

CHAPTER 1.6.

**PROCEDURES FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF
AN ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, ENDORSEMENT OF
AN OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME, AND
PUBLICATION OF A SELF-DECLARATION OF
ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, BY WOA**

Norway	Norway thanks the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission for the continued efforts to simplify and streamline official-status procedures under Chapter 1.6. We support all comments given by the EU to this chapter, and we will therefore not reiterate them in this document.
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Article 1.6.1.

Application for official recognition of an animal health status and endorsement of an official control programme by WOA

A Member Country may request:

- 1) official recognition of an animal health status by WOA of:
 - a) freedom of a country or zone from African horse sickness (AHS);
 - b) risk status of a country or zone with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
 - c) freedom of a country or zone from classical swine fever (CSF);
 - d) freedom of a country or zone from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP);
 - e) freedom of a country or zone from foot and mouth disease (FMD), where *vaccination* is either practised or not practised;
 - f) freedom of a country or zone from peste des petits ruminants (PPR);
- 2) endorsement by WOA of:
 - a) an *official control programme* for CBPP;
 - b) an *official control programme* for FMD;
 - c) an *official control programme* for PPR;
 - d) an *official control programme* for dog-mediated rabies.

WOAH does not grant official recognition of an animal health status or endorsement of an *official control programme* for diseases other than those listed under points 1 and 2 above.

The Member Country should present documentation setting out the compliance of their *Veterinary Services* with the provisions of Chapters 1.1. 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information', 1.4. 'Animal health surveillance', 2.1. 'Import risk analysis', 3.2. 'Quality of Veterinary Services', 3.3. 'Evaluation of Veterinary Services' and 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation' of the *Terrestrial Code*, when relevant, and with the provisions of the relevant disease-specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

When requesting official recognition of an animal health status or endorsement by WOAHO of an *official control programme*, the Member Country should follow the relevant Standard Operating Procedures (available on the WOAHO website) and submit to WOAHO a dossier providing the information requested in the following chapters (as appropriate): 1.7. (for AHS), 1.8. (for BSE), 1.9. (for CSF), 1.10. (for CBPP), 1.11. (for FMD) or 1.12. (for PPR).

The WOAHO framework for the official recognition of *animal health status*, the endorsement of *official control programmes*, and their maintenance is described in relevant Resolutions adopted by the World Assembly of WOAHO Delegates.

The country or the *zone* will be included in the relevant lists of official *animal health status* or endorsed *official control programmes* only after the evidence submitted has been assessed by experts and the Resolutions listing the country or the zone have been adopted by the World Assembly of WOAHO Delegates.

When a Member Country requests official recognition of *animal health status* for a *zone*, the geographical boundaries of the proposed *zone* should be clearly defined. When applying for recognition of a free *zone* that is adjacent to another *zone* of the same status, it should be stated whether the new *zone* is being merged or kept separate. If the proposed *zone* remains separate, details should be provided of the control of the movement of relevant *commodities* between the *zones* in accordance with Chapter 4.4.

The overall objective of the WOAHO endorsed *official control programmes* is for Member Countries to progressively improve their animal health situation and eventually attain official recognition of *animal health status* or in the case of dog-mediated rabies to make a self-declaration as a free country or *zone*. The *official control programme* should be applicable to the entire country even if certain measures are directed towards defined *zones*.

Article 1.6.2.

Maintenance, suspension and recovery of official recognition of an animal health status and endorsement of an official control programme by WOAHO

Retention on the lists of countries and *zones* having an official *animal health status* or of countries having an endorsed *official control programme* requires that ~~the information in relevant chapters be re-submitted annually and confirming that the epidemiological situation has not changed, and that the conditions described in the relevant chapters continue to be met~~ changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events be notified to WOAHO in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 1.1.

Changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events shall be notified to WOAHO in accordance with Chapter 1.1.

The occurrence of the relevant listed diseases or failure Failure to meet Non-compliance with the requirements other conditions for the maintenance of animal health status due to the occurrence of the relevant listed diseases or non-compliance with surveillance or prevention measures. results in the suspension of that status.

Within 24 months of suspension, except otherwise stated in the disease-specific chapter, a Member Country may apply for the recovery of a previously recognised status, by submitting evidence that following the provisions for recovery of animal health status of the relevant disease-specific chapter are met or that any other reasons for suspension have been addressed. The recovery of the status depends on the outcome of the assessment of the evidence.

When the status has not been recovered within the specified period of its suspension, it is withdrawn and the Member Country should reapply following the procedure for the application for official recognition of *animal health status*.

WOAH may withdraw the The endorsement of an *official control programme* may be withdrawn if there is evidence of:

- non-compliance with the timelines or performance indicators of the programme; or
- significant problems with the quality of the *Veterinary Services* as described in Section 3 of the *Terrestrial Code*; or
- an increase in the *incidence* or distribution of the disease that cannot be addressed by the programme.

Article 1.6.3.

Publication by WOAHP of a self-declaration of animal health status by a Member Country

A Member Country may make a self-declaration of freedom of a country, *zone* or *compartment* from a WOAH listed disease or another animal disease, *infection* or *infestation*. For listed diseases, The the The Member Country should may inform WOAHP of the claimed status and request publication by WOAHP of the self-declaration of listed disease freedom to inform WOAHP Member Countries.

A Member Country requesting the publication of a self-declaration should follow the Standard Operating Procedure (available on the WOAHP website) for submission of a self-declaration of *animal health status* and provide documented information on its compliance with the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, including:

- evidence that the *infection* or *infestation* is a *notifiable disease* in the entire country;
- history of absence or eradication of the *infection* or *infestation* in the country, *zone* or *compartment*;
- *surveillance* including an *early warning system* for all relevant species in the country, *zone* or *compartment*;
- measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country, *zone* or *compartment*.

The self-declaration may be published only after all the information provided has been received and screened by Headquarters administrative and technical screening has been performed by WOAHP. Publication does not imply endorsement of the claim of freedom by WOAHP and does not reflect the official opinion of WOAHP. Responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the WOAHP Delegate of the Member Country concerned.

Except when otherwise provided for in the *listed disease*-specific chapter, an *outbreak* in a Member Country country, a zone or a compartment having a self-declared free status results in the loss of this the self-declared free status. A Member Country wishing to reclaim a lost free status should submit a new self-declaration following the procedure described in this article.

WOAHP does not publish self-declarations for *listed diseases* mentioned in point 1 of Article 1.6.1.

Article 1.6.4.

Specific provisions

The animal health status of a country or zone is not affected by:

- the presence of the pathogenic agent in an imported animal product at a border inspection post;
- the presence of the disease, infection, or infestation in imported animals in a quarantine centre;

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- the importation or the presence of the pathogenic agent, or of *commodities* or organisms carrying the *pathogenic agent*, in a *laboratory* or other *approved* facilities with appropriate laboratory biosafety and laboratory biosecurity in accordance with Article 5.8.5. and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

This should be supported by evidence of compliance with **Chapters 5.5. to 5.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* and all other relevant standards of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual*.**
