

## CHAPTER 1.1.

## NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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| <b>Norway</b> | <p><b>Norway appreciates the work undertaken by the Code Commission to review and modernise the WOAH notification framework under chapter 1.1.</b></p> <p><b>We support and reiterate the comments given by the EU to Article 1.1.2 point 4, Article 1.1.3 point 1 letter e) and Article 1.1.4 last paragraph to this chapter. We will repeat them to specify.</b></p> |
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## Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Organic Statutes of the Office International des Epizooties, Member Countries shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Authority* of its territory or territories.

All *notifications* and all information sent by WOAH to the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to WOAH by the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

## Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through WOAH, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread and impact of important animal diseases, and their pathogenic agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.
- 3) For the purposes of this chapter, an “event” means a single *outbreak* or a group of epidemiologically related *outbreaks* of a given *listed disease* or *emerging disease* that is the subject of a *notification*. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain type, subtype and variant, when appropriate as relevant, and includes all related *outbreaks* reported from the time of the initial *notification* through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, animal hosts, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and *epidemiological units*.
- 4) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, notification reports shall conform as closely as possible to the WOAH disease reporting format.

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| <b>Norway</b> | <p><b>Norway considers it important that WOAH Member Countries are appropriately involved in the review and evolution of the disease notification system and associated data requirements. Given that the practical implementation of notification obligations is largely driven by the reporting tools and formats, any significant changes to the information collected should benefit from structured consultation with Members and take into account the administrative implications for Veterinary Authorities.</b></p> |
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|  | <p><b>Norway would therefore welcome a mechanism allowing regular Member input into the development and management of the notification system, with a view to ensuring that reporting requirements remain proportionate, focused on actionable information relevant for risk assessment, and aligned with the needs of both Members and WOAH.</b></p> |
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- 5) The ~~occurrence of a case of infection of an animal host with~~ detection of the pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* in an *animal* ~~should~~ shall be reported ~~notified~~, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between diseases and their pathogenic agents is constantly developing and that the presence of a pathogenic agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a disease, Member Countries shall ensure, through their notification reports, that they comply with ~~the spirit and intention of point 1 above.~~
- 6) In addition to notifying ~~new findings events~~ in accordance with Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of listed diseases and emerging diseases. Information shall include *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures*, including vaccination and restrictions applied to the movement of commodities animals, animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects ~~fomites~~ which could ~~by their nature~~ be responsible for the transmission of diseases. In the case of diseases transmitted by *vectors*, the measures taken against such *vectors* shall also be ~~specified~~ described.
- 7) The Headquarters shall communicate to Veterinary Authorities all notifications received and other relevant information.

#### Article 1.1.3.

#### Notification of listed diseases

*Veterinary Authorities* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) in accordance with ~~Chapter 1.3. and relevant provisions~~ the definition of the listed disease and its occurrence in the disease-specific chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) ~~or by fax or email by electronic correspondence under the authority of the Delegate~~ within 24 hours of the confirmation, of any of the following events:
- a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - b) recurrence of an eradicated *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the last event ended;
  - c) first occurrence of a *listed disease* ~~due to a new strain type, subtype or variant of the~~ a pathogenic agent previously absent of a listed disease in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - d) recurrence of a listed disease due to an eradicated ~~strain type, subtype or variant of the~~ a pathogenic agent ~~of a listed disease~~ in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the last event ended;
  - e) a sudden and unexpected change in the geographical distribution or increase in incidence ~~or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality, or the occurrence in a previously unaffected animal host~~ caused by, the pathogenic agent of a *listed disease* present within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

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| <b>Norway</b> | <p><b>Proposed amended text:</b></p> <p>“e) a sudden and unexpected change in the <u>geographical</u> distribution or increase in incidence, morbidity or mortality, or the occurrence in a previously</p> |
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unaffected *animal host* which has not been identified in the Terrestrial Code or Manual or in the scientific literature as *animal host* of a listed disease present within a country, a zone or a compartment”.

### Rationale

The current point e) appears to give room to different interpretations and would benefit from some clarifications:

1. Removing the reference to “geographical” avoids confusion (the word can be interpreted in different ways) and does not overstep on the concept of “zone” already used in this chapter.
2. Norway considers that notification under this provision should be limited to a genuinely new host for a given pathogen, within the animal hosts provided by the Code, not already identified as susceptible to that disease by the scientific literature.

These would help avoid unnecessary notifications while ensuring that significant new epidemiological events continue to be notified.

Also, the word “*animal host*” needs to be italicized as it is a proposed new definition in the glossary.

f) ~~occurrence of a listed disease in an unusual host species;~~

- 2) ~~Weekly reports subsequent to a notification under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the notification. These reports should shall continue until either the listed disease has been eradicated or is considered the situation has become sufficiently stable which means its incidence, morbidity, mortality and spread have stabilised. In the latter situation, that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will shall apply satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event notified and in both situations (eradication or stabilisation), a final report should shall be submitted;~~
- 3) ~~Six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of listed diseases and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;~~
- 4) ~~Annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.~~

#### Article 1.1.4.

### Notification of emerging diseases

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the Headquarters:

- 1) a notification through WAHIS or by electronic correspondence under the authority of the Delegate ~~fax or email~~, when an *emerging disease* has been detected in a country, ~~a zone or a compartment~~;
- 2) ~~periodic at least monthly~~ reports subsequent to a notification of an *emerging disease*:
  - a) ~~for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty demonstrate~~ that:
    - ia) the *infection* or *infestation* has been eradicated; or
    - ii) the situation has become stable; its incidence, morbidity, mortality and spread have stabilised; in this situation, information shall continue to be sent through the six-monthly reports.

OR

- b) ~~until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAHA list as described in Chapter 1.2.;~~
- 3) a final report once point 2 a) or 2 b) above has been complied with.

The requirement for notification of *emerging disease* will continue until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAHA list as described in Chapter 1.2.

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| <b>NO</b> | <p><b>Proposed amended text:</b></p> <p><del>“The requirement for notification of <i>emerging disease</i> will continue until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAHA list as described in Chapter 1.2.”</del></p> <p><b>Rationale</b></p> <p><b>This text is a duplication with point 1) and, at the same time, it contradicts point 2). The previous text under 2) b) was structured in a clear decision tree as an option. The current formulation puts an additional requirement for Member Countries.</b></p> |
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Article 1.1.5.

**Other important animal health information**

- 4) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide WOAHA with other important animal health information such as findings of pathogenic agents of *listed diseases* in susceptible species not listed as animal hosts, findings of types, subtypes or variants of pathogenic agents of *listed diseases* that are not included in the definition of the disease, and findings of non-listed diseases of interest to Member Countries.
- 2) ~~The *Headquarters* shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to *Veterinary Authorities* all notifications received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4. and other relevant information.~~