conducted over the past 5 years
- Clear description of structure of Veterinary Services (roles, responsibilities, activities and coordination with other relevant authorities)
- Information on private veterinarians and their role in supervising of the relevant livestock population
- Animal identification, registration, traceability and movement control

FMD eradication

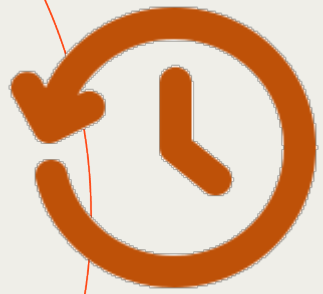


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FMD ERADICATION

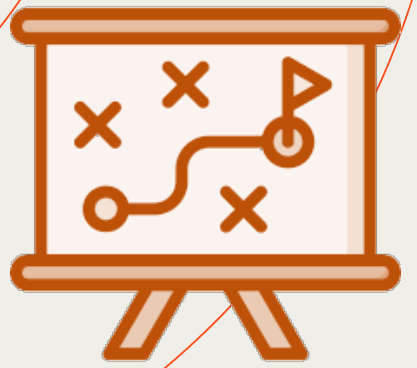
History

- Clear description of the FMD history in the country, with emphasis on recent years.



Strategy

- Describe how FMD was controlled and eradicated (e.g. stamping-out policy, zoning, vaccination, movement control) and the time frame for eradication.



FMD ERADICATION

For FMD status with vaccination (Article 8.8.4.)

for at least the past 12 months:

- compulsory systematic vaccination in the target population has been carried out to achieve adequate vaccination coverage and population immunity
- vaccination has been carried out following appropriate vaccine strain selection





FMD diagnosis

FMD ERADICATION

DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY



a) If FMD laboratory diagnosis **carried out in the country**:

- Overview of the FMD-approved laboratories in the country
- Details of test capability and the types of tests undertaken and their performance for their applied use (specificity and sensitivity per type of test)
- Regular participation in interlaboratory proficiency schemes (to demonstrate proficiency in the test methods used and quality assurance)

b) If FMD laboratory diagnosis **not carried out in the country**: names of the laboratories in other countries providing the service as well as the arrangements in place



FMD surveillance

AI generated image

FMD surveillance

Early warning system and **surveillance** in place supported by:

- Appropriate legislation
  - Notifiable disease
  - Compensation system
  - Incentives/penalties
- FMD case definition in line with Chapter 8.8.
- Involvement of all relevant stakeholders (awareness campaigns/training)

FMD surveillance

Passive surveillance

- Number of clinical suspected cases and of samples tested for FMD
- Appropriate protocol for follow-up of suspect cases - type of sample, testing method(s) and final result (including differential diagnosis) and control measures to which the animals concerned were subjected during the investigation

NO SUSPICIONS?



RAISE AWARENESS!

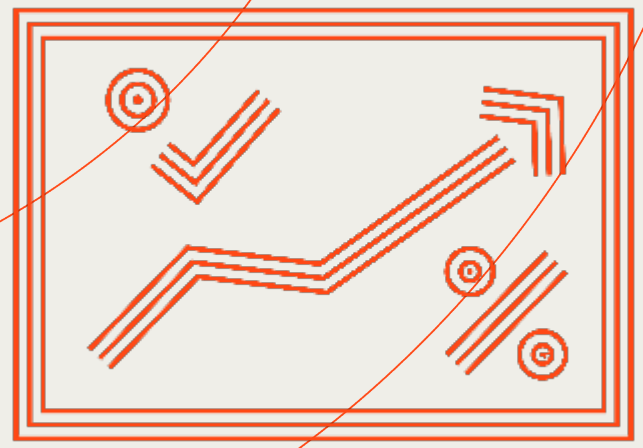
FMD surveillance

Disease specific surveillance is in place

- Surveillance strategy implemented (e.g. clinical, virological, serological or a combination of such; risk-based)

  ➢ **Clinical surveillance**

  - Target animal population
  - Clinical inspections conducted (e.g. number of farms inspected, number of animals examined, frequency of inspections, results)



FMD surveillance

Disease specific surveillance is in place

- **Serological surveillance**
  - Objectives of the survey (e.g. detecting infection, prevalence estimation, population immunity, etc.)
  - Survey design:
    - Reference population (by species and area)
    - Strategy for survey: e.g. one stage or two stages, design prevalence, level of confidence, diagnostic tests used, laboratory test sensitivity and specificity, description of follow-up of serological findings
  - Results (when, where and how many samples were actually taken, description of the interpretation of laboratory results in the context of the epidemiological situation, PVM studies)

FMD surveillance

Disease specific surveillance is in place

- **Serological surveillance**

Sero-positive reactors?

⇩

Follow-up to exclude possibility of infection



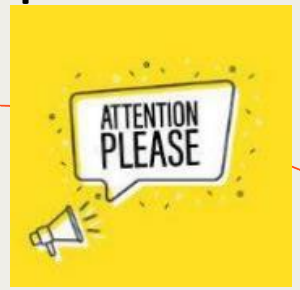


FMD prevention

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Measures in place for prevention of introduction of the disease

- Description of import control procedures
- Description of management structure, staffing levels and resources of the service responsible for import controls
- Requirements for importation of susceptible species and their products



Requirements for imports from countries without an official free status recognised by WOAH for the concerned disease

- Statistics on imports of susceptible animals and their products for at least the past 24 months
- Description of procedures, type and frequency of checks, and management of noncompliance at the points of entry into

FMD PREVENTION

Measures in place for prevention of introduction of the disease

- Zoning approach and animal movement control between zones with different animal health status
  - Differential identification of animals according to the zonal status
- Coordination activities with neighbouring countries



- Legislation in place and enforced to prevent swill-feeding practices





Control measures and emergency response

For official recognition

Contingency plan

- Regularly updated
- Regularly tested through simulations exercises
- Particularly important for countries that have not experienced the disease





DO's & DON'Ts

DON'T DO	DO
Omit the gaps identified	Acknowledge the gaps and explain how they are being (or will be) addressed
Fully rely on the expected range of error	Follow-up on seropositive reactors
Refer to regional legislation	Use WOAH terminology and refer to WOAH standards (*Terrestrial Code and Manual*)
Presume all stakeholders are aware of what to notice, how to report and deal with suspicions	Conduct training and test your early warning system regularly
Submit incomplete information	Respond in full to all questions of the questionnaire and any subsequent questions raised by WOAH and ah hoc Group experts
Assert and leave statements without explanation	Provide supportive data & info DEMONSTRATE BY EVIDENCE!
Presume the reader/evaluating experts will know	Describe in detail like explaining to a layperson Put yourself in the expert's shoes
Stay silent	**Contact your RR/SRR or HQ Status Dept if you have any questions!**

USEFUL LINKS

Official Disease Status webpage

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/official-disease-status/

Terrestrial Code & Manual

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

Thank you for your attention!



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