



# EU control measures African Horse Sickness

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AHS Thailand

Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel  
DG SANTE  
European Commission

# AHS on DG SANTE Website

<b>ANIMAL DISEASES</b>	<h2>African horse sickness</h2>	<b>QUICK LINKS</b>
Diseases and control measures	<h3>Control measures</h3> <p>Community rules for the control of African horse sickness are laid down in <a href="#">Council Directive 92/35/EEC</a>. The measures include, in addition to vector controls, stamping out of infected animals, movement restriction and possibly vaccination within an area of 100 km around the infected premises (protection zone) and movement controls within an additional 50 km surveillance zone. Animals intended to leave the restricted area must undergo vector protected quarantine for 40 days with laboratory testing as described in Annex IV to <a href="#">Directive 2009/156/EC</a>. Vaccinated animals must be indelibly marked.</p> <p>EU countries are obliged to have contingency plans in operation and national reference laboratories must collaborate with the European Union Reference Laboratory, both in quality assurance of their diagnostic tests and vector monitoring.</p>	 <a href="#">European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)</a>
<b>African horse sickness</b>	<h3>Notification and Health Situation</h3> <p>African horse sickness is a notifiable disease, according to <a href="#">Council Directive 82/894/EEC</a> of 21 December 1982 on the notification of animal diseases within the EU.</p>	 <a href="#">European Medicines Agency</a>
African swine fever	<h3>Description of the disease</h3> <p>African horse sickness (AHS) is a noncontagious viral disease affecting all species of equidae. It is caused by one or more of the nine different serotypes of an orbivirus of the family Reoviridae. The disease is characterised by alterations in respiratory and circulatory functions. While the disease is usually fatal in horses, other equine species and their crossbreeds may display only mild clinical signs.</p> <p>Transmission - Because AHS is transmitted by at least two species of Culicoides midges, its occurrence is also affected by the seasonal changes in climatic and environmental conditions of the vector's habitat.</p>	 <a href="#">Health and food audits and analysis</a>
Foot-and-mouth disease		 <a href="#">Trade Control &amp; Expert System (TRACES)</a>
Avian influenza		 <a href="#">Travelling with pets</a>
Bluetongue		 <a href="#">Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF)</a>
Newcastle disease		 <a href="#">E-News</a>
Classical Swine Fever		 <a href="#">Press Releases</a>
Other Diseases		 <a href="#">Events</a>
Further Exotic Diseases		 <a href="#">Videos</a>
<b>Surveillance</b>		 <a href="#">Infographics and factsheets</a>
<b>EU Financial Contribution</b>		 <a href="#">Food Fraud</a>
<b>Notification System</b>		
<b>Emergency Team</b>		
<b>Traceability of Animals</b>		
<b>Reference Laboratories</b>		
<b>← ALL TOPICS</b>		

[https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/african-horse-sickness\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/african-horse-sickness_en)

# Basic Legislation on AHS

- Council Directive 2009/156/EC on animal health conditions governing the movement and importation from third countries of equidae *OJ L 192, 23.7.2010, p. 1*
- Council Directive 92/35/EEC laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness *OJ L 157, 10/06/1992 p. 19*

# EU Legislation referring to AHS

- Directive 92/65/EEC (semen- ova- embryos)
  - Commission Decisions on trade in equine semen, ova and embryos
  - Commission Regulation on imports of equine semen, ova and embryos
- Regulation (EU) No 652/2014 (Veterinary expenses)
  - AHS listed disease for compensation of animals
  - Support of control measures, for example vaccination, testing
  - In principle – AHS vaccine bank

# Definitions

- Holding:
  - an agricultural or training establishment, a stable or, generally speaking, any premises or facilities in which equidae are habitually kept or bred, for whatever use (Directive 2009/156/EC)
  - nature reserves in which equidae live in freedom (Directive 92/35/EEC)
- Equidae:
  - wild or domesticated animals of the equidae family (horses, donkeys, zebras) or the offspring of crossings of those species
- AHS free country/zone:
  - notifiability > 2 years
  - no evidence 2 years, no vaccination 12 months

# Vaccination

- Prohibition of vaccination, unless carried out in accordance with official instructions and under official supervision
- Vaccine procurement:
  - stocks
  - contracts

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EN

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COMMISSION DECISION  
of 18 December 2008

establishing Community reserves of vaccines against African horse sickness  
(2009/3/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

(5) With substantial Community support to Spain, Portugal and later also Morocco, the 1987-91 outbreak in that ecosystem was extinct, and since 1993 all Member States of the European Union comply with the conditions for an AHS free country according to the criteria set up by Community legislation.

# Measures in case of AHS

## Suspicion

- official surveillance and census of equidae
- vector monitoring and control
- epizootiological inquiry
- visit the holding(s)
  - examine each equid
  - clinical examination of suspect, autopsy of dead animals
  - sampling for laboratory examinations
- confine all equidae on holding(s) protected against the vectors
- arrangements for disposal of cadavers of equidae

# Measures in case of AHS

## Confirmation

- all measures as in case of suspicion in a radius of at least 20 km
  - stamping out infected equidae on infected holding
  - identification and marking of vaccinated animals
  - systematic vaccination – if vaccine is available!
- Zoning (centered on outbreak holding)
  - 20 km - immediate vaccination
  - 100 km protection zone - vaccination possible
  - 150 km surveillance zone - vaccination prohibited since >12 m

## Dispatch of equidae from areas not free of AHS

- Vector free period
- Absence of clinical symptom of AHS
- Testing (serology/ PCR) - Annex IV to Directive 2009/156/EC
- Vector protected quarantine > 40d
- Vaccination >60 d prior to movement
- Controlled movement

# AHS prevention/preparedness

- Annual reconfirmation of OIE officially free status for AHS
- Contingency Plans
- Simulation exercises
- EU and National reference laboratories – annual PT
- Surveillance on vector insects ( in conjunction with BT and EHD)
- Surveillance in areas bordering countries not officially free of AHS by OIE
- Import policy (Regulation (EU) 2018/659)
  - 54 countries listed for importation
    - 15 countries in Group E (history of AHS)
    - 1 country in Group F (country not free of AHS, but free zone)
  - 3 countries regionalised for AHS (EG, SA, ZA)
  - 12/1 countries Group E/F - imports only of registered horses

# CONTINGENCY PLANS

1. establishment of a crisis centre on a national level
2. local disease control centres with adequate facilities to coordinate the control measures at a locally
3. information about staff involved in control measures (skills and their responsibilities)
4. possibility to recruit further staff
5. equipment and materials available to carry out the disease control measures properly;
6. instructions on action to be taken, including means of disposal of carcasses, on suspicion and confirmation of infection or contamination
7. training programs to maintain and develop skills in field and administrative procedures;
8. diagnostic laboratories
  - a) facilities for post-mortem examination,
  - b) capacity for serology, histology, etc.,
  - c) skills for rapid diagnosis
  - d) arrangements for rapid transportation of samples
9. estimates of quantity of AHS vaccine required in the event of emergency vaccination
10. legal powers, necessary for the implementation of the contingency plan

# Lessons learned from various disease outbreaks

- Chronicle to record all measures/activities
  - for recovery of status
  - for possible legal cases
  - for Lessons-learned report
  - for future audits
- Adhere to criteria set in advance for unpopular measures
- Transparent, timely and skilled communication
- Structured control plan in line with OIE
  - Code Chapters (AHS, surveillance, C&D, etc)
  - Chapter 1.7. and AHS questionnaire
- Close cooperation with meteorological and mapping services
- Documented surveillance in non-affected regions
- Monitoring internet for illegal sales/purchases of vaccines
- Registration and Customs procedures for imported vaccines
- Timely compensation of killed animals

# Thank you



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