

# Changes in the requirements for official BSE risk status recognition and reconfirmation by WOAAH

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# Outline

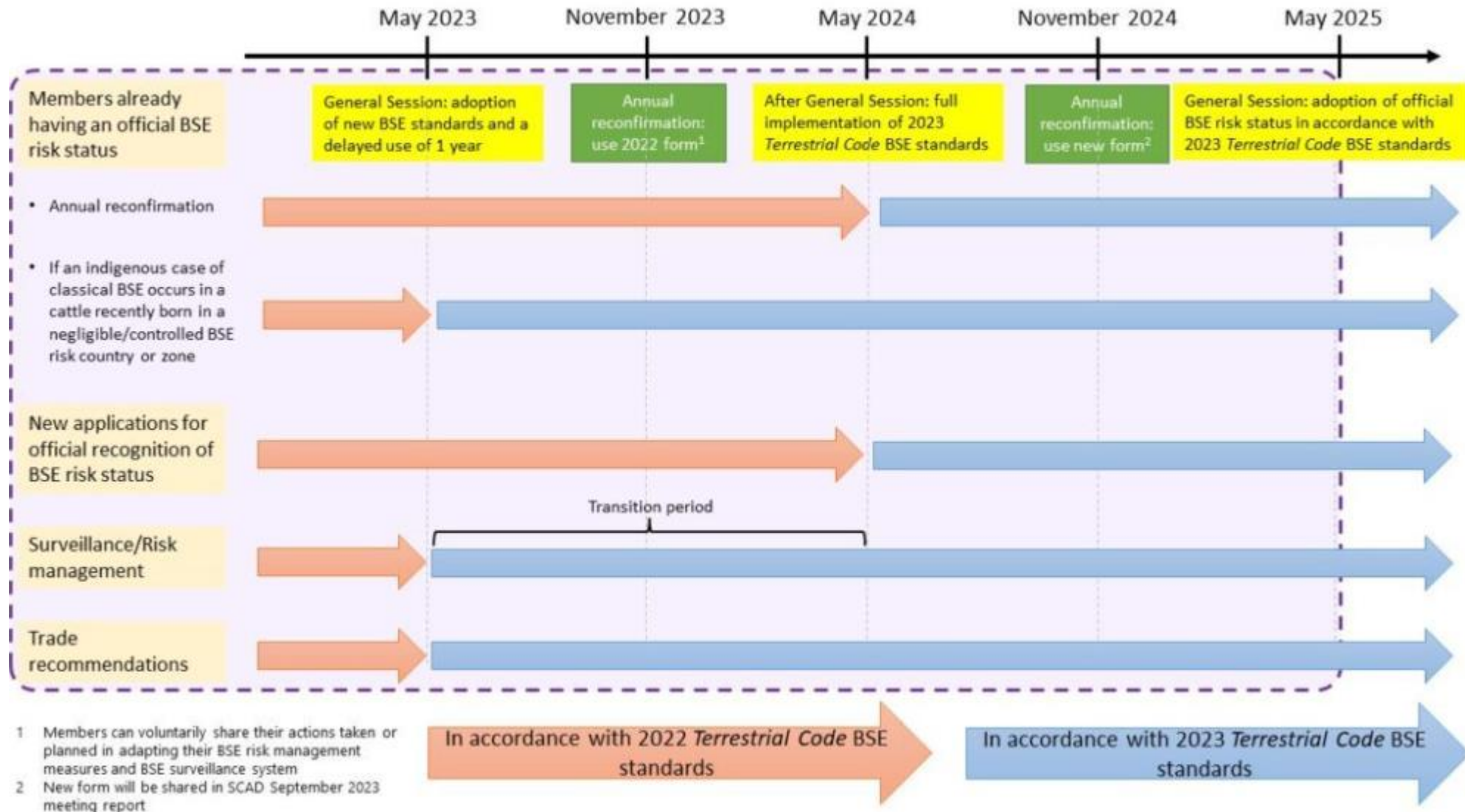
1. Transition process
2. Impact on status application
3. Annual reconfirmation form
4. BSE surveillance guidelines
5. Suspension and recovery
6. Delisting of atypical BSE: impact on reporting



# Transition process









# Impact on status application

## CHAPTER 11.4. |

### BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Article 11.4.1.

#### General provisions and safe commodities

- 1) ~~The recommendations in this chapter are intended to manage/mitigate the human and animal health risks associated with the presence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) agents in cattle (*Bos taurus* and *B. indicus*) only. BSE manifests in two main forms: classical BSE and atypical BSE. Oral exposure to contaminated feed is the main route of transmission of classical BSE. Atypical BSE is a condition that occurs at a very low rate and is assumed to occur spontaneously in any cattle population. Cattle have been experimentally infected by the oral route with a low molecular weight type of atypical BSE (L-type BSE). Therefore atypical BSE is also considered capable of being recycled in a cattle population if cattle are orally exposed to contaminated feed. For the purposes of official BSE risk status recognition, BSE excludes atypical BSE as a condition believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate.~~
- 2) ~~BSE primarily affects cattle. Other animal species may be naturally and experimentally susceptible to BSE, but they are not regarded as being epidemiologically significant, particularly when feeding ruminants with ruminant-derived protein meal is not practised.~~
- 3) ~~For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:~~
  - a) ~~BSE is an invariably fatal neurological prion disease of cattle caused by a misfolded form of the prion protein (PrP<sup>Sc</sup>) which includes both classical (C-type BSE) and atypical strains (H- and L-type BSE having, respectively, a PrP<sup>Sc</sup> fragment of higher and lower molecular mass than classical BSE). The term 'BSE' includes both classical and atypical forms.~~
  - b) ~~The occurrence of a BSE case is defined by the immunohistochemical (IHC) or immunochemical detection of PrP<sup>Sc</sup> in brain tissue of a bovid of the species *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*. Discrimination between atypical and classical BSE strains is based on the Western immunoblot banding pattern, as described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.~~
- 4) ~~For the purposes of this chapter, 'cattle' means bovids of the species *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*.~~
- 4) ~~When authorising import or transit of the following commodities and any products made from these commodities and containing no other tissues from cattle, Veterinary Authorities should not require any BSE related conditions, regardless of the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the exporting country, zone or compartment:~~
  - a) ~~milk and milk products;~~
  - b) ~~semen and in vivo derived cattle embryo collected and handled in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society;~~
  - c) ~~hides and skins;~~



## Impact on BSE risk status applications

Past Provisions	New Provisions
Emphasis on a feed ban to mitigate against the risk of recycling and amplification.	Two pathways to determine a BSE risk status: (a) negligible risk of exposure due to local livestock industry practices or (b) appropriate mitigation of risk factors. Ruminant-derived protein meal should not have been fed to ruminants regardless of the pathway.
<u>Atypical</u> BSE cases did not impact a Member's BSE risk status.	<u>Atypical</u> BSE cases still does not impact a Member's BSE risk status, These animals should not enter the feed or food chain.

Past Provisions	New Provisions
<p>An exposure assessment should be conducted <b><u>if</u></b> a risk factor is identified by the entry assessment.</p>	<p>An assessment of the likelihood of the cattle population being exposed to the BSE agents (classical or atypical) should be performed <b><u>regardless</u></b> of the outcome of the entry assessment.</p>
<p>The duration to be covered by the risk assessment, surveillance and other activities (awareness, notification, laboratory examination) is either 7 or 8 years.</p>	<p>The duration for which surveillance, awareness, notification and laboratory examination have been conducted prior to official recognition of a BSE risk status is now aligned with the duration for which the BSE risk has been negligible.</p>
<p><b><u>Points-based surveillance system.</u></b></p> <p>Active surveillance in risk groups (fallen stock and casualty slaughter) and in healthy slaughters.</p> <p>Target points achieved in maximum 7 years.</p>	<p><b><u>Surveillance targeted to bovines on the clinical spectrum for BSE.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Awareness and training programmes.</li> <li>✓ Compulsory notification of BSE.</li> <li>✓ Laboratory testing.</li> <li>✓ Evaluation process for identification and reporting of target cattle for BSE surveillance.</li> </ul>

- Date from which the risk of BSE agents being recycled within the bovine population could be considered negligible.
- The starting date can be estimated as follows:
  - For Members and zones with **negligible** BSE risk status: at least 8 years prior to the year of official recognition by WOAHA
  - For Members and zones with a **controlled** BSE risk status: at least from the year of official recognition by WOAHA.
- Publication by WOAHA of the official disease status with regard to BSE and year of recognition (agreement from Delegates).



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## Years of Members' official recognition of BSE risk status

Years of Members' official recognition of BSE risk status to be used as a reference for estimating the 'starting date'.

In [Chapter 11.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#), the recommendations for imports make reference to the date from which **the risk of BSE agents being recycled within the bovine population could be considered negligible ('starting date')**. Based on the table below, the starting date can be estimated as follows:

- For Members and zones with negligible BSE risk status: at least 8 years prior to the year of official recognition by WOAHA, and
- For Members and zones with a controlled BSE risk status: at least from the year of official recognition by WOAHA.

For example, based on the information in the table:

- if Member X has 2008 as the year of official recognition (controlled risk), the starting date would be at least from 2008,
- if Member X has 2008 as the year of official recognition (negligible risk), the starting date would be at least from 2000.

Members may demonstrate to and reach agreement by trade partners that the starting date is different or earlier than what could be determined by using the aforementioned method through bilateral discussions.

The information displayed in the table has been published with the agreement of the Delegates to WOAHA of the concerned Members.

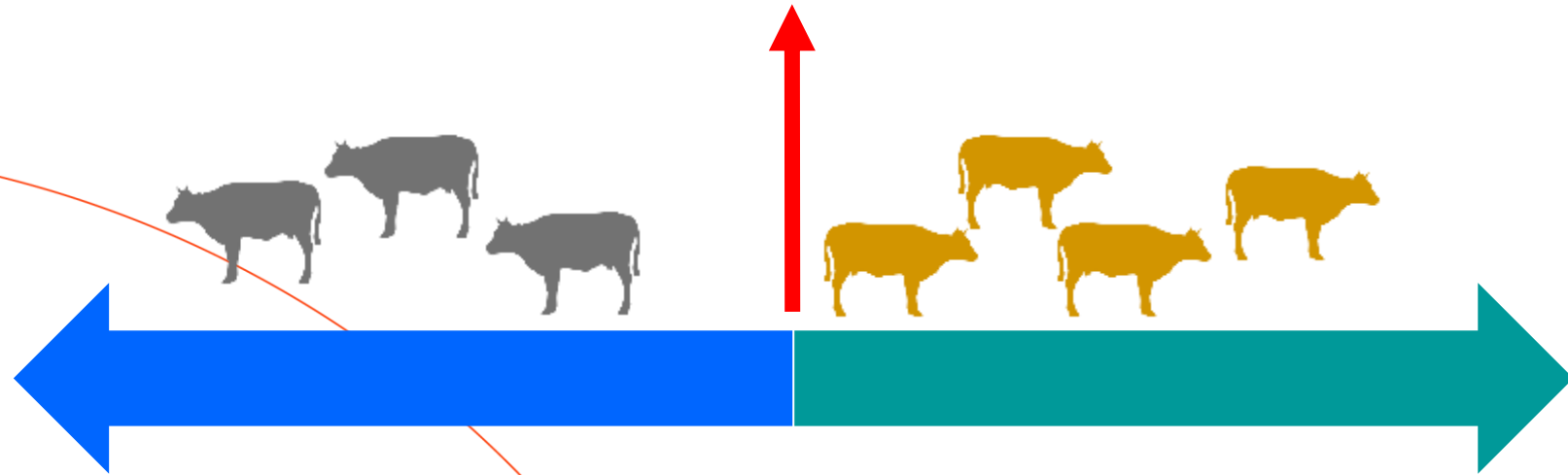
Official statuses come into force on the date indicated on the relevant Resolution published further to the General Session. The dates of adoption and entry into force of Resolutions of the past General Session can be found [here](#). Please note that the first year of WOAHA official categorisation of BSE risk status was in May 2007.

For information on the current BSE risk status, please go to the [BSE Official Disease status webpage](#).

Member	Year of official recognition	Official status recognised at the General Session
Argentina	2007	Negligible BSE risk
Australia	2007	Negligible BSE risk
Austria	2012	Negligible BSE risk
Belgium	2012	Negligible BSE risk
Bolivia	2020	Negligible BSE risk

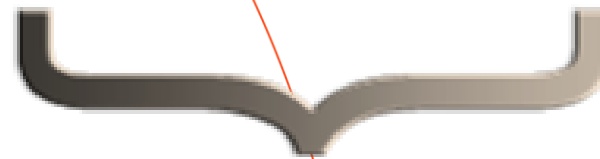


## Starting date



**Born before** the period when  
the risk of recycling BSE is  
negligible

**Born during** the period when  
the risk of recycling BSE is  
negligible



Bovines and commodities pose a different risk regarding BSE



# Annual reconfirmation 2024



Revised form for the annual reconfirmation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status of WOAHO Members

Reporting period of 12 months.

**Update of the risk assessment annually + submit to WOAHO.**

Questions on **changes** in legislation, industry practices (including auditing practices) or import requirements (no table).

Report imports of commodities (table).

QUESTION		YES	NO
1.	Has the risk assessment for BSE in accordance with Article 11.4.3 been reviewed by the Competent Authority of the country/zone, through incorporation of documented evidence, in the past 12 months?	Please provide the conclusions of the review and any subsequent actions/updates that may have been taken.	Please explain why and provide the tentative date of completion of the review.
2.	a) Have there been any changes in the livestock industry practices in the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?	Please provide an updated description of the industry practices preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal, as per Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3. Please provide the rationale for the changes in auditing practices.	
	b) Have there been any changes to the BSE-specific risk mitigation measures (other than import requirements addressed under question 4b) during the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.ii of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?	Please provide an updated description of specific risk mitigation measures preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal. Please provide the rationale for the change in measures.	
3.	Have any modifications in the legislation regarding BSE (except for import requirements addressed in question 4b) been made during the past 12 months?	Please summarise the modification(s) made, highlighting their potential impact on BSE risk mitigation measures, including surveillance. Please explain how the updated legislation still aligns with Articles 11.4.4 and 11.4.5. Please provide the rationale for the change in legislation.	
a)	i. Bovines		
	ii. Bovine-derived protein meal		
	iii. Feed (not intended for pets) that		



Guidance on supporting information requested according to response provided



Revised form for the annual reconfirmation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status of WOAH Members

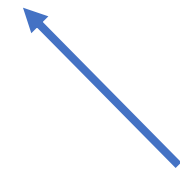
Surveillance results (table), awareness programmes, documentation, etc.

Any atypical or classical BSE cases?

Changes in epidemiological situation?

For this year: any changes in legislation or surveillance following the adoption of new standards?

QUESTION		YES	NO
1.	Has the risk assessment for BSE in accordance with Article 11.4.3 been reviewed by the Competent Authority of the country/zone, through incorporation of documented evidence, in the past 12 months?	Please provide the conclusions of the review and any subsequent actions/updates that may have been taken.	Please explain why and provide the tentative date of completion of the review.
2.	a) Have there been any changes in the livestock industry practices in the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?	Please provide an updated description of the industry practices preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal, as per Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3. Please provide the rationale for the changes in auditing practices.	
	b) Have there been any changes to the BSE-specific risk mitigation measures (other than import requirements addressed under question 4b) during the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.ii of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?	Please provide an updated description of specific risk mitigation measures preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal. Please provide the rationale for the change in measures.	
3.	Have any modifications in the legislation regarding BSE (except for import requirements addressed in question 4b) been made during the past 12 months?	Please summarise the modification(s) made, highlighting their potential impact on BSE risk mitigation measures, including surveillance. Please explain how the updated legislation still aligns with Articles 11.4.4 and 11.4.5. Please provide the rationale for the change in legislation.	
a)	i. Bovines		
	ii. Bovine-derived protein meal		
	iii. Feed (not intended for pets) that		



Guidance on necessary supporting information according to selected response





# BSE surveillance guidelines





In response to Members requests

Active surveillance → Targeted surveillance; cattle on the BSE clinical spectrum

Scientific Commission recommended WOH to develop surveillance guidelines



Development and review process

Drafting of the guidelines

Peer-review process by BSE *ad hoc* Group experts and Scientific Commission (February 2023)



BSE Surveillance Guidelines available on the [BSE General Information webpage](#)



- AIM: Support WOAHA Members in the implementation of a BSE surveillance system.
- PROVIDE:
  - overview of the clinical signs of BSE.
  - criteria for targeted BSE surveillance.
  - overview of the components of a credible BSE surveillance system.
  - reading and training material.



[Bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka BSE- WOAHA](https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/)  
<https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2023/07/ang-book-bse-guidelines-07072023-final.pdf>



# Suspension and recovery



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## Reconfirmation\_SOP

### Standard Operating Procedure on the reconfirmation of officially recognised animal health status and of the endorsement of official control programmes of Members




<b>Description/ Scope:</b>	<p>This procedure describes the process for the submission of annual reconfirmations for the maintenance of official animal health status or endorsed official control programmes.</p> <p>The subprocess for the reconfirmation of a status or of an endorsed control programme fits in the overall Official Status Recognition Process.</p>
<b>Related documents</b>	<p>Reconfirmation of a Status or Programme - Guidelines<sup>1</sup> (annexed)</p> <p>Resolution No. 15 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure</p> <p>Resolution No. 16 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure</p>
<b>Related process</b>	<p>Official Status Recognition Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Procedure (Application_SOP)</li><li>- Application_Guidelines</li></ul> <p>Expert Mission Deployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Procedure (Mission_SOP)</li><li>- Mission_Guidelines</li></ul> <p>Suspension, Recovery and Withdrawal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Procedure (Suspension_SOP)</li><li>- Suspension_Guidelines</li></ul>
<b>List of acronyms:</b>	<p>AHG: <i>Ad hoc</i> Group</p> <p>DDG: Deputy Director General, Standards and Science</p> <p>DG: Director General</p> <p>SD: Status Department</p> <p>SCAD: Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases</p>



- Member to send an epidemiological report **within the 90 days** of confirming a case of classical BSE to provide documented evidence that the bovine was destroyed and did not enter the food or feed chain (as per Article 11.4.4).
- If no documentation provided or documented evidence is unsatisfactory after the Scientific Commission's review > suspension as of the date of classical BSE case confirmation.



# Delisting of atypical BSE: impact on reporting

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**PDF**

CHAPTER 1.2.

**CRITERIA FOR THE INCLUSION OF DISEASES, INFECTIONS AND INFESTATIONS IN THE OIE LIST**

Article 1.2.1.

**Introduction**

This chapter describes the criteria for the inclusion of diseases, *infections* and *infestations* in Chapter 1.3.

The objective is to support Member Countries by providing information needed to take appropriate action to prevent the transboundary spread of important animal diseases, including zoonoses. This is achieved through transparent, timely and consistent *notification*.

Each *listed disease* normally has a corresponding chapter that assists Member Countries in the harmonisation of disease detection, prevention and control and provides standards for safe *international trade in animals* and their products.

The requirements for *notification* are detailed in Chapter 1.1.

Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic tests are described in Chapter 1.1.6. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 1.2.2.

The criteria for the inclusion of a disease, *infection* or *infestation* in the OIE list are as follows:

1. International spread of the pathogenic agent (via live *animals* or their products, *vectors* or fomites) has been proven.

AND

2. At least one country has demonstrated freedom or impending freedom from the disease, *infection* or *infestation* in populations of susceptible *animals*, based on the provisions of Chapter 1.4.

AND



- Cases of **atypical BSE** are no longer required to be reported to WOAAH (classical BSE must be reported to WOAAH through WAHIS).
- Cases of **atypical BSE**, and their management, must be described in Members' annual reconfirmation forms > need to document measures in place to prevent recycling of the BSE agent.

# Thank you

- For more information please contact:  
[disease.status@woah.org](mailto:disease.status@woah.org)
- [Terrestrial Code](#)
- [SCAD reports](#)

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