**Article 1.7.1.**

**Country free from infection with African horse sickness virus**

The following information should be provided by WOAH Member Countries to support applications for official recognition of status as a country free from *infection* with African horse sickness (AHS) virus in accordance with Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

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

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

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

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for recognition of AHS freedom for a country must demonstrate compliance with the *Terrestrial Code*. That is, the Delegate should submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2. have been properly implemented and supervised.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit a declaration indicating that:

1. there has been no *case* of *infection* with AHS virus for at least the past two years;
2. no routine *vaccination* against AHS has been carried out during the past year;
3. and that any equids imported have been done so in accordance with Chapter 12.1.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country applying for recognition of historical freedom must also submit documentary evidence that the provisions in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* have been properly implemented and supervised.

# 1. Introduction

1. Geographical features (rivers, mountain ranges, etc.). Provide a general description of the country and, where relevant, of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to introduction of *infection* and spread of AHS virus, taking into account the countries sharing common borders and otherepidemiologic pathways for the potential introduction of *infection*. Provide maps identifying the features above. Specify whether the application includes any noncontiguous territories.
2. Demographics of domestic equids. Describe the composition of the equine *population* by species (e.g. horses, donkeys, mules, zebras, etc.) within the various sectors.

Equine sectors are defined as equids (including donkeys, mules, hinnies and zebras) used for breeding stock, competition, leisure, exhibition, working (including transport) and production. How are the equine sectors distributed (e.g. density, etc.) throughout the country? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.

1. Equine sectors. Provide a general description of the relative economic importance of the equine sectors in the country. Consider the below-mentioned sector groupings and outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector groupings (attach relevant documents if available):
2. breeding stock equids;
3. competition horses;
4. leisure equids;
5. exhibition equids;
6. working, transport and production equids (including donkeys, mules and hinnies).
7. *Wildlife* demographics. What *captive wild*, *wild* or *feral* equids are present in the country? Provide estimates of *population* sizes and geographic distribution.

# 2. Veterinary system

1. Legislation. Provide a table (and when available a weblink) listing all relevant veterinary legislation, regulations and *Veterinary Authority* directives in relation to AHS and a brief description of the relevance of each. The table should include, but not be limited to, the legislation on disease control measures and compensation systems.
2. *Veterinary Services*. Describe how the *Veterinary Services* of the country comply with Chapters 1.1., 3.2. and 3.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Describe how the *Veterinary Services* supervise, control, enforce and monitor all AHS-related activities. Provide maps, figures and tables wherever possible.
3. Provide information on any PVS evaluation conducted in the country and follow-up steps within the PVS Pathway and highlight the results relevant to AHS and the susceptible species.
4. Provide a description of the involvement and the participation of industry, producers, farmers, including subsistence and small-scale producers, keepers, *veterinary paraprofessionals* including community animal health workers, and other relevant groups in AHS *surveillance* and control. Provide a description of the role and structure of the private veterinary sector, including the number of *veterinarians* and their distribution, in AHS *surveillance* and control. Include a description of continuing education and awareness programmes on AHS at all relevant levels.
5. *Animal identification*, registration, traceability and movement control. Are equids identified (individually or at a group level)? Provide a description of the traceability system, including methods of *animal identification* and *establishment* or *herd* registration, applicable to all equine sectors. How are movements of equids controlled in the country for all equine sectors? Provide evidence of the effectiveness of *animal identification* and movement controls and a table describing the number, species, origin and destination of the animals and their products moved within the country in the past 24 months. Provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related paths of movement.

Describe the *risk management* strategy for uncontrolled movements of susceptible species (e.g. seasonal migration).

Describe the actions available under national legislation. Provide information on illegal movements detected in the past 24 months and the action taken.

1. Leisure, exhibition and competition movements of equids. How are movements of these types of equids controlled in the country? Provide information on systems including any use of registration. Provide information on any events that include international movements of equids.
2. Describe the market systems for the sale of, or transfer of ownership of, equids in the country, including where the international movement of equids occurs.

# 3. AHS eradication

1. History. If *infection* has never occurred in the country, or has not occurred within the past 25 years, state explicitly whether or not the country is applying for recognition of historical freedom according to Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

If *infection* has occurred in the country within the past 25 years, provide a description of the AHS history in the country, with emphasis on recent years. If applicable, provide tables and maps showing the date of first detection, the sources and routes of introduction of *infection*, the temporal and spatial distribution (number and location of *outbreaks* per year), the susceptible species involved, and the date of last *case* or *eradication* in the country.

1. Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated (e.g. isolation of *cases*, *stamping-out policy*, zoning, movement control, protection of equids against *vectors*). Provide the time frame for *eradication*. Describe and justify the corrective actions that have been implemented to prevent future *outbreaks* of AHS in response to any past incursions of AHS virus.
2. Vaccines and *vaccination*. Briefly answer the following:
	1. Is there any legislation that prohibits *vaccination*? If so:
		* Provide the date when *vaccination* was formally prohibited;
		* Provide information on cases of detection of illegal *vaccination* during the reporting period and actions taken in response to the detection.
	2. Was *vaccination* ever used in the country? If so:
		* Provide the date when the last *vaccination* was carried out; – What type of vaccine was used?
		* What species were vaccinated?
		* How were vaccinated animals identified?
		* What was the fate of those animals?
	3. In addition, if *vaccination* was applied during the past 24 months, provide a description and justification of the *vaccination* strategy and programme, including the following:
		* the vaccine strains;
		* the species vaccinated;
		* identification of vaccinated animals;
		* the way in which the *vaccination* of animals was certified or reported and the records maintained;
		* evidence that the vaccine used complies with Chapter 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
3. Provide a description of the legislation, organisation and implementation of the *eradication* campaign. Outline the legislation applicable to the *eradication* and how the campaign was organised at different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines exist and give a brief summary.

# 4. AHS diagnosis

Provide documentary evidence that the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.1.2., 1.1.3. and 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual* are applied. The following points should be addressed:

1. Is AHS *laboratory* diagnosis carried out in the country? If so, provide an overview of the AHS-approved *laboratories* in the country, including the following:
	1. How the work is shared between different *laboratories*, logistics for shipment of samples, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for reporting results;
	2. Details of test capability and the types of tests undertaken and their performance for their applied use (specificity and sensitivity per type of test). Provide details of the number of AHS tests performed in the past 24 months in national *laboratories* and in *laboratories* in other countries, if relevant;
	3. Procedures for quality assurance and for the official accreditation of *laboratories*. Give details of formal internal quality management systems, e.g. Good Laboratory Practice, ISO, etc. that exist in, or are planned for, the *laboratory* system;
	4. Provide details of performance in inter-*laboratory* validation tests (ring trials), including the most recent results and, if applicable, the corrective measures applied;
	5. Provide details of the handling of live pathogenic agent, including a description of the biosecurity and biosafety measures applied;
	6. Provide a table identifying the tests carried out by each of the *laboratories* where they are performed, the quality accreditation and biosecurity standards followed and the proficiency tests carried out.
2. If AHS *laboratory* diagnosis is not carried out in the country, provide the names of the *laboratories* in other countries providing the service as well as the arrangements in place, including logistics for shipment of samples and the time frame for reporting results.

# 5. AHS surveillance

Provide documentary evidence that *surveillance* for AHS in the country complies with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and Chapter 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The following information should be included:

1. What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom) and what incentives are there for reporting and what penalties are involved for failure to report?
2. Describe how clinical *surveillance* is conducted, including which equine sectors are included in clinical *surveillance*, such as *establishments*, markets, fairs, *slaughterhouses/abattoirs*, check points, etc.

Provide a summary table indicating, for the past 24 months, the number of suspected *cases*, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing methods and results (including differential diagnosis). Provide an indication of the timelines of the response including completion of testing to confirm or exclude AHS. Provide details of follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results.

1. Other *surveillance*. Is *surveillance* undertaken as described in Article 12.1.13., specifically:

 i) Serological *surveillance*.

ii) Virological *surveillance* including genome or antigen detection.

iii) Sentinel animals.

iv) *Vector* *surveillance*.

If so, provide detailed information on the target population, design prevalence, confidence level, sample size, stratification, sampling methods and diagnostic tests used in accordance with Articles 12.1.11. and 12.1.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*. How frequently are they conducted? Which equine species are included? Are *wildlife* species included? If not, explain the rationale.

Provide a summary table and maps indicating detailed results for at least the past 24 months. Provide details of follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results and how these findings are acted upon. Provide criteria for selection of *populations* for targeted surveillance and numbers of equids examined and samples tested in diagnostic *laboratories*. Provide details of the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the *surveillance* programme including indicators.

1. Provide information on risks in the different equine sectors, and provide evidence that targeted studies are implemented to address gaps (e.g. targeted serological surveys, active *surveillance*, participatory epidemiology studies, *risk assessments*, etc.). Provide evidence of how the knowledge acquired through these activities assisted in more effective implementation of control measures.
2. Provide details of the oversight of *surveillance* programmes by the *Veterinary Services* including training programmes for personnel involved in clinical, serological, virological and other *surveillance*, and the approaches used to increase community involvement in AHS *surveillance* programmes.

6. AHS prevention

Describe the procedures in place to prevent the introduction of AHS into the country, including details of:

1. Coordination with other countries. Describe any relevant factors in neighbouring countries that should be taken into account (e.g. size, distance from the border to affected *herds* or animals, wind currents and possible *vector* spread)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information-sharing activities with other countries in the same region or ecosystem.

If the AHS free country borders an infected country or *zone*, describe the animal health measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the pathogenic agent or *vectors*, taking into consideration the seasonal *vector* conditions and existing physical, geographical and ecological barriers.

Are *protection zones* in place? If so, provide details of the measures that are applied (e.g. *vaccination*, intensified *surveillance*, density control of susceptible species), and provide a geo-referenced map of the *zones*.

1. Describe the measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the pathogenic agent, taking into consideration physical or geographical barriers. Describe the measures implemented to prevent the spread of the pathogenic agent within the country. Provide evidence that measures to reduce transmission of AHS are in place at markets, such as enhancing awareness of AHS transmission mechanisms and human behaviour that can interrupt transmission, and implementation of good *biosecurity*, hygiene and *disinfection* routines at critical points all along the production and marketing networks (typically where animals are being moved and marketed through the country or region).
2. Import control procedures

Provide information on countries, *zones* or *compartments* from which the country authorises the import of susceptible animals or their products into the country. Describe the criteria applied to approve such countries, *zones* or *compartments*, the controls applied to entry of such animals and products, and subsequent internal movement. Describe the import measures (e.g. quarantine) and test procedures required. Advise whether imported animals of susceptible species are required to undergo a quarantine or isolation period and, if so, the duration and location of quarantine. Advise whether import permits and *international veterinary certificates* are required.

Describe any other procedures used for assessing the *risks* posed by import of susceptible animals or their products. Provide summary statistics on imports of susceptible animals and their products for at least the past 24 months, including temporary import and re-entry, specifying countries, *zones* or *compartments* of origin, species and the quantity or volume and eventual destination in the country. Provide information on whether or not *outbreaks* have been related to imports or transboundary movements of domestic equids.

* 1. Provide a map showing the number and location of all ports, airports and land border crossings. Describe the management structure, staffing levels and resources of the service responsible for import controls and its accountability to the central *Veterinary Services*. Describe the communication systems between the central authorities and the *border posts*, and between *border posts*.
	2. Cite the regulations and describe procedures, type and frequency of checks, and management of noncompliance at the points of entry into the country or their final destination, concerning the import and follow-up of the following:
		+ equids;
		+ genetic material (semen, oocytes and embryos of the equine species);
		+ equine derived (by-)products;
		+ *veterinary medicinal products*.

# 7. Control measures and contingency planning

1. List any written guidelines, including contingency plans, available to the *Veterinary Services* for dealing with suspected or confirmed *outbreaks* of AHS. The contingency plan should be attached as an annex in one of the WOAH official languages. If not available, provide a brief summary of what is covered. Provide information on any simulation exercise for AHS that was conducted in the country in the past five years.
2. In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS *outbreak*:
	1. Are quarantine measures imposed on *establishments* with suspected *cases*, pending final diagnosis? What other procedures are followed with respect to suspected *cases* (e.g. standstills)?
	2. Indicate the sampling, dispatch and testing procedures that would be used to identify and confirm presence of the pathogenic agent;
	3. Describe the actions that would be taken to control the disease situation in and around the *establishments* where the *outbreak* is confirmed;
	4. Provide a detailed description of the control or *eradication* procedures (e.g. forward and backward tracing, movement control, *disinfection* of *establishments*, *vehicles* and equipment, including verification methods, *vaccination*, *stamping-out policy*, *vector*-protected stabling, methods of disposal of carcasses and other contaminated products or materials, decontamination, campaigns to promote awareness of farmers) that would be taken. In the case of emergency *vaccination*, indicate the source and type of vaccine and provide details of any vaccine supply scheme and stocks;
	5. Describe the criteria and procedures that would be used to confirm that an *outbreak* has been successfully controlled or eradicated, including restocking strategies, use of sentinel animals, serological *surveillance* programmes, etc.;
	6. Give details of any compensation that would be made available to owners, farmers, etc. when animals are slaughtered for disease control or *eradication* purposes and the prescribed timetable for payments; vii) Describe how control efforts, including *vaccination* and *biosecurity*, would target critical risk control points.

# 8. Recovery of free status

Member Countries applying for recognition of recovery of free status for a country should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* and provide detailed information as specified in Sections 3 a), 3 b), 3 c) and 6 of this questionnaire. Information in relation to other sections need only be supplied if relevant.

**Article 1.7.2.**

**Zone free from infection with African horse sickness virus**

The following information should be provided by WOAH Member Countries to support applications for official recognition of status as a *zone* free from *infection* with African horse sickness virus in accordance with Chapter 12.1. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

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

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

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

The Delegate of the Member Country applying for recognition of AHS freedom for a *zone* must demonstrate compliance with the *Terrestrial Code*. That is, the Delegate should submit documentary evidence that the provisions of Article 12.1.2. have been properly implemented and supervised.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country must submit a declaration indicating that:

1. there has been no *case* of *infection* with AHS virus for at least the past two years in the *zone*;
2. no routine *vaccination* against AHS has been carried out during the past year in the *zone*;
3. and that any equids imported into the *zone* have been done so in accordance with Chapter 12.1.

In addition, the Delegate of the Member Country applying for recognition of historical freedom must also submit documentary evidence that the provisions in Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* have been properly implemented and supervised.

# 1. Introduction

1. Geographical features (rivers, mountain ranges, etc.). Provide a general description of the country and the *zone*, and where relevant of the region, including physical, geographical and other factors that are relevant to introduction of *infection* and spread of AHS virus, taking into account the countries or *zones* sharing common borders and other epidemiologic pathways for the potential introduction of *infection*.

The boundaries of the *zone* must be clearly defined, including a *protection zone* if applied. Provide maps identifying the features above, including a digitalised, geo-referenced map with a precise text description of the geographical boundaries of the *zone*.

1. Demographics of domestic equids. Describe the composition of the equine *population* by species (e.g. horses, donkeys, mules, zebras, etc.) within the various sectors in the country and the *zone*.

Equine sectors are defined as equids (including donkeys, mules, hinnies and zebras) used for breeding stock, competition, leisure, exhibition, working (including transport) and production. How are the equine sectors distributed (e.g. density, etc.) throughout the country and the *zone*? Provide tables and maps as appropriate.

1. Equine sectors. Provide a general description of the relative economic importance of the equine sectors in the country and the *zone*. Consider the below-mentioned sector groupings and outline any recent significant changes observed within the sector groupings (attach relevant documents if available):
2. breeding stock equids;
	1. competition horses;

iii) leisure equids;

iv) exhibition equids;

v) working, transport and production equids (including donkeys, mules and hinnies).

1. *Wildlife* demographics. What *captive wild*, *wild* or *feral* equids are present in the country and the *zone*?
Provide estimates of *population* sizes and geographic distribution.

# 2. Veterinary system

1. Legislation. Provide a table (and when available a weblink) listing all relevant veterinary legislation, regulations and *Veterinary Authority* directives in relation to AHS and a brief description of the relevance of each. The table should include, but not be limited to, the legislation on disease control measures and compensation systems.
2. *Veterinary Services*. Describe how the *Veterinary Services* of the country comply with Chapters 1.1., 3.2. and 3.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Describe how the *Veterinary Services* supervise, control, enforce and monitor all AHS-related activities. Provide maps, figures and tables wherever possible.
3. Provide information on any PVS evaluation conducted in the country and follow-up steps within the PVS Pathway and highlight the results relevant to AHS and the susceptible species.
4. Provide a description of the involvement and the participation of industry, producers, farmers, including subsistence and small-scale producers, keepers, *veterinary paraprofessionals* including community animal health workers, and other relevant groups in AHS *surveillance* and control. Provide a description of the role and structure of the private veterinary sector, including the number of *veterinarians* and their distribution, in AHS *surveillance* and control. Include a description of continuing education and awareness programmes on AHS at all relevant levels.
5. *Animal identification*, registration, traceability and movement control. Are equids identified (individually or at a group level)? Provide a description of the traceability system, including methods of *animal identification* and *establishment* or *herd* registration, applicable to all equine sectors. How are movements of equids controlled in and between *zones* of the same or different status for all equine sectors? Provide evidence of the effectiveness of *animal identification* and movement controls and a table describing the number, species, origin and destination of the animals and their products moved within the country in the past 24 months. Provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related paths of movement.

Describe the *risk management* strategy for uncontrolled movements of susceptible species (e.g. seasonal migration).

Describe the actions available under national legislation. Provide information on illegal movements detected in the past 24 months and the action taken.

1. Leisure, exhibition and competition movements of equids. How are movements of these types of equids controlled in the country and the *zones*? Provide information on systems including any use of registration. Provide information on any events that include international movements of equids.
2. Describe the market systems for the sale of, or transfer of ownership of, equids in the country and the *zones*, including where the international movement of equids occurs.

# 3. AHS eradication

1. History. If *infection* has never occurred in the country, or has not occurred within the past 25 years, state explicitly whether or not the *zone* is applying for recognition of historical freedom according to Article 1.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

If *infection* has occurred in the *zone* within the past 25 years, provide a description of the AHS history in the country and *zone*, with emphasis on recent years. If applicable, provide tables and maps showing the date of first detection, the sources and routes of introduction of *infection*, the temporal and spatial distribution (number and location of *outbreaks* per year), the susceptible species involved, and the date of last *case* or *eradication* in the *zone*.

1. Strategy. Describe how AHS was controlled and eradicated in the *zone* (e.g. isolation of *cases*, *stamping-out policy*, zoning, movement control, protection of equids against *vectors*). Provide the time frame for *eradication*. Describe and justify the corrective actions that have been implemented to prevent future *outbreaks* of AHS in response to any past incursions of AHS virus.
2. Vaccines and *vaccination*. Briefly answer the following:
	1. Is there any legislation that prohibits *vaccination*? If so:
		* Provide the date when *vaccination* was formally prohibited;
		* Provide information on cases of detection of illegal *vaccination* during the reporting period and actions taken in response to the detection.
	2. Was *vaccination* ever used in the country? If so:
		* Provide the date when the last *vaccination* was carried out;
		* What type of vaccine was used in the *zone* and the rest of the country?
		* What species were vaccinated?
		* How were vaccinated animals identified? – What was the fate of those animals?
	3. In addition, if *vaccination* was applied during the past 24 months, provide a description and justification of the *vaccination* strategy and programme, including the following:
		* the vaccine strains;
		* the species vaccinated;
		* identification of vaccinated animals;
		* the way in which the *vaccination* of animals was certified or reported and the records maintained;
		* evidence that the vaccine used complies with Chapter 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.
3. Provide a description of the legislation, organisation and implementation of the *eradication* campaign. Outline the legislation applicable to the *eradication* and how the campaign was organised at different levels. Indicate if detailed operational guidelines exist and give a brief summary.

# 4. AHS diagnosis

Provide documentary evidence that the relevant provisions of Chapters 1.1.2., 1.1.3. and 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual* are applied. The following points should be addressed:

1. Is AHS *laboratory* diagnosis carried out in the country? If so, provide an overview of the AHS-approved *laboratories* in the country. Indicate the *laboratories* where samples originating from the *zone* are diagnosed. Address the following points:
	1. How the work is shared between different *laboratories*, logistics for shipment of samples, the follow-up procedures and the time frame for reporting results;
	2. Details of test capability and the types of tests undertaken and their performance for their applied use (specificity and sensitivity per type of test). Provide details of the number of AHS tests performed in the past 24 months in national *laboratories* and in *laboratories* in other countries, if relevant;
	3. Procedures for quality assurance and for the official accreditation of *laboratories*. Give details of formal internal quality management systems, e.g. Good Laboratory Practice, ISO, etc. that exist in, or are planned for, the *laboratory* system;
	4. Provide details of performance in inter-*laboratory* validation tests (ring tests), including the most recent results and, if applicable, the corrective measures applied;
	5. Provide details of the handling of live pathogenic agent, including a description of the biosecurity and biosafety measures applied;
	6. Provide a table identifying the tests carried out by each of the *laboratories* where they are performed, the quality accreditation and biosecurity standards followed and the proficiency tests carried out.
2. If AHS *laboratory* diagnosis is not carried out in the country, provide the names of the *laboratories* in other countries providing the service as well as the arrangements in place, including logistics for shipment of samples and the time frame for reporting results.

# 5. AHS surveillance

Provide documentary evidence that *surveillance* for AHS in the *zone* complies with Articles 12.1.11. to 12.1.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*, and Chapter 3.5.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The following information should be included:

1. What are the criteria for raising a suspicion of AHS? What is the procedure to notify (by whom and to whom) and what incentives are there for reporting and what penalties are involved for failure to report?
2. Describe how clinical *surveillance* is conducted, including which equine sectors are included in clinical *surveillance*, such as *establishments*, markets, fairs, *slaughterhouses/abattoirs*, check points, etc.

Provide a summary table indicating, for the past 24 months, the number of suspected *cases*, the number of samples tested for AHS, species, type of sample, testing methods and results (including differential diagnosis). Provide an indication of the timelines of the response including completion of testing to confirm or exclude AHS. Provide details of follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results.

1. Other *surveillance*. Is *surveillance* undertaken as described in Article 12.1.13., specifically:

i) Serological *surveillance*.

* 1. Virological *surveillance* including genome or antigen detection.
	2. Sentinel animals. iv) *Vector* *surveillance*.

If so, provide detailed information on the target population, design prevalence, confidence level, sample size, stratification, sampling methods and diagnostic tests used in accordance with Articles 12.1.11. and 12.1.13. of the *Terrestrial Code*. How frequently are they conducted? Which equine species are included? Are *wildlife* species included? If not, explain the rationale.

Provide a summary table and maps indicating detailed results for at least the past 24 months. Provide details of follow-up actions taken on all suspicious and positive results and how these findings are acted upon. Provide criteria for selection of *populations* for targeted surveillance and numbers of equids examined and samples tested in diagnostic *laboratories*. Provide details of the methods selected and applied for monitoring the performance of the *surveillance* programme including indicators.

1. Provide information on risks in the different equine sectors, and provide evidence that targeted studies are implemented to address gaps (e.g. targeted serological surveys, active *surveillance*, participatory epidemiology studies, *risk assessments*, etc.). Provide evidence of how the knowledge acquired through these activities assisted in more effective implementation of control measures.
2. Provide details of the oversight of *surveillance* programmes by the *Veterinary Services* including training programmes for personnel involved in clinical, serological and virological *surveillance*, and the approaches used to increase community involvement in AHS *surveillance* programmes.

# 6. AHS prevention

Describe the procedures in place to prevent the introduction of AHS into the country or *zone*, including details of:

1. Coordination with other countries. Describe any relevant factors in neighbouring countries and *zones* that should be taken into account (e.g. size, distance from the border to affected *herds* or animals, wind currents and possible *vector* spread)? Describe coordination, collaboration and information-sharing activities with other countries and *zones* in the same region or ecosystem.

If the AHS free *zone* is established in an AHS infected country or borders an infected country or *zone*, describe the animal health measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the pathogenic agent or *vectors*, taking into consideration the seasonal *vector* conditions and existing physical, geographical and ecological barriers.

Are *protection zones* in place? If so, indicate whether or not the *protection zones* are included in the proposed free *zones*. Provide details of the measures that are applied (e.g. *vaccination*, intensified *surveillance*, density control of susceptible species), and provide a geo-referenced map of the *zones*.

1. Describe the measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the pathogenic agent, taking into consideration physical or geographical barriers. Describe the measures implemented to prevent the spread of the pathogenic agent within the country or *zone*. Provide evidence that measures to reduce transmission of AHS are in place at markets, such as enhancing awareness of AHS transmission mechanisms and human behaviour that can interrupt transmission, and implementation of good *biosecurity*, hygiene and *disinfection* routines at critical points all along the production and marketing networks (typically where animals are being moved and marketed through the country or region).
2. Import control procedures

Provide information on countries, *zones* or *compartments* from which the country authorises the import of susceptible animals or their products into the country or *zone*. Describe the criteria applied to approve such countries, *zones* or *compartments*, the controls applied to entry of such animals and products, and subsequent internal movement. Describe the import measures (e.g. quarantine) and test procedures required. Advise whether imported animals of susceptible species are required to undergo a quarantine or isolation period and, if so, the duration and location of quarantine. Advise whether import permits and *international veterinary certificates* are required.

Describe any other procedures used for assessing the *risks* posed by import of susceptible animals or their products. Provide summary statistics on imports of susceptible animals and their products for at least the past 24 months, including temporary import and re-entry, specifying countries, *zones* or *compartments* of origin, species and the quantity or volume and eventual destination in the country or *zone*. Provide information on whether or not *outbreaks* have been related to imports or transboundary movements of domestic equids.

* 1. Provide a map showing the number and location of all ports, airports and land border crossings. Describe the management structure, staffing levels and resources of the service responsible for import controls and its accountability to the central *Veterinary Services*. Describe the communication systems between the central authorities and the *border posts*, and between *border posts*.
	2. Cite the regulations and describe procedures, type and frequency of checks, and management of noncompliance at the points of entry into the *zone* or their final destination, concerning the import and follow-up of the following:
		+ equids;
		+ genetic material (semen, oocytes and embryos of the equine species);
		+ equine derived (by-)products;
		+ *veterinary medicinal products*.

# 7. Control measures and contingency planning

1. List any written guidelines, including contingency plans, available to the *Veterinary Services* for dealing with suspected or confirmed *outbreaks* of AHS. The contingency plan should be attached as an annex in one of the WOAH official languages. If not available, provide a brief summary of what is covered. Provide information on any simulation exercise for AHS that was conducted in the country in the past five years.
2. In the event of a suspected or confirmed AHS *outbreak*:
	1. Are quarantine measures imposed on *establishments* with suspected *cases*, pending final diagnosis? What other procedures are followed with respect to suspected *cases* (e.g. standstills)?
	2. Indicate the sampling, dispatch and testing procedures that would be used to identify and confirm presence of the pathogenic agent;
	3. Describe the actions that would be taken to control the disease situation in and around the *establishments* where the *outbreak* is confirmed;
	4. Provide a detailed description of the control or *eradication* procedures (e.g. forward and backward tracing, movement control, *disinfection* of *establishments*, *vehicles* and equipment, including verification methods, *vaccination*, *stamping-out policy*, *vector*-protected stabling, methods of disposal of carcasses and other contaminated products or materials, decontamination, campaigns to promote awareness of farmers) that would be taken. In the case of emergency *vaccination*, indicate the source and type of vaccine and provide details of any vaccine supply scheme and stocks;
	5. Describe the criteria and procedures that would be used to confirm that an *outbreak* has been successfully controlled or eradicated, including restocking strategies, use of sentinel animals, serological *surveillance* programmes, etc.;
	6. Give details of any compensation that would be made available to owners, farmers, etc. when animals are slaughtered for disease control or *eradication* purposes and the prescribed timetable for payments; vii) Describe how control efforts, including *vaccination* and *biosecurity*, would target critical risk control points.

# 8. Recovery of free status

Member Countries applying for recognition of recovery of free status for a *zone* should comply with the provisions of Article 12.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Code* and provide detailed information as specified in Sections 3 a), 3 b), 3 c) and 6 of this questionnaire. Information in relation to other sections need only be supplied if relevant.