

WOAH Procedures for official recognition of PPR-free status and endorsement of official PPR control programmes

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INDEX

- WOAHA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements
 - PPR-specific chapter 14.7
 - PPR Questionnaire chapter 1.12.
- Maintenance of already granted official status / endorsed control programme



SOP for official recognition of animal health status and endorsement of official control programmes



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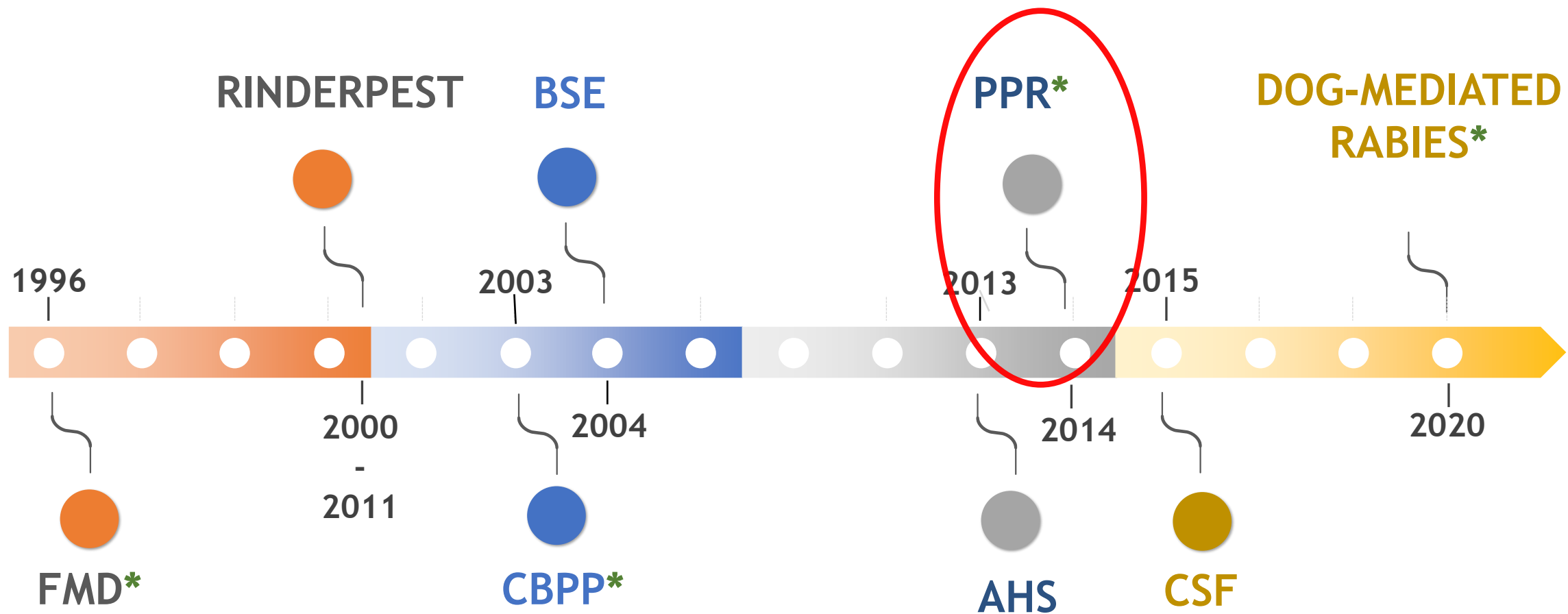
Application_SOP

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

Table of content

Application_SOP	1
Chronological Table	2
Application_Guidelines : Guidelines for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members	8
A. Application by Members	8
1. Application structure	8
2. Financial obligations	9
B. Pre-screening by the Status Department	10
1. Procedure for pre-screening by the Status Department	10
2. Additional information analysed by the Status Department	10
C. Evaluation by the <i>ad hoc</i> Group	11
1. Purpose and scope	11
2. Selection of the experts of the <i>ad hoc</i> Group	11
3. Process for the evaluation of dossiers	13
4. Interaction with the applicant Member	13
5. Additional sources of information	14
6. Report of the <i>ad hoc</i> Group	14
D. Evaluation by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	14
1. Composition of the Scientific Commission	14
2. Process for the evaluation of dossiers	15
3. Interaction with the applicant Member	15
4. Additional sources of information	16
5. Expert mission	16
E. Official recognition and endorsement by the Assembly	17
1. Communication on the outcome of the evaluations	17
2. Members' comments on the outcome of the evaluations	17
3. Adoption of a Resolution by the Assembly	17
ANNEX 1	19
ANNEX 2.a	20

WOAH official recognition of animal health status



* WOAH endorsement of official control programme



Official recognition of animal health status

The official recognition of animal health status of Members is of great significance for international trade and constitutes one of the most important legal links between WOA and World Trade Organization (WTO).

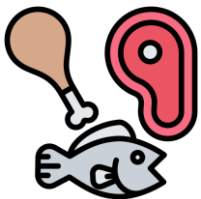
Benefits of official recognition of animal health status include:



Demonstrate compliance with WOA International standards



Protect animal and human health in international trade



Facilitate safe trade of animals and their products



Demonstration of the quality of Veterinary Services.



WOAH endorsement of disease control programmes

Objectives & Benefits include:

Improve the disease situation and eventually attain official recognition of animal health status



Increased engagement of governments in disease control and elimination

Wider access to international expertise and capacity-building activities



Opportunities for stronger coordination in disease control and elimination at regional level



Visibility for facilitation and access to international funding



Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status & endorsement of control programmes



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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 ¹ (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: <i>ad hoc</i> 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 <i>Terrestrial Code: Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>

Step	Time Reference	Responsible person	Action	Reference Document
1.	After the GS	DG	Sends letter to Delegates confirming SCAD and AHGs dates and deadlines for dossiers submission.	



The procedure: Submission of an application

8

- Template Questionnaire
50 pages maximum,
appendices ,
executive summary



- Workplan for official control
programme



- Digitalised maps if relevant
(free zone)



- Proof of payment – fee



- Contact details of technical
staff

- Link to the Questionnaire for :



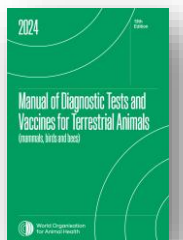
Official recognition
of Status



Endorsement of
Official Control
Programme



- Compliance with the
relevant provisions of
the *Terrestrial Code*.



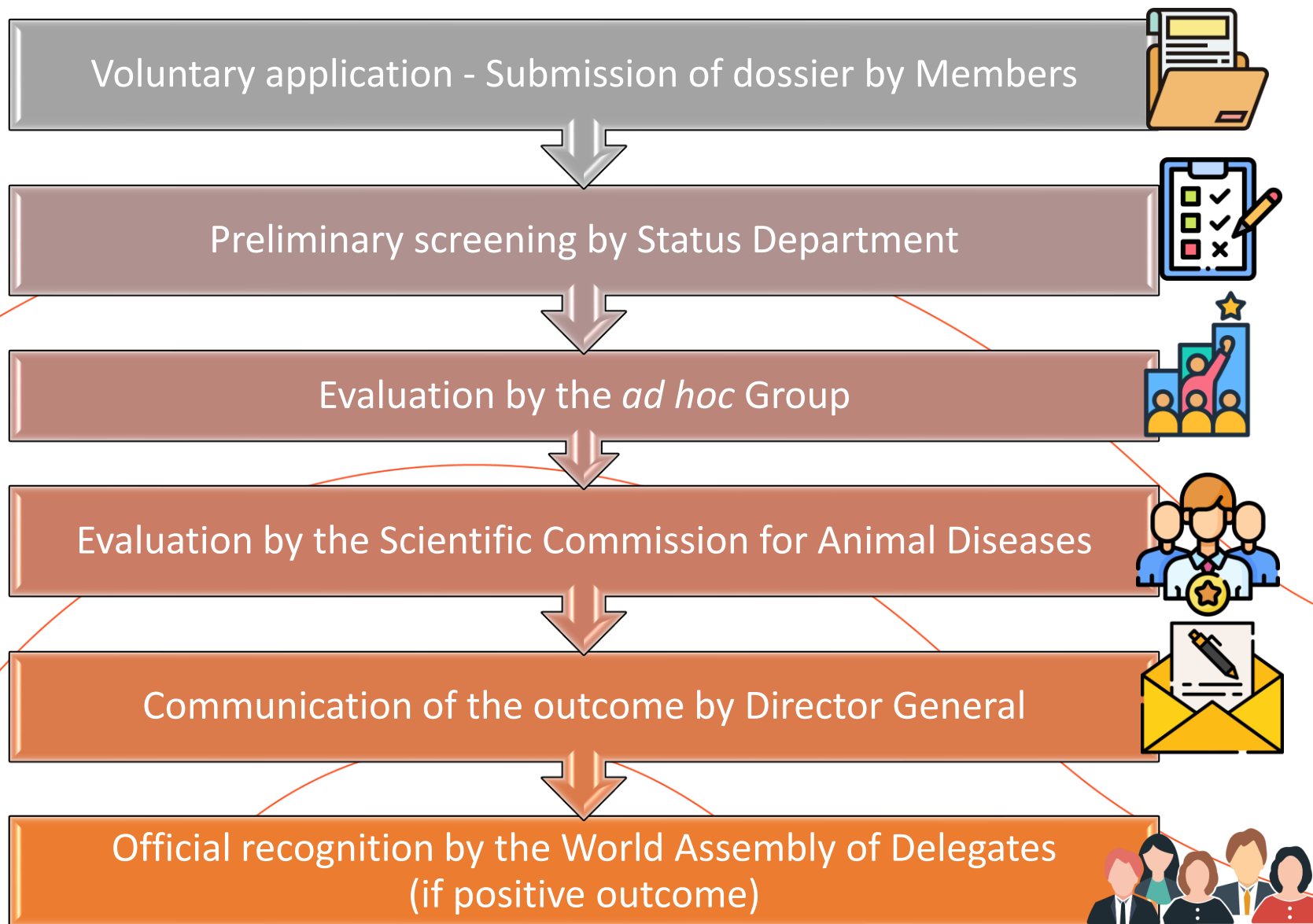
- Documented Evidence





The procedure: Evaluation

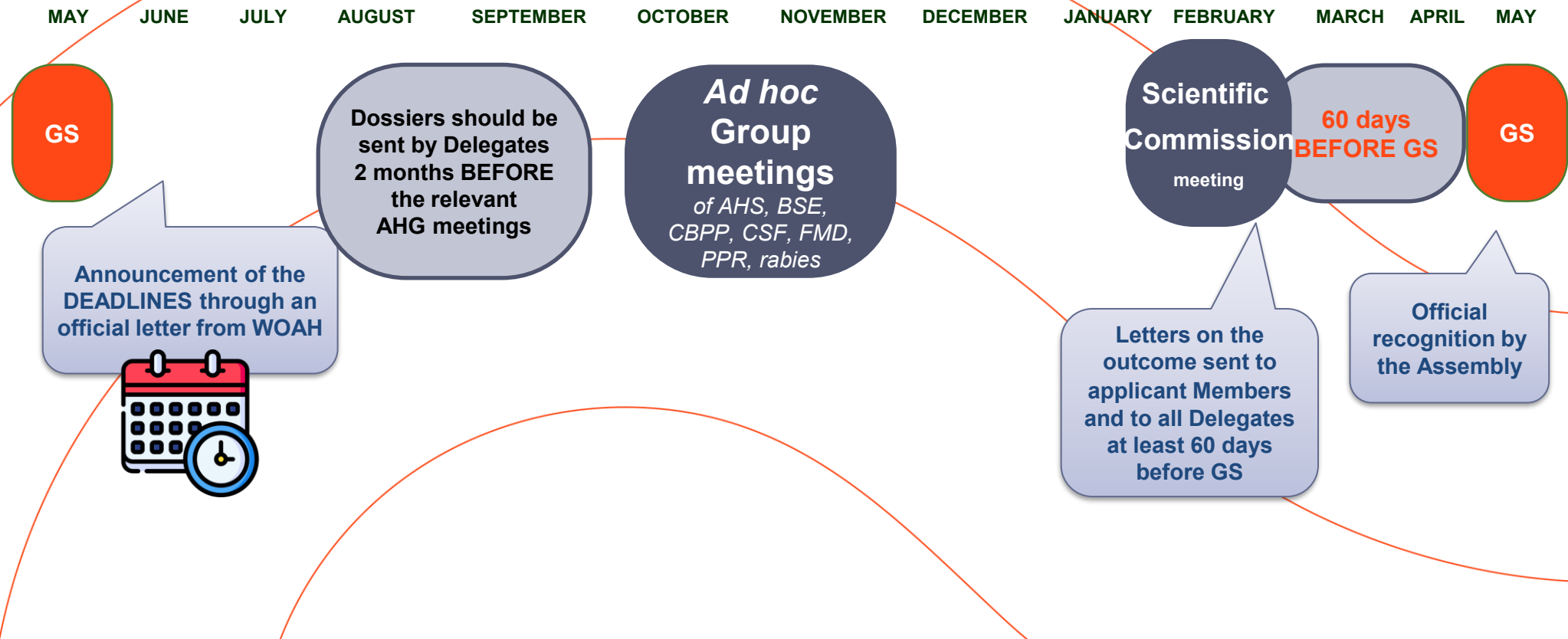
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WOAH calendar meetings:

- Cycle from a General Session to the following one
- Letter from the DG after each General Session announcing dates of the AHG
- Deadline to submit dossier: 2 months before the meeting of the AHG





The procedure: Communication of the outcome

11



Letter from the DG to the applicant Member(s)

Positive outcome

Assessment published
in the Scientific
Commission report

Letter to all
Delegates
60-days period

Negative outcome

Assessment kept confidential
Report provided only to the
applicant Member

Pending a mission

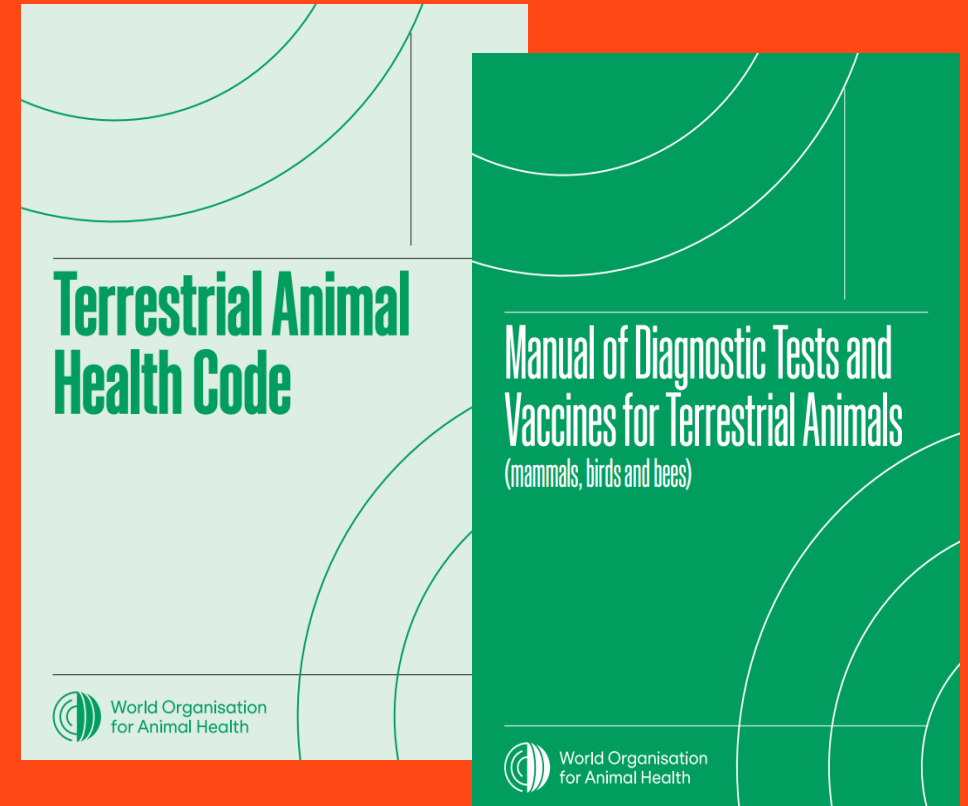


World Assembly of Delegates



Terrestrial Animal Health Code requirements

PPR chapter (14.7) is currently undergoing revision
and Members are invited to submit comments



Horizontal Chapters

- Disease notification (1.1.) compliance with WAHIS
- Animal health surveillance (1.4.) surveillance
- Import risk analysis (2.1.)
- Evaluation of Veterinary Services (3.2.) quality of the Veterinary Services
- Veterinary legislation (3.4.) quality of the Veterinary Services
- Import/export procedures (5)
- Obligations related to certification (5.1.)

PPR Specific Chapter – 14.7.

(most recent update adopted in 2021)

- General provisions, case definition (14.7.1.)
- Safe commodities (14.7.2)
- Criteria for disease status: country, zone or compartment (14.7.3-14.7.7.)
- Provisions for import of commodities (14.7.8.-14.7.25.)
- Pathogen inactivation (14.7.26.)
- Specific disease surveillance (14.7.27.-14.7.33.)
- Endorsement of control programme (14.7.34.)



Case definition

Infection of sheep and goats with PPR-virus is defined as...

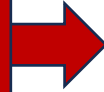
1. Isolation of PPR-virus (*excl. vaccine strains*)
2. Detection of antigen or RNA (*excl. vaccine strains*)
3. Detection of antibodies to PPR-virus (*excl. those resulting from vaccine strains*)





Infection of sheep and goats with PPR-virus is defined as...

Clinical signs or
epidemiological
link



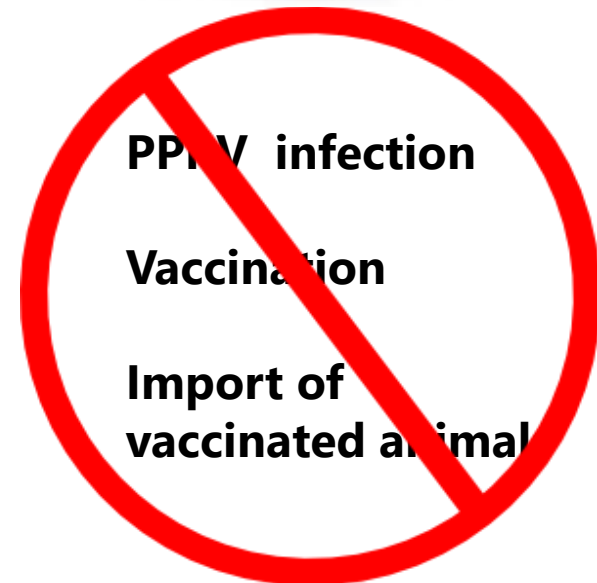
1. Isolation of PPR-virus (*excl. vaccine strains*)
2. Detection of antigen or RNA (*excl. vaccine strains*)
3. Detection of antibodies to PPR-virus



Article 14.7.3. “*The freedom article*”

A country or zone may be considered free from PPR when at least for the past 24 months:

- No case of infection with PPRV
- Veterinary authority has current knowledge and authority over all domestic sheep and goats
- Surveillance has been implemented in accordance with:
 - Article 1.4.6. if historical freedom
 - Articles 14.7.27. to 14.7.33. if not historical freedom
- Measures to prevent the introduction of the infection have been in place (importations or movements)
- No vaccination against PPR has been carried out
- No animals vaccinated against PPR have been introduced since the cessation of vaccination



Article 1.4.6. point 2b “*Historical freedom*”

A country or zone may be considered free without formally applying a pathogen-specific surveillance programme when:

- For at least the past **25 years** there has been no occurrence of infection
- For at least the past **10 years**:
 - ✓ **No vaccination** against the disease has been carried out
 - ✓ The prerequisites in 1.4.6. point a) are met:
 - The infection has been a notifiable disease
 - An early warning system has been in place
 - Measures to prevent the introduction of the infection have been in place (importations and movement control)
 - The infection is not known to be established in wildlife



Article 14.7.8. to 14.7.25: Recommendations for import of commodities

From countries/zones	Importation from PPR free countries or zone	Importation from countries or zones considered infected with PPRV
Domestic sheep and goats and wild ruminants	X	X
Semen of domestic sheep and goats	X	X
Embryos of domestic sheep and goats and captive wild ruminants	X	X
Fresh meat and meat products	X	X
Milk and milk products from sheep and goats	X	X
Meal and flour from blood, defatted bones, hooves, claws and horns from sheep and goats		X
Hooves, claws, bones and horns, hunting trophies from sheep and goats		X
Wool, hair, raw hides and skins from sheep and goats		X
Products of animal origin from sheep and goats intended for pharmaceutical or surgical use		X



Article 14.7.28-30: Surveillance

A PPR surveillance programme should include:

- ✓ Early warning system for rapid reporting and investigation of suspected PPR
- ✓ Where a population of a susceptible wildlife species may act as sentinels indicating the spill over of PPRV from domestic sheep and goats, serosurveillance data should be collected (purposive and opportunistic samplings)

Article 14.7.28-30: Surveillance

A PPR surveillance programme should include:

- ✓ When relevant – regular and frequent clinical inspection and serological testing of high-risk groups
- ✓ **Clinical surveillance** – detects clinical signs of disease
- ✓ **Serological surveillance** – cornerstone of surveillance
- ✓ Article 14.7.31. – Additional surveillance requirements for Member Countries applying for WOAHP endorsement of official PPR-free status



- Any Member may, on a **voluntary basis**, apply for endorsement of its official control programme for PPR
- Objective for Members is to progressively control and eradicate PPR in their territories and **eventually attain** official recognition of PPR-free status by WOAHA
- Control programme should be **applicable to the entire territory** even if implemented on a zonal basis
- Stage 3 of the PPR stepwise approach
- Measures listed in Article 14.7.34. (*“WOAH endorsed official control programme for PPR”*) should **already have been implemented** when the official control programme is presented for adoption, and results of their effectiveness **should be presented**





The Questionnaire (Chapter 1.12)

Article 1.12.3.

Application for endorsement by WOA of an official control programme for peste des petits ruminants

The following information should be provided by WOA Member Countries to support applications for endorsement by WOA of an *official control programme* for peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in accordance with Chapter 14.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The dossier provided to WOA should address concisely all the topics under the headings provided in Sections 1 to 4 to describe the actual situation in the country and the procedures currently applied, explaining how these comply with the *Terrestrial Code*.

In Sections 3 f) to 3 i) describe concisely the work plan and timelines of the control programme for the next five years.

The terminology defined in the WOA *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 WOA official languages. Weblinks to supporting documents in one of the official languages of WOA may also be provided, where they exist.

All annexes should be provided in one of the WOA official languages.

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for endorsement of the *official control programme* should submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 14.7.34. have been properly implemented and supervised. In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit the detailed national official control programme for PPR.

1. Introduction

- a. Geographical features (rivers, mountain ranges, etc.). Provide a general description of the country and *zones*, and where relevant of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to introduction of *infection* and spread of PPR virus, taking into account the countries or *zones* sharing common borders and other epidemiologic pathways for the potential introduction of *infection*. Provide maps identifying the features above. Specify whether the application includes any noncontiguous territories.
- b. If the endorsed plan is implemented in stages to specific parts of the country, the boundaries of the *zones* should be clearly defined, including the *protection zones* if applied. Provide a digitalised, geo-referenced map with a description of the geographical boundaries of the *zones*.
- c. Livestock demographics. Describe the composition of the livestock industry in the country and any *zones*. In particular, describe:
 - i. the susceptible animal *population* by species and types of production systems;
 - ii. the number of *herds* or *flocks*, etc. of each susceptible species;
 - iii. their geographical distribution;



- ✓ To assist Members
- ✓ To assist experts
- ✓ To give more transparency and consistency to the evaluation process
- ✓ To standardise the evaluation among countries



Questionnaire layouts

Official PPR-free status	Endorsement of PPR control programme
Introduction	Introduction
Veterinary system	Veterinary system
PPR eradication	PPR control • Epidemiology • Surveillance • Diagnosis • Strategies • Prevention • Workplan, timeline for next five years, performance indicators, assessment of control programme since its inception, funding and annual budget
PPR diagnosis	Control measures and emergency response
PPR surveillance	
PPR prevention	
Control measures and emergency response	



2. Veterinary services

- Concise summary of legislation relevant for PPR, with cross-reference to annexes
- Clear description of the capability of Veterinary Services as well as consideration of PVS findings (if any)
- Lack of specific info on PPR awareness on the part of farmers, veterinarians and other stakeholders
- Lack of description on identification system, registration, traceability and movement control

3b. PPR Surveillance

- Lack of information on early detection systems and follow-up of PPR suspected cases
- Lack of detail on surveillance design incl. follow-up of positives
- Absence of detailed summary table for at least the last 24 months – suspected, sampled (sample type), tested and testing methods, results (by species)

d. PPR diagnostics

- Clarity on the relationship and level of oversight between National Ref Lab and other labs
- Participation in proficiency testing including results
- Clear statement on the relationship with a WOAHA Reference Laboratory

d. Strategies

- Protocol of the vaccination programme
- Description of vaccine used and compliance with the WOAHA Terrestrial Manual
- Post-vaccination monitoring

4. Control measures and emergency response

- Absence of a contingency plan specific for PPR
- Lack of a description on the structure of compensation



When submitting a dossier for official PPR-free status and endorsement of PPR control programme...

- Respond in full to all questions of the questionnaire and any subsequent questions raised by WOAHA and the *ad hoc* Group experts
- Acknowledge gaps and describe how they are being addressed
- Provide documented evidence whenever possible
- Describe in detail using clear, understandable language – put yourself in the expert's shoes!
- Use WOAHA terminology and refer to WOAHA Standards (*Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual*)



Maintenance of already granted status/endorsed control programme

(Annual reconfirmation)





- Countries with granted official status and endorsed control programme should participate in annual reconfirmation
- Nov-Dec every year
- Online platform
- Respond to questions and provide documented evidence when prompted
- Status/endorsement can be revoked if noncompliance is detected
- Communicated to the Member Delegate by the WOAHC Director General



Thank you for your attention!

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