

Update on equine actions carried out by WOAH and activities under the WOAH-IHSC Collaboration agreement to facilitate the international movements of competition horses

Mauro Meske
Disease Status Officer
m.meske@woah.org

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Nov 2022



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Index- Activities Under the WOAAH-IHSC Collaboration Agreement

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1. Research Projects:

- **Glanders, Equine Influenza:** studies conducted in WOAH Reference Labs or Collaboration Centers in support of further development and validation of diagnostic assays (glanders).
- **Equine Influenza:** An assessment [study](#) on equine influenza vaccination protocols prior to shipment by a WOAH Reference Laboratory for equine influenza.
- **Equine Herpesvirus EHV-1 - African Horse Sickness (AHS):** IHSC's support to develop new vaccines against EHV-1 & AHS and vaccine banks (AHS).

Expert support for developing a road map for the validation and comparison of serological tests for glanders in horses

Stage 1) Review of serological tests for glanders in horses



Article Evaluation of Current Equine Influenza Vaccination Protocols Prior to Shipment, Guided by OIE Standards

Ann Cullinane^{1*}, Jacinta Gahan¹, Cathal Walsh^{2,3}, Manabu Nemoto^{1,2}, Johanna Entenfellner⁴, Cecilia Olguns-Periglione^{5,6}, Maria Garvey¹, Tao Qi Huang Fu^{6,7}, Monica Venner⁷, Takashi Yamanaka³, Maria Barrandeguy⁸ and Charlene Judith Fernandez⁴

- ¹ Virology Unit, The Irish Equine Centre, Naas, Co. Kildare, W91 R3R3 Johnstown, Ireland; JGahan@irishequinecentre.ie (J.G.); nemoto_manabu@equinst.gsjp (M.N.); MGarvey@irishequinecentre.ie (M.G.)
- ² Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Limerick, V94 TPX Limerick, Ireland;
- ³ Cabot Wobashida; Equine Research Institute, the Japan Racing Association, 1400-4 Shiba, Shimotsuke, Tochigi 329-0412, Japan; yamanaka@equinst.gsjp
- ⁴ Equine Clinic, School of Veterinary Medicine, Biochemischer Damm 15, 30173 Hannover, Germany; johannaentenfellner@t-online.de
- ⁵ Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA), Instituto de Virología, De Los Roseros y Dr. Nicolás Repetto S/N, Hurlingham, Buenos Aires B1686GC, Argentina; ceciliaolgunsp@inta.gov.ar
- ⁶ Centre for Animal and Veterinary Sciences, Professional and Scientific Services, Animal and Veterinary Service, National Parks Board, 1 Chany Road, Singapore 259569, Singapore;
- ⁷ Huang, Fu, Tao, QI@nparks.gov.sg (T.Q.H.F.); Charlene, FERNANDEZ@nparks.gov.sg (C.J.F.)
- ⁸ Piroclínica Desoedi GmbH, Desoedi, Trift 4, 38162 Cramlingen, Germany; MVenner@tgm.de
- Buenos Aires B1630AHL, Argentina; barrandeguy.maria@inta.gov.ar
- * Correspondence: A.Cullinane@irishequinecentre.ie; Tel: +353-45-856-266

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Abstract: To facilitate the temporary importation of horses for competition and racing purposes, with a minimum risk of transmitting equine influenza, the World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties, or OIE), formally engaged in a public-private partnership with the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation for Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) to establish, within the context of existing OIE standards, a science-based rationale to identify the ideal time period for equine influenza vaccination prior to shipment. Field trials using vaccines based on different technologies were carried out on three continents. The antibody response post-booster vaccination at intervals aligned with the different rules/recommendations of the OIE, FEI, and IFHA, was monitored by single radial haemolysis. It was determined that 14 days was the optimum period necessary to allow horses adequate time to respond to booster vaccination and for horses that have previously received four or more doses of vaccine and are older than four years, it is adequate to allow vaccination within 180 days of shipment. In contrast, the results indicate that there is a potential benefit to younger (four years old or younger) horses in requiring booster vaccination within 90 days of shipment, consistent with the current OIE standard.

Keywords: equine influenza; vaccination; shipment; OIE; FEI; IFHA; harmonization; age; horses

ry project proposal for a new study to compare for glanders



tre for Diagnostic Test Validation Science Asia Pacific Region



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2. Improvement of the WOAHA Standards on horse-related diseases

11 Code Chapters on Equidae-related diseases:

Infection with African horse sickness virus [Chapter 12.1.](#) (2014);

Contagious equine metritis [Chapter 12.2.](#) (1982);

Dourine [Chapter 12.3.](#) (1968);

Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) [Chapter 12.4.](#) (1968);

Equine infectious anaemia [Chapter 12.5.](#) (2007);

Infection with equine influenza virus [Chapter 12.6.](#) (2012);

Equine piroplasmosis [Chapter 12.7.](#) (2007);

Infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (Equine rhinopneumonitis) [Chapter 12.8.](#) (2014);

Infection with equine arteritis virus [Chapter 12.9.](#) (2014);

Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders) [Chapter 12.10.](#) (2018);

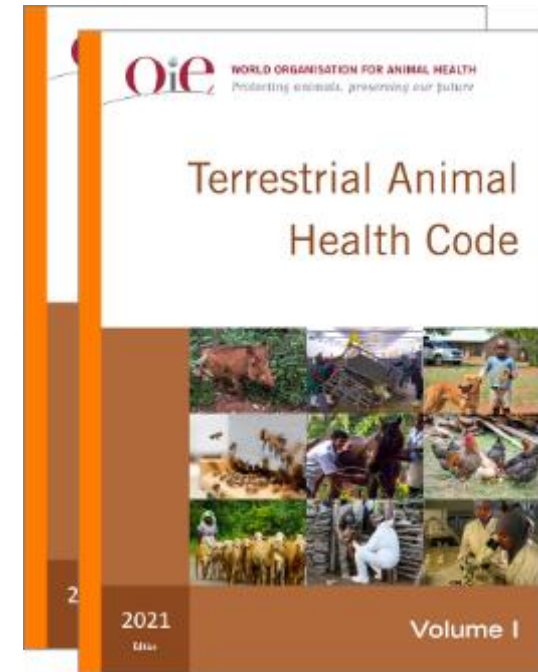
Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis [Chapter 12.11.](#) (1998)

Plus, **Surra** and **Japanese Encephalitis** [Chapter 8.10.](#) (2000)

3 Chapters newly drafted for potential adoption in May 2023 (WOAH General Session)

6 Chapters proposed for potential review/update

Provisions on temporary importation of competition horses



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3. Tools to facilitate the international movement of horses (EDFZ- HHP framework)

Development of risk-based frameworks (HHP, EDFZ)

Equine Disease-Free Zones (EDFZ)

Defined on the basis of **geographic boundaries**

CHAPTER 4.4.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

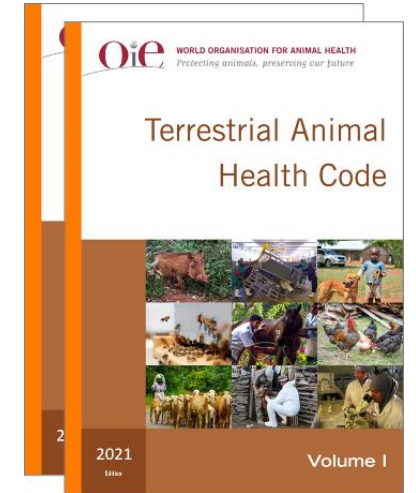
High health, high performance (HHP)

Based on sound **management and biosecurity measures**

CHAPTER 4.17.

HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

International Competition Horse Movements



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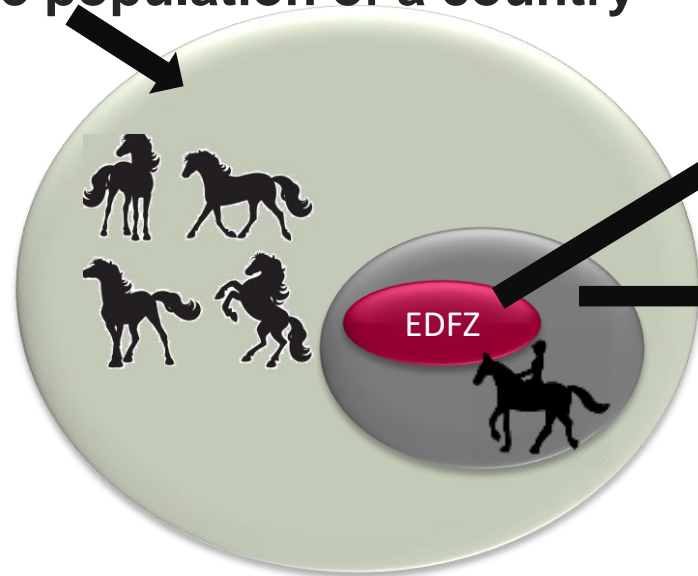
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3. Tools to facilitate the international movement of horses (EDFZ)

EDFZ: An IHSC-WOAH tool to facilitate international movements of competition horses

Overall equine population of a country



Subpopulation horses in a EDFZ =
high health status

Subpopulation of sport horses

- A specific area defined on the basis of **geographic boundaries**
- Defined by and under the control of the **Veterinary Authority**

- Contains an animal subpopulation **with a specific animal health status** with respect to multiple specified equine diseases

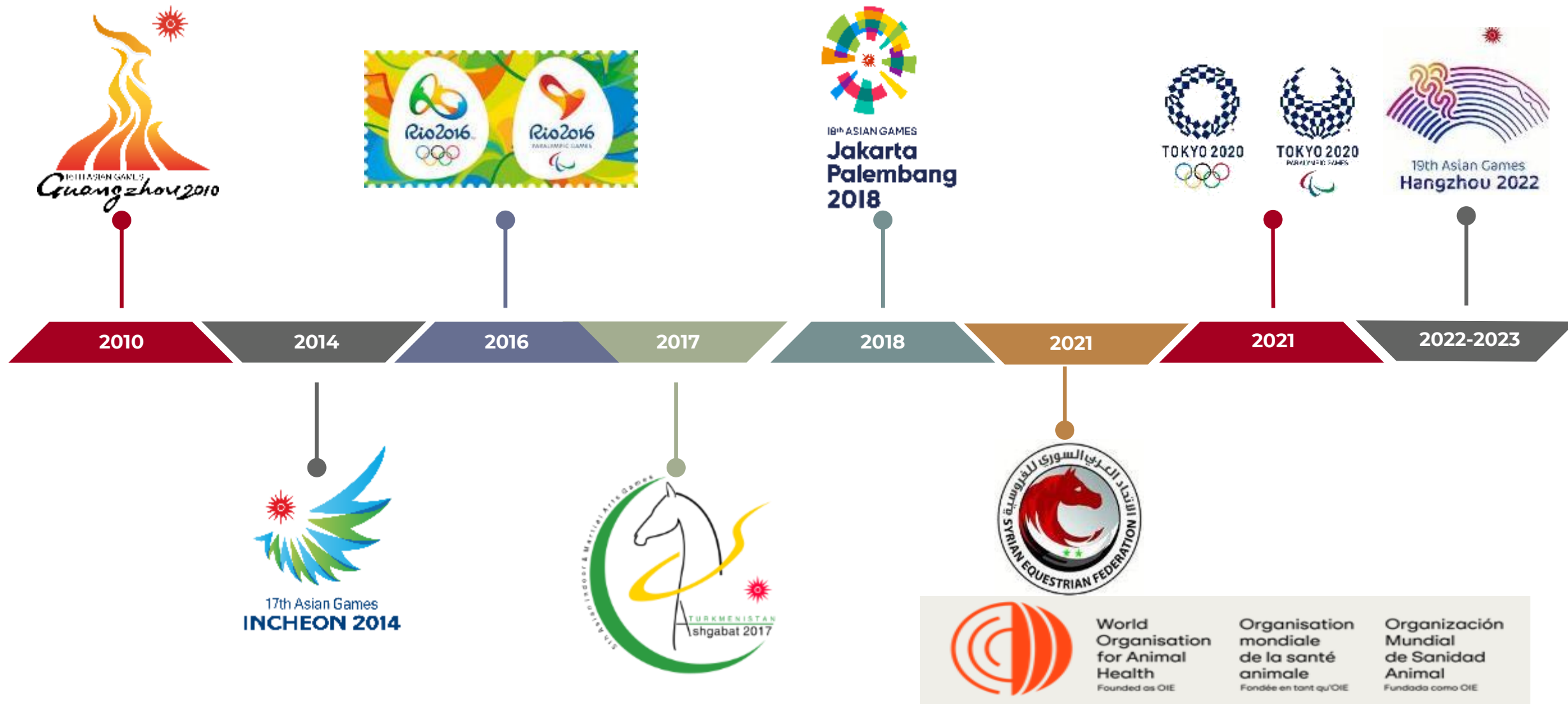


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3. Publication of EDFZ self-declarations dossiers on WOAH website



4. Follow-up on regional workshops in support of temporary international movement of competition horses

Middle East and Northern Africa (FEI

Group VII): WOAH-IHSC Joint Workshops in

Morocco and Beirut (2019) and a webinar conducted in May 2022 to increase trading opportunities in the region.

Europe (FEI Groups III and EEF): WOAH-IHSC

Joint Workshops Moscow workshop (2019) and Baku, Azerbaijan (March 2020).

Meetings with European Commissions representatives to harmonize EU regulations with international standards (i.e., the EU Animal Health Law)

6 Regional Joint WOAH (WOAH)-IHSC workshops

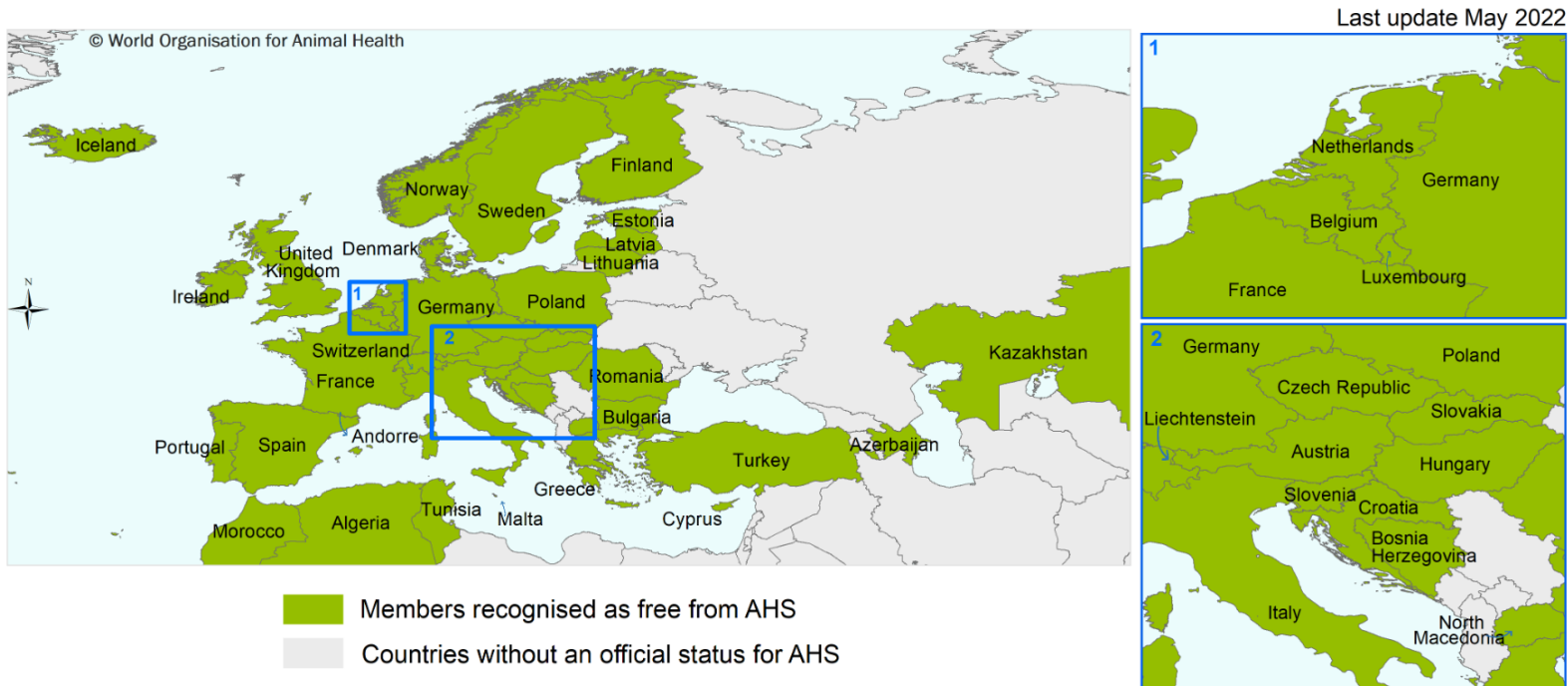
conducted between 2017 – 2019 to strengthen regional capacities in support of safe international movements of competition horses.



Sanitary group	Diseases for which specific requirements are required
A	equine infectious anaemia
B	equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine
C	equine infectious anaemia, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis
D	equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, surra
E	equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, African horse sickness, surra
F	equine infectious anaemia, dourine, African horse sickness
G	equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, surra

5. Advocacy and Capacity building Activities

EUROPE: WOAAH Members' official AHS status map



More information:

[Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members](#)

Certificate

African horse sickness status

This is to certify that, following a recommendation of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, the World Delegates of the OIE approved on 26 May 2022 that the OIE Member is recognised by the OIE as a country free from African horse sickness (AHS) in accordance with the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2021).

This recognition is based on the documentation submitted to the OIE by the Delegate of OIE Member. The OIE Member has the obligation to notify the OIE immediately of any change in the epidemiological situation related to AHS and to confirm annually that the epidemiological situation has remained unchanged, according to the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Application SOP

Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members

Description/ Scope:	This procedure describes the process for the preparation, assessment and approval of dossiers for the official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members.
Related documents:	Guidelines for the Official Status Recognition Process (Annexed) Resolution No. 15 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure Resolution No. 16 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure
Related processes:	Expert Mission Deployment - Procedure (Mission_SOP) - Guidelines (Mission_Guidelines) Reconfirmation of a Status or Programme - Procedure (Reconfirmation_SOP) - Guidelines (Reconfirmation_Guidelines) Suspension, Recovery and Withdrawal - Procedure (Suspension_SOP) - Guidelines (Suspension_Guidelines) Addendum: Establishment of a protection zone
List of acronyms:	AHG: AHS/Group Assembly: World Assembly of Delegates DDG: Deputy Director General, Standards and Science DG: Director General SD: Status Department GS: General Session SCAD: Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases Terrestrial Code: Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Step	Time Reference	Responsible person	Action	Reference Document
1.	After the GS	DG	Sends letter to Delegates confirming SCAD and AHG's dates and deadlines for dossiers submission.	
2.	2 months before the relevant AHG	Delegate	Sends dossier to WOAAH.	§ A Application, Guidelines
3.	Less than 7 days after reception	SD	Sends email acknowledging reception to Delegate.	
4.	7 days after sending the dossier	Delegate	If no acknowledgement email has been received, sends letter to WOAAH requesting acknowledgement.	§ B Application, Guidelines

Summary of AHS free status in Europe: 37 Members officially recognised by WOAAH as AHS free countries (70%)

5. Advocacy and Capacity building Activities

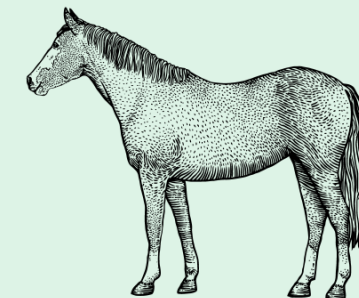
Summary of AHS free status in Middle East Region: Members officially recognised by WOAHA as AHS free countries, the last one: Bahrain 2022

MIDDLE EAST: WOAHA Members' official AHS status map

Last update May 2022



- Members recognised as free from AHS
- Countries without an official status for AHS



African horse sickness

African horse sickness (AHS) is an infectious but non-contagious arthropod-borne viral disease affecting all species of equidae caused by an orbivirus of the family Reoviridae and characterised by alterations in the respiratory and circulatory functions. AHS is transmitted by at least two species of Culicoides. Nine different serotypes have been described. There are four classical clinical forms of AHS: pulmonary, cardiac, mixed, and horse

Links to Code and Manual

- Terrestrial code
- Terrestrial manual

More information:

<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/african-horse-sickness/>



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5. Advocacy and Capacity building Activities

- **Development of Visual educational leaflets** on the High Health High Performance framework (HHP), the equine disease-free zones (EDFZ), and the WOAHIHSC public-private collaboration in support of international movements of competitions horses were developed
- **3rd Middle East Regional Webinar (May 2022)** on WOAHIHSC international standards and tools to facilitate international movement of horses, procedures supporting the publication of self-declarations of animal health status and the official recognition of AHS free status
- **FEEVA Disease Surveillance Summit -October 2022**
- [Guidelines on preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination in the Asian region](#)
- [Guidelines for the practical control of viral transmission by reducing vector–host contact in the Asian context](#)



Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49

F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

m.meske@woah.org

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