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Requirements of the Terrestrial Code for Zoning

OIE Training Seminar: AHS free status, EDFZ, HHP
Baku, Azerbaijan, 3-5 March 2020

Principles of Zoning



Evolution of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* requirements over years

General principles and requirements:
free zone, protection zone, containment zone

Establishment of a containment zone

Evolution of country freedom approach over years

- Initially only country freedom from disease
- Not all OIE Members could comply with country freedom
- Introduced concept of **zone free** from disease
- Introduced concept of buffer zone – later replaced by **protection zone**
- Further refined to smaller area of freedom based on biosecurity principles – **compartment**
- Introduced concept of **containment zone**
- All of the above are trade facilitating mechanisms

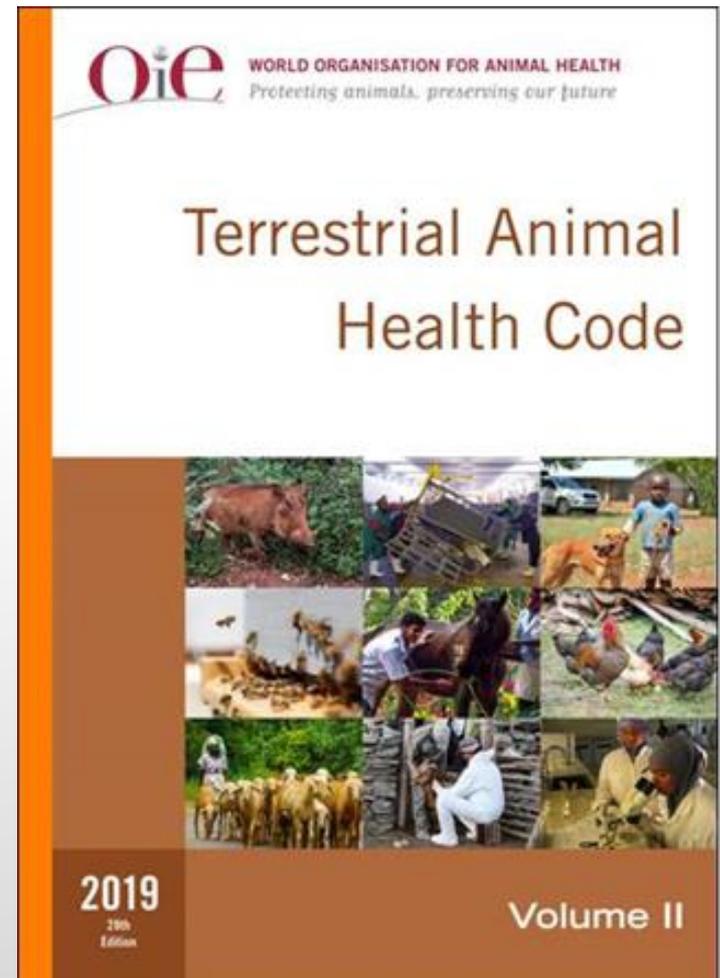
Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Horizontal Chapters

- Disease notification (1.1.)
- Animal health surveillance (1.4.)
- Import risk analysis (2.1.)
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services (3.2.)
- Veterinary legislation (3.4.)
- Identification and traceability (4.2.)
- **Zoning and compartmentalisation (4.3.)**
- Vaccination (4.18.)
- Import/export procedures (5)

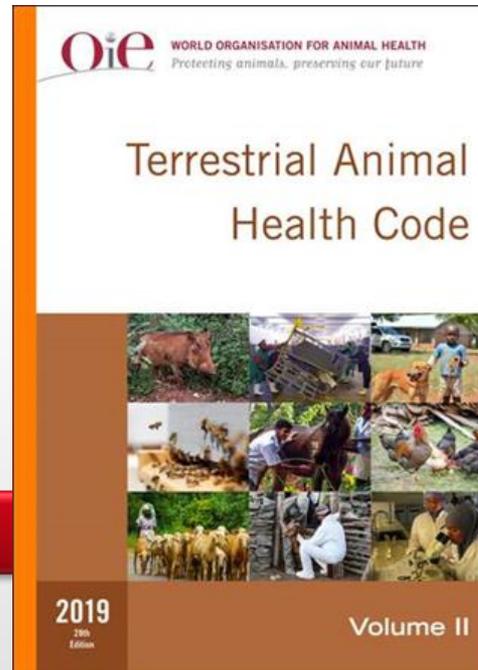
Disease Specific Chapters

- General provisions, case definition
- Criteria for disease status: country or zone
- Provisions for import of commodities
- Specific disease surveillance



Zoning:

Provisions in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*



www.oie.int/terrestrial-code

- Glossary
- Chapter 4.3. zoning and compartmentalisation
- Article 12.1.4. AHS

OIE Terrestrial Code - Definition

ZONE

- **A clearly defined part of a territory**
- Containing an animal subpopulation
- With a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease
- For which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade

“Clearly defined part of a territory”

- Separated by natural or artificial barriers
- And/or by the application of appropriate management practices
- Extent of the zone & geographical limits established by the Veterinary Authority



OIE Terrestrial Code - Definition

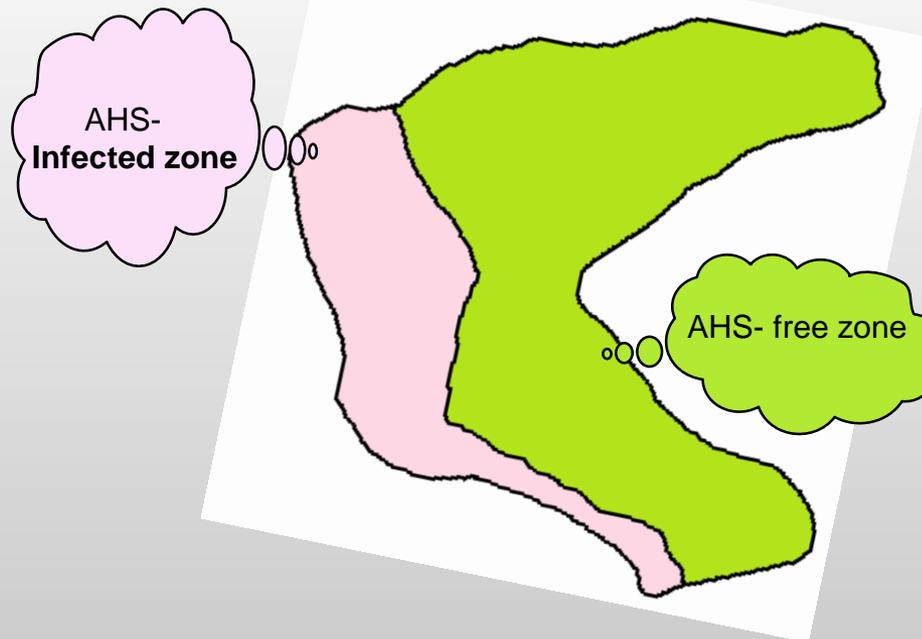
ZONE

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“Containing an animal subpopulation”

- Animals and herds belonging to the subpopulation should be recognisable
- Valid animal identification system and traceability

The form is a multi-section document with various fields for data entry, including checkboxes and text boxes. It appears to be an official document related to animal health or movement.



“Containing an animal subpopulation”

- Control movement across the boundaries of the zone
- Traceability of movements



Animal movements into and out of the zone should be well documented and controlled

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- **With a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease**
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“Distinct health status with respect to a specific disease”

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



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Practicalities of a zoning approach

- Encourages 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

Zones

Evolution of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* requirements over years

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Protection zone

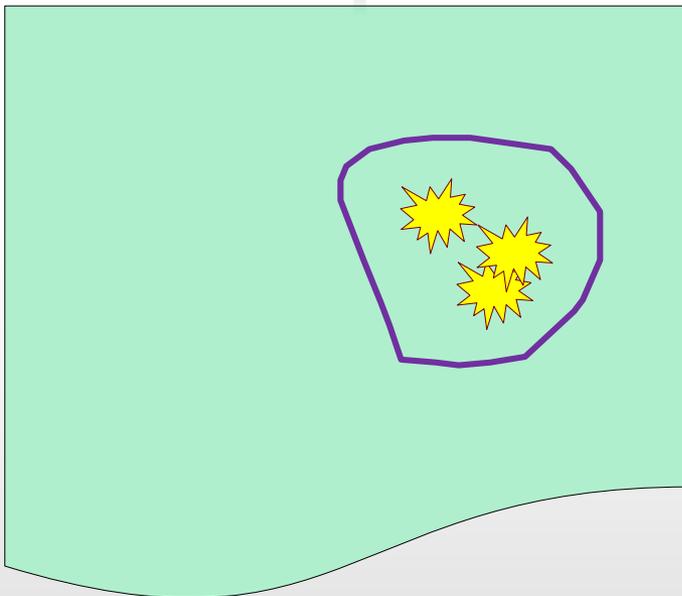
- Established to preserve the health status of animals in a free country or zone, i.e. animals in a free country or zone are protected from animals of a different health status in adjacent countries or zones.
- Can be established as part of a recognized free zone (inside) or fall outside the officially recognised AHS free zone.
- Control measures are based on the epidemiology of AHS to prevent introduction of the virus and to ensure early detection of an incursion.
- Should include intensified movement control and surveillance

Containment zone and free status

- Free status of the area outside of the containment zone suspended while the containment zone is being established
 - **Reinstatement of the free status of the rest of the zone**, once the containment zone is clearly established
- => minimise the sanitary impact and impact on trade
- To regain free status when an AHS outbreak occurs in a country or zone previously free, Article 12.1.2. applies, irrespective of whether emergency vaccination has been applied or not.
 - **Key principle:** Measures in place to prevent spread of the infection from the containment zone to the rest of the country or zone

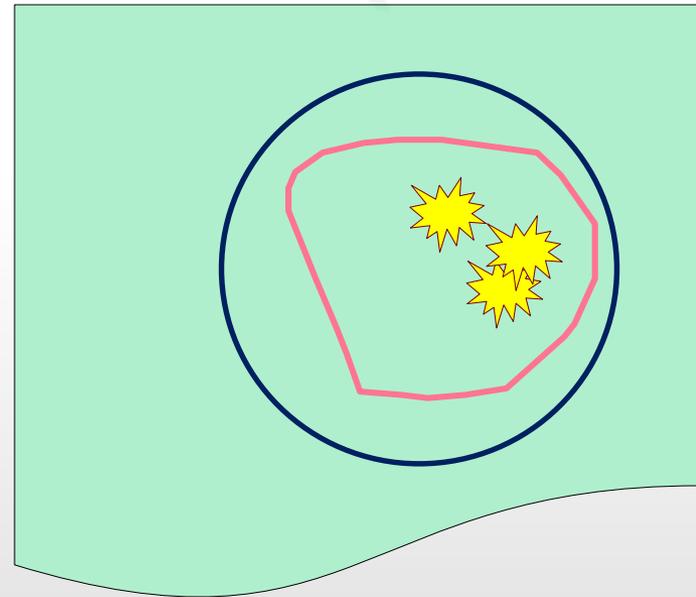
2 OPTIONS for establishing a **containment zone**

1



- Original concept included in the OIE *Code*
- No outbreaks > 2 infective periods (80d) after the disposal of the last detected case
- Case in the containment zone (**purple**) will result in suspension

2



- **New concept** adopted at the GS in May 2018 (Ch. 4.3. of the OIE *Code*)
- Cases may continue to occur (infected zone; **pink**)
- Case in protection zone (**dark blue circle**) will result in suspension

Withdrawal of the official disease status



When the status has not been recovered after **2 years** :
the official status is **withdrawn**

→ Submission of a new application to be officially recognised



Zoning - Summary

- **Free zone** => when difficulties in establishing and maintaining free status for the entire territory
- The final authority of the zone lies with the Veterinary Authority (design of the zone, biosecurity plan)
- Code Chapters 4.3 ; 12.1 & 1.7 (AHS questionnaire)
- **Protection zone**
- **Containment zone**



Oie

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Thank you for your attention



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