**Questionnaire on risk assessment of infection with rinderpest virus**

Section 1: Preamble

Chapter 8.16. of the [*Terrestrial Animal Health Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_rinderpest.htm) *(Terrestrial Code)* on Infection with rinderpest virus (RPV) requires that, in the event of a re-emergence of rinderpest anywhere in the world, all Members without a case should submit a [*risk assessment*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_appreciation_du_risque) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) so that Members with a heightened risk of an outbreak of rinderpest can be identified and the appropriate surveillance established[[1]](#footnote-1).

A confirmed [*case*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_cas) of rinderpest has been identified in <name of Member>. In accordance with Article [8.16.7](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_rinderpest.htm#article_rinderpest.7.). of the [*Terrestrial Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_code_terrestre), the rinderpest-free status of other countries remains in force, but the free status of individual countries will be suspended if an acceptable [*risk assessment*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_appreciation_du_risque)is not received by WOAH.

The purpose of this document is to assist Members in carrying out this risk assessment and, where heightened risk is identified, collecting the necessary additional information about risk mitigation measures put in place.

Where further information is requested, provide this as an annex to the risk assessment document when returning to WOAH.

For this risk assessment, the term ‘susceptible animals’ means any domestic, feral, captive wild and wild artiodactyls in accordance with Article [8.16.1](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_rinderpest.htm#article_rinderpest.1.). of the [*Terrestrial Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_code_terrestre).

Section 2: Risk Pathways

1) Rinderpest virus can enter a country through several pathways:

a. Through importation of live susceptible animals; such importation may be through official or unofficial channels.

b. Through transboundary movement of live susceptible livestock animals as part of the normal movement of pastoralist or nomadic communities

c. Through transboundary movement of live susceptible livestock animals due to the movement of people under emergency conditions, e.g. fleeing war or drought

d. Through transboundary movement of wild susceptible animals as part of seasonal migration

e. Through the import of semen, oocytes or embryos from susceptible livestock animals.

f. Through import of fresh meat, meat products, unpasteurised milk or products of unpasteurised milk for use in animal feed

g. Similar source of introduction as the index case in <name of Member>

2) While the likelihood of RPV-infected animals or -contaminated products entering through any of these pathways is relatively low during the early stages of rinderpest re-emergence, the consequences of the spread of rinderpest are so severe that steps must be taken to mitigate this risk for any likelihood other than negligible

3) The likelihood of internationally traded meat, milk or related products entering the animal food chain without heat treatment is sufficiently low that it is not further considered in this risk assessment

Section 3: Risk assessment questionnaire. Select/highlight Yes or No where indicated and follow the instructions accordingly.

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| **Question** | **Guidance** | |
| **Yes** | **No** |
| 1. Following the confirmed case of rinderpest in <name of Member>, can you confirm that the competent authority has banned the import from that country of all live susceptible animals and products derived from such animals, apart from the safe commodities listed in 8.16.2. of the [*Terrestrial Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_code_terrestre)? | Provide details of the order or legislation implementing this ban | Provide the reasons for failing to implement such a ban. |
| 1. Has your country imported live susceptible animals, or semen, oocytes or embryos from such animals, directly from or originating in <name of Member> in the 3 months prior to the outbreak of rinderpest in accordance with points 3 and 4 of Article 8.16.13. of the [*Terrestrial Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_code_terrestre)? | Answer question 3 | Skip question 3 and answer question 4 |
| 1. Are all such imported animals and animal products (a) accompanied by an International Veterinary Certificate confirming their health and (b), in the case of live animals, kept in quarantine on entry? | Provide details of the duration of quarantine, the regulations governing the quarantine system and the authority certifying animals as healthy for release from quarantine.  Provide details of the import conditions of animal products.  A copy of the veterinary certificate(s) could be submitted as a supporting document. | **If your answer is No, your country is at heightened risk.** |
| 1. Does your country have a shared border with <name of Member> | Answer the remaining questions | Answer question 8 (Skip questions 5, 6 and 7) |
| 1. In the last three months, has there been any movement of people, possibly accompanied by susceptible animals, from <name of Member> into your country due to civil unrest (e.g. armed conflict) or environmental stress (e.g. drought)? | **If you answer is Yes, your country is at heightened risk.** | Answer question 6. |
| 1. Is there any unregulated movement into your country of live susceptible animals originating in <name of Member> due to unofficial trade in animals or nomad/pastoralist movement of people with their livestock? | **If you answer is Yes, your country is at heightened risk.** | Provide details of how movement of people and animals is controlled over the entire length of your common border with <name of Member>, including physical barriers, number and location of border posts. |
| 1. Is there movement of susceptible wildlife (large ruminants e.g. buffalo, wildebeest, giraffe), originating in <name of Member>, into your country? | **If you answer is Yes, your country is at heightened risk.** | Answer question 8. |
| 1. Have the answers the questions above shown that your country is at heightened risk of RPV infection? | **If your answer is yes, complete Section 4: Risk Mitigation and provide the details of surveillance in accordance with Articles 8.16.4. and 8.16.12.** | If none of the answers to the questions above showed that your country is at heightened risk, go to Section 5: Returning the Risk Assessment. |

Section 4: Risk mitigation

1. If you have reached this point, the risk assessment shows that your country is at heightened risk and risk mitigation actions are therefore required.
2. In accordance with Article [8.16.7.](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=chapitre_rinderpest.htm#article_rinderpest.7.) of the [*Terrestrial Code*](https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmfile=glossaire.htm#terme_code_terrestre), appropriate surveillance should be carried out, “capable of detecting infection with RPV even in the absence of clinical signs”.
3. Provide details of the surveillance programme you have in place that meets this requirement or, if such a surveillance programme is not yet in place, provide details of the planned surveillance programme with timelines for the initiation of individual activities. Where relevant, include details of:
   1. Awareness programmes for animal health professionals, including veterinarians (private and state employed), farmers and livestock keepers. What media were used, what coverage of the target audience was reached and how was this assessed?
   2. Clinical surveillance programmes to be applied, including numbers and qualifications of participating agents carrying out the programmes. What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of rinderpest? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom) and what incentives are there for reporting?
   3. Virological surveillance, including details of criteria for sample collection, who is collecting the samples, how samples are transported, and which laboratories are carrying out tests. Where the participating laboratories are not WOAH Reference Laboratories for rinderpest, provide details of the tests to be carried out and the quality accreditation of the laboratories carrying out this test.

Section 5: Returning the Risk Assessment

Return this document along with any annexes to the Status Department at WOAH ([disease.status@woah.org](mailto:status.department@woah.org)). Include your country name in subject line, e.g. “Rinderpest risk assessment from <your country name>”

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1. The roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders during the emergency management cycle associated with rinderpest re-emergence can be found in the [Global Rinderpest Action Plan](https://www.woah.org/en/document/global-rinderpest-action-plan-2018-2/). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)