



NCT_application_SOP

Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country with an official animal health status recognised by WOAH

CONTEXT

WOAH has developed Standard Operating Procedures (Application_SOP) to assist Members with the process relating to the official recognition of a specific animal health status or the endorsement of an official control programme. It is available [here](#).

The above-mentioned SOP highlight the need for applicant countries to specify the territory(ies) covered by the application, including the possible non-contiguous territories (NCT). The decision for this inclusion should be based on administrative and technical aspects, considering that an outbreak in an NCT may have an impact on the status of the mainland.

Following a Member's request and as complement to the above-mentioned SOP, WOAH developed the present Procedure to clarify how Members should claim that their NCT, that were not initially specified in the application for official status recognition, benefit from the already recognised official status of the mainland. The Procedure should be read in complement to the above-mentioned SOP.

Description/ Scope: This procedure describes the process for the preparation, assessment and approval of dossiers for the official recognition of animal health status of non-contiguous territories as part of a country already recognised with an official animal health status.

Related document and process: Procedure and guidelines for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members

List of acronyms: Assembly: World Assembly of Delegates
NCT: Non-contiguous territory(ies)
Terrestrial Code: Terrestrial Animal Health Code

A. Application for official animal health status recognition of non-contiguous territories

1. CONTENT

A dossier should be submitted and contain:

- A **letter signed** by the Delegate requesting the evaluation of the dossier for official recognition of animal health status of NCT as part of a country already recognised with an official animal health status.
- A **one-page executive summary**:
 - Identifying the proposed NCT (possibly more than one) for official status recognition;
 - Specifying official status requested (it can be for more than one disease but this option would require careful attention to WOAH calendar, cf. Section A. 1.6 of the Application_SOP);
 - Declaration of compliance with the all applicable requirements defined in the *Terrestrial Code* (cf. Annex 2.b) of the Application_SOP);
 - Providing an overview of the information submitted in the core document.
- A **core document**, of no more than 50 pages, with possible relevant **appendices** and supportive information for each NCT based on the relevant questionnaire for that particular disease published in Chapters 1.7. to 1.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and in particular providing details on:
 - Livestock and wildlife demographics in the NCT. Slaughterhouses/abattoirs, markets, and events associated with the congregation of susceptible livestock.

- Veterinary system. Legislation and Veterinary Services in place in the NCT and/or how it relates to the Veterinary system of the mainland. How the disease-related activities are supervised and controlled, enforced and monitored in the NCT. The role of producers, farmers, industry and private veterinarians in disease surveillance and control in the NCT (include a description of training and awareness programmes).
- Disease eradication. History, strategy, vaccines and vaccination related to the disease(s) in the NCT.
- Animal identification, traceability and movement control in the NCT and/or how it relates to the system of the mainland.
- Diagnosis. Where laboratory diagnosis for the samples taken from the proposed NCT is performed. The arrangements in place with the laboratories where the samples are sent to, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for obtaining results.
- Surveillance. Documented evidence of:
 - Surveillance for the disease(s) in the proposed NCT complies with the provisions of Article 1.4.6. and the surveillance articles in the relevant disease chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*.
 - Type of surveillance (clinical, virological, serological or a combination of such), the number of suspected cases (if any), and the follow-up testing and/or investigations demonstrating absence of the disease.
- Disease prevention:
 - Coordination with the mainland and neighbouring countries.
 - Import control procedures (regulations and procedures applicable in the NCT).
 - Contingency planning and outbreak response capacity in the NCT.

Relevant appendices may be attached to the core document where they should be clearly cross-referenced.

If the application covers more than one NCT and more than one animal health status, the information should be aggregated first by animal health status and then by each NCT.

The **contact details** (name, phone/fax numbers and email address) of technical staff involved in the preparation of the dossier so that any questions arising before or during the meeting of the relevant *ad hoc* Group or during the meeting of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases could be referred to the Member without delay.

Application fees are not requested for this Procedure - The financial obligation stated in point 2 of Application_SOP does not apply to this process.

2. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Requirements under Section A.1.2. to A.1.6. of the Application_SOP should be followed.

B. Assessment process

The assessment of applications follows the same process as a classic application. Sections B to D of the Application_SOP apply.

C. Official recognition and endorsement by the Assembly

The communication around the applications for official recognition of animal health status of NCT as part of a country already recognised with an official animal health status is managed in a similar way than for classic applications. Section E of the Application_SOP applies, from the individual letters to be sent to the Delegate of the applicant Member to the adoption of the relevant Resolution by the Assembly.

From May 2019, the NCT will be specified in the Resolutions to be proposed for adoption by the Assembly and displayed on the website.