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## **Questionnaire for countries applying for an AHS free status and feedback from the evaluation of AHS applications**

OIE Training Seminar: OIE standards and procedure to facilitate  
international movements of horses  
Baku, Azerbaijan, 3-5 March 2020

# The AHS questionnaire

## Chapter 12.1.

### “AHS Code Chapter”

Set the requirements for an AHS free status



## Chapter 1.7.

### “AHS questionnaire”

To document compliance with the requirements of Chapter 12.1.

**All applications for an AHS free status must follow the « AHS questionnaire »**

## CHAPTER 1.7.

# APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE OIE OF FREE STATUS FOR AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

### Article 1.7.1.

#### Country free from infection with African horse sickness virus

The following information should be provided by OIE Member Countries to support applications for official recognition of status as a country free from *infection* with African horse sickness (AHS) virus in accordance with Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The dossier provided to the OIE should address concisely all the topics under the headings provided to describe the actual situation in the country and the procedures currently applied, explaining how these comply with the *Terrestrial Code*.

The terminology defined in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* should be referred to and used in compiling the dossier.

National legislation, regulations and *Veterinary Authority* directives may be referred to and annexed as appropriate in one of the OIE official languages. Weblinks to supporting documents in one of the official languages of the OIE may also be provided, where they exist.

## Role of the questionnaire

- To assist Member Countries
- To assist experts
- To give more transparency to the evaluation process
- To standardise the evaluation among countries

# Available at the OIE website

Home > Standard Setting > Terrestrial Code > Access online

## Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Home > Animal health in the World > Official disease status > African horse sickness

### African Horse Sickness



- + Map of AHS official status
- + List of AHS free Member Countries
- + Suspension/Reinstatement
- + Disease cards
- + Questionnaire for AHS free status**
- + Form for annual reconfirmation

In accordance with the [OIE procedure for official recognition of disease status](#), the OIE Member Countries officially recognised free from African horse sickness (AHS) are listed in a resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates ([Assembly](#)) of the OIE at the General Session.

A Member Country wishing to be officially recognised as disease-free by the OIE must apply in accordance with the procedure set out in Chapter 1.6. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (*Terrestrial Code*).

Home > Animal health in the World > Official disease status > African horse sickness

- Information on aquatic and terrestrial animal diseases
- OIE-Listed diseases 2020
- Overview
- Technical disease cards
- The World Animal Health Information System
- WAHIS-Wild Interface
- World Animal Health
- The OIE-WAHIS project
- Official disease status
  - Official recognition policy and procedures
  - FMD
  - Rinderpest
  - BSE
  - Peste des petits ruminants
  - African horse sickness**
  - Classical Swine Fever
- Self-declared disease status
- Avian Influenza Portal

# AHS questionnaire

## Free country/zone

1. Introduction
2. Veterinary system
3. AHS eradication
4. AHS diagnosis
5. AHS surveillance
6. AHS prevention
7. Control measures and contingency planning for AHS
8. Recovery of free status



# AHS questionnaire

## Common shortcomings overall

- Information not directly relevant to equids or to AHS
- Not all questions of the questionnaire answered
- Lack of supporting information or documentation to substantiate the statements made



**Provide evidence to substantiate any statement made in an application for official recognition of disease freedom**

# Section 1: Introduction

## Set the context

- Geographical factors
  - Relevant to AHS introduction and spread
  - Boundaries, countries sharing common borders
  - Digitalised, geo-referenced map (**MUST** FOR ZONAL APPROACH!!)
- Population of domestic equids
  - Distribution
  - Equine sectors
- Wild equids

# Introduction

## Common shortcomings

- /!\ Equids ≠ horses!!
- Lack of information on donkeys, mules, zebras, etc
- Lack on information on wildlife (captive wild, wild, feral)



## Section 2: Veterinary system

- Legislation
  - In relation to AHS
- *Veterinary Services*
  - Capability (provisions of Ch. 3.1. and 3.2. of *Terrestrial Code*)
  - How supervise and control all AHS-related activities
- Role of different categories of stakeholders
  - AHS surveillance and control
  - Training and awareness programmes on AHS
- Animal identification system, movement control, traceability

# Veterinary system

## Common shortcomings

- Lack of clarity: provide a concise summary of the important points on legislation, relevant for an AHS free status, with cross-reference to Annexes
- Lack of specific information on AHS awareness activities (target groups, material, frequency)
- Lack of description on identification system and traceability (i.e. for all equids)
- Important information (such as legal basis of disease notifiability and the prohibition of AHS vaccination)



# Section 3: AHS eradication

Eligible to apply based on historical freedom?

- Demonstrate that the requirements stipulated in Chapter 1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* are applicable

## Article 12.1.2.

### AHS free country or zone

1. A country or *zone* may be considered free from AHS when *infection* with AHSV is notifiable in the whole country, systematic *vaccination* is prohibited, importation of equids and their semen, oocytes or embryos are carried out in accordance with this chapter, and either:
  - a. historical freedom as described in Chapter 1.4. has demonstrated no evidence of AHSV in the country or *zone*; or
  - b. the country or *zone* has not reported any *case* of AHS for at least two years and is not adjacent to an infected country or *zone*; or

### If not applicable

- Disease control
  - Strategy for surveillance
  - Vaccines available
- Prohibitions
  - No pathogen-specific surveillance programme is required when:
    1. for at least the past 10 years:
      - no vaccination against AHS has been carried out;
      - an early warning system has been in place for all relevant species;
      - measures to prevent the introduction of the AHS (e.g. horse movements, commodities importation) have been in place
      - the disease is not known to be established in wildlife
    2. for at least 25 years there has been no occurrence of AHS

# AHS eradication

## Common shortcomings

- Lack of consistency with WAHIS (disease situation and control measures)
- Type for freedom for which the country apply not specified
- Lack of information on since when vaccination has been prohibited and how the prohibition has been enforced and monitored (+ regulatory instrument)

## Section 4: AHS diagnosis

- Laboratory diagnosis for AHS in the country
  - List of laboratories approved by Competent Authority
  - Type of tests undertaken
  - Accreditation, quality management systems
  - Regular submission of samples?
  - Inter-laboratory validations tests (ring trials)
  
- International laboratory diagnosis for AHS
  - Name(s)
  - Arrangements in place
  - Logistics for shipping samples
  - Timeframe for reporting results

# AHS diagnosis

## Common shortcomings

- Information should focus on AHS diagnosis (!!)
- For AHS laboratory in the country:
  - Lack of information on participation in inter-laboratory proficiency testing and results
- For international AHS laboratory:
  - Lack of information on existing arrangements/agreements with another competent laboratory/OIE Reference Laboratory

# Section 5: AHS surveillance

- Clinical surveillance
  - Criteria for raising a suspicion
  - Procedure to notify (by whom and to whom)
  - Penalties for failure of reporting
  - Number of suspicions reported, testing methods, differential diagnosis
  
- Other type of surveillance (serological, virological, sentinel, vector surveillance)
  - Official status of neighboring countries
  - Justification of the surveillance design (risk areas)
  - Detailed results

# AHS surveillance

## Common shortcomings

- Lack of information demonstrating that the clinical surveillance implemented is sensitive over all the territory (suspicions reported, awareness, trainings)
- Lack of demonstration of an effective detection system for all equids, including wildlife
- Lack of consideration of the official AHS status of neighboring countries/zones
- Lack of detail on the surveillance design
  - Justification of the design chosen: risks identified, vector distribution
  - Number and type of samples, sample selection, etc.

## Section 6: AHS Prevention

- Coordination with neighboring countries

*Country should not be penalised due to the situation in a neighbouring country...*

**However,**

*Risk assessment and implementation of appropriate measures should be in place accordingly*

- Import control procedures

- Ports, airports and land crossings (map)
- Import requirements
- Regulations (countries from which imports are authorized)
- Actions taken on detection of illegal imports
- Statistics on imports

# AHS Prevention

## Common shortcomings

- Lack of information on import requirements for **all relevant commodities**: (equids (=not horses!), semen, oocytes, embryos, equine derived (by-)products, veterinary medicinal products)
- Lack of consideration of the AHS **official** status of exporting countries
- Lack of **detailed AHS specific** import requirements to allow the assessment of compliance with recommendations of Chapter 12.1.

## Section 7: Control measures and contingency planning

- Procedures regarding suspected or confirmed cases of AHS
- Steps that would be taken in the event of an AHS outbreak
  - Sampling and testing procedures
  - Control measures
  - Procedures used to confirm successful control
  - Compensation

# AHS Control measures and contingency planning

## Common shortcomings

- Lack of specific measures for AHS and of contingency plan specifically for AHS
- Lack of supporting documentation
- Lack of supporting regulatory framework
- Lack of consistency with WAHIS

> Info by Country/Territory Choose by:  Region:  Country:

> Choose disease:

Terrestrial:

Aquatic:

Year:  Report:

**Disease control measures**

Place the mouse over control measure code in the table below to see the meaning of each code

Country	Species	*	Qf	M	Te	GSu	TSu	Qi	A	In	S	Sd	Z	Cp	Vp	V	T	Ax	Cr	Cn	VSu	
Argentina	<b>Domestic Species</b>																					
	Equidae	✓	✓			✓									✓							
	<b>Wild</b>																					
	Wild species	✓	✓			✓									✓							

## Conclusion

To prepare a robust application for an AHS free status



- Dedicate team, time and funds
- Involve all relevant services & stakeholders
- Put yourself in the experts' shoes
- Provide documented evidence (not only statements)
- Be CLEAR and CONCISE



Oie

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*Protéger les animaux, préserver notre avenir*

# Thank you for your attention

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