

Ad hoc Group on the evaluation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members

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19 to 21 October 2022

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A virtual meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members (hereafter the Group) was held from 19 to 21 October 2022.

1. Opening

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, Deputy Director General for International Standards and Science of WOA, welcomed the Group. She thanked the experts for their availability and contribution to the work of WOA and extended her appreciation to their employers for allowing their participation in this meeting. Dr Arroyo acknowledged the amount of work before, during and that would be done after the meeting in reviewing the dossiers and drafting a detailed report on the assessment. Dr Arroyo thanked the Group for its contribution to this important mandate of WOA.

Dr Arroyo highlighted the importance of the quality of the report to be scrutinised by Members before adopting the proposed list of countries free from PPR. She also encouraged the Group to continue providing detailed feedback to applicant Members with a negative outcome in identifying the main gaps and points for improvement to achieve their desired PPR-free status, as well as providing informative recommendations to those Members with positive outcomes for further improvement in maintenance of their PPR-free status.

Dr Arroyo highlighted the sensitivity and confidentiality of the dossiers for official recognition and thanked the experts for having signed the updated forms for undertaking of confidentiality. She also mentioned that if any members of the Group had any conflict of interest in the evaluation of a dossier, the expert(s) should withdraw from the discussions and decision making of the particular application.

Finally, Dr Arroyo referred to the PPR Global Control and Eradication Strategy (PPR GCES) stressing that it continues to be a priority for WOA and highlighting the importance of Members submitting an application to WOA for the official recognition of their PPR-free status or the endorsement of their PPR control programmes in demonstrating their commitment to the implementation of the GCES.

The experts and WOA welcomed Dr Hiver Boussini as new member of the Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of Chairperson and Rapporteur

The Group was chaired by Dr Giancarlo Ferrari. Dr Michael Baron acted as rapporteur, with the support of WOA Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda.

The Terms of reference, agenda, list of participants are presented as Appendices 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of PPR-free status

The Group assessed requests from two Members for the official recognition of their PPR free status. Based on the final recommendation of the Scientific Commission concluding that the applications did not meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, the dossiers were referred back to the applicant Members.

4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of an official control programme for PPR.

The Group assessed a request of a Member for the endorsement of its official control programme for PPR and concluded that the application did not meet the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*. The dossier was referred back to the applicant Member.

5. Recommendations for the importation of small ruminants from countries or zones infected with PPRV destined for slaughter

From the annual reconfirmation forms received from Members with official PPR-free status as well as from dossiers received from Members applying for the official recognition of their PPR-free status in recent years, WOHAT had observed that certain Members faced difficulties in fully complying with the requirements for importation from infected countries or zones (Article 14.7.10. of the PPR Chapter of the Terrestrial Code) when importing PPR susceptible animals from countries with no official PPR-free status (thus, considered 'infected' by default according to the Terrestrial Code). Some Members have expressed difficulty or questioned the necessity in complying with points 2 and 3 of Article 14.7.10. when susceptible animals were imported for direct slaughter.

In response to a request from the Scientific Commission, the Group considered a discussion paper summarising the issue and proposing to explore the possibility of developing provisions on imports of small ruminants destined for direct slaughter.

The Group agreed that, while the risk of introducing PPR through imports of small ruminants for direct slaughter was lower than through imports of animals intended for breeding, the risk was not negligible considering that the change of the pH in the carcass would not inactivate the PPR virus, which could survive in meat for several days. Therefore, risk mitigation measures would also need to apply for such imports. The Group discussed and proposed a draft article on recommendations for imports of PPR-susceptible animals from an infected country or zone for direct slaughter in a country or zone free from PPR. While a consensus was reached eventually on the relevant provisions, two experts were of the opinion that it was not necessary to impose one of the proposed requirements.

6. Adoption of the report

The Group reviewed and amended the draft report. The Group agreed that the report would be subject to a short period of circulation to the Group for comments and adoption. Upon circulation, the Group agreed that the report captured the discussions.

.../Appendices

Appendix 1 Terms of reference

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON EVALUATION OF PPR STATUS AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

19 to 21 October 2022

Terms of reference

Purpose

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group on the evaluation of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) status and endorsement of official control programmes of Members (the Group) is to evaluate applications for official recognition of PPR status and for endorsement of PPR official control programme of Members. In addition, the Group is requested to provide an opinion and propose draft provisions for 'Recommendations for importation of small ruminants from countries or zones infected with PPRV, destined for slaughter'.

Background

In accordance with the [procedure for official recognition of animal health status](#), Members can be officially recognised by WOAAH as having a PPR-free status or an official PPR control programme endorsed by WOAAH through the adoption of a resolution by the World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) in May every year. A Member wishing to apply for the official recognition of its PPR-free status or for the endorsement of its official control programme for PPR by WOAAH should complete and submit the relevant [questionnaire](#) laid out in Chapter 1.12. of the *Terrestrial Code* and comply with all requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases ([Scientific Commission](#)) is responsible for undertaking, on behalf of the Assembly, the assessment of Members' applications for their compliance with WOAAH standards. The assessment carried out by the Scientific Commission is based on the recommendations formulated by a relevant *ad hoc* Group. *Ad hoc* groups are convened under the authority of and report to the Director General.

Specific issues to be addressed

The Group will evaluate Members' applications in detail on their compliance with the requirements specified in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* for PPR. Based on the evaluations, the Group will provide its conclusions and recommendations to the Scientific Commission.

Pre-requisites

Group members should:

- Sign the Undertaking on Confidentiality of information (if not done already);
- Complete the Declaration of Interest form.
- Understand that the membership of the Group may be retained between *ad hoc* Group meetings to ensure continuity of the work.

Actions to deliver

Before the meeting

Upon reception of an application from a Member, the Status Department (SD) conducts a preliminary screening to check the conformity of the dossier (structure of the dossier in accordance with the SOP and with the questionnaire under Chapter 1.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*, main sections of the questionnaire, regular notification to WOAAH, payment of the fee, Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) report, etc.). If an information gap is identified, the SD requests additional information from the Member.

As the PVS reports are bound by the rules on confidentiality of information of the WOAAH, the SD and experts will consider for the evaluation the available PVS report(s) if not obsolete (PVS reports from more than five years ago) or confidential.

The SD will send the working documents to the Group, including the dossiers received from applicant Members, at least one month before the Group meeting (i.e., **19 September 2022**).

The experts can request support from the SD at any time.

The SD suggests the nomination of a Chair and Rapporteur for the Group's consideration.

The SD can suggest a preparatory meeting with the Chair, the Rapporteur or all experts to address specific points in advance, if needed.

The experts are expected to:

- Be familiar with Chapters [1.12](#), and [14.7](#) of the *Terrestrial Code* and the PPR Chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*;
- Evaluate and study in detail all dossiers provided by WOAAH;
- Take into account any other information available in the public domain that is considered pertinent for the evaluation of the dossiers;
- Summarise the dossiers according to the *Terrestrial Code* requirements by completing the summary tables provided by the SD (the summary tables will be provided at a later stage along with the working documents for the meeting). Experts are expected to capture and summarise in each corresponding section of the summary table the main gaps as well as strengths identified during the assessment of the dossiers, using extracted texts or reference to pages/annexes from the application;
- Draft questions to the applicant Members whenever the analysis of the dossiers identifies incomplete or unclear information;
- Submit to the SD the completed summary tables for each application together with possible questions for the applicant Members at least 10 days before the teleconference and preferably by **7 October 2022**;

The SD will compile the summary tables and the questions to be forwarded to the applicant Members before the teleconference. All subsequent information and material provided by a Member will be forwarded to the Group.

During the meeting

- Agree on the appointment of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting (the Chair will lead the discussion and the Rapporteur will ensure that the report reflects the discussion and captures the detailed assessment of the dossiers);
- Mention any potential conflict of interest and, if relevant, withdraw him/herself from the discussion;
- Contribute to the discussions;
- Provide a detailed report in order to recommend, to the Scientific Commission, the Member(s) and/or zone(s) to be recognised (or not) as free from PPR and/or the official control programme for PPR to be endorsed by WOAAH and to indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the applicant Members.

If during the teleconference the Group decides that additional information should be requested from an applicant Member before an informed conclusion can be drawn, the SD can request it and forward the additional information to the Group at a later date. The Chair is responsible for coordinating the finalisation of the assessment and for ensuring that the views of all members of the Group are taken into consideration.

Should the Group not be able to complete its Terms of Reference during this meeting, experts' contributions will be solicited after the meeting, including by teleconference if needed.

After the meeting

The SD will circulate the draft report after the teleconference is over. Experts are expected to contribute to the finalisation of the report within approximately one week.

The SD will circulate the final version of the report to the Group once endorsed by the Scientific Commission and is published online.

Deliverables

A detailed report to recommend to the Scientific Commission whether an applicant Member(s) should be (or not) recognised with an official PPR-free status or have an official control programme for PPR endorsed by WOAAH. The report should indicate any information gaps or specific areas that should be addressed in the future by the Members. In addition, a clear explanation regarding the inclusion of provisions for importation from countries or zones infected with PPRV destined for slaughter and proposal of draft text if relevant should be provided.

Reporting / Timeline

WOAH will circulate the draft report no more than seven days after the teleconference (no later than 31 October 2022) and the Group will finalise its report within ten days (indicative deadline: 11 November 2022).

Appendix 2 Agenda

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP ON EVALUATION OF PPR STATUS AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

19 to 21 October 2022

AGENDA

1. Opening
 2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of Chair and Rapporteur
 3. Evaluation of applications from Members for official recognition of PPR-free status
 4. Evaluation of an application from a Member for the endorsement of its official control programme for PPR
 5. Recommendations on importation of small ruminants from countries or zones infected with PPRV, destined for slaughter
 6. Finalisation and adoption of the report
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Appendix 3 List of Participants

AD HOC GROUP ON EVALUATION OF PPR STATUS AND ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

19 to 21 October 2022

List of Participants

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