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SELF-DECLARATION BY MEXICO AS A *COUNTRY HISTORICALLY FREE FROM GLANDERS*-.

Declaration sent to the OIE on June 13, 2019 by Dr. Juan Gay Gutiérrez¹, OIE Delegate of Mexico, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Service of Health, Agrifood Safety and Quality SENASICA, General Directorate of Animal Health.

I. Glanders situation.

1.1 Proof that it is a notifiable disease to the competent national authorities:

Responsibility for regulating, administering and promoting health, and food safety and quality activities to reduce the inherent risks in livestock, for the benefit of Mexican farmers, consumers and the industry falls to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER), through the National Health Service, Food Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA).

Glanders is notifiable to SADER-SENASICA, and its epidemiological surveillance is based on the following legal instruments published in the Official Journal of the Federation.

- i. 16 February 1988.- Agreement to set up the National Animal Health Emergency System in the Secretariat for Agriculture and Water Resources ([Annex II](#)).
- ii. 19 February 1997.- NOM-046-ZOO-1995, National Epidemiological Surveillance System (SIVE) ([Annex III](#)) amended on 29 January 2001 ([Annex IIIa](#)).
- iii. 8 June 1998.- NOM-054-ZOO-1996, Quarantine stations for animals and animal products ([Annex IV](#)).
- iv. 11 January 1996.- NOM-027-ZOO-1996, Animal health process for semen from domestic animals ([Annex V](#)).

¹ Declaration by the Delegate of Mexico to the OIE (Annex 1)

- v. 25 July 2007.- Federal Animal Health Law, latest reform dated 16 February 2018 (Annex VI).
- vi. 26 April 2011.- Agreement to exempt racehorses and show horses from the need for animal movement health certificates ([Annex VII](#)).
- vii. 21 May 2012.- Regulation of the Federal Animal Health Law (Annex VIII).
- viii. 29 November 2018.- Agreement making the notifiable diseases and exotic and endemic plagues in terrestrial and aquatic animals public in the United Mexican States ([Annex IX](#)).

1.2. History of the absence or eradication of the disease in the country

Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*) has never been present in Mexico. The disease is considered exotic in the country and is on the list of mandatory notifiable diseases. This situation is legally supported by the Agreement whereby exotic diseases and pests for the United Mexican States are published, this Agreement was published on September 21, 1994 ([Annex X](#)), and was updated in 1999 ([Anexo XI](#)), 2007 ([Anexo XII](#)) and 2016 ([Anexo XIII](#)). It is currently listed in group 1 of the Agreement making the notifiable diseases and exotic and endemic plagues in terrestrial and aquatic animals public in the United Mexican States.

This group includes the diseases and plagues that are not found in the country or that have been eradicated from it. They are considered as immediately notifiable to the country's official animal health and aquaculture health bodies because of their rapid spread and infection to the sector and risk for public health.

II. Surveillance and early detection systems for all species in the country

Equids residing in the country are subject to epidemiological surveillance, based on Official Mexican Standard NOM-046-ZOO-1995, National Epidemiological Surveillance System and its amendments.

Surveillance is passive in the case of this disease. It is based on the fact that all players with links to livestock must immediately notify the National Epidemiological Surveillance System (SIVE) of any evidence or confirmation of the presence of notifiable exotic and endemic diseases, including glanders, so that in the event of confirmation of an outbreak SENASICA can proceed with rolling out the relevant actions to control, eliminate the outbreak and eradicate the disease if appropriate.

In relation to captive wild, feral and wild equine in Mexico

The Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) (translator's note: Mexico's environment ministry), is the government agency responsible for wildlife at the federal level. It coordinates its work with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) with respect to animal health interventions. Thus, if within the country's equine population that falls under its field of competence (Environmental Management Units or UMA in its Spanish acronym), an equine specimen or population is suspected of suffering from any exotic disease, including glanders, this must be reported to the National Service of Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA), in accordance with the following legal instruments published in the Official Gazette of the Federation, in addition to those already mentioned:

- i. 3 July 2000.- General Wildlife Law, Article 25, 26 and 72, taken from the first version of the law until its last revision on 9 May 2015
www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/pdf/146_190118.pdf

- ii. 30 November 2006.- Regulation of the General Law of Wildlife, Articles 15, 16, 17, 79, 80, 81 and 82, taken from the first version of the law until its last revision on 19 January 2018.
www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/regley/Reg_LGVS.pdf
- iii. 26 November 2012.-Internal regulation of SEMARNAT in the section “De la SEMARNAT” (Pertinent to SEMARNAT), Article 19 section XXIII and Art. 32 section XIX and XX.
www.diputados.gob.mx/LeyesBiblio/regla/n25.pdf

2.1 Glanders diagnosis laboratory

The samples collected as a result of notification of suspect cases, are analysed in the SENASICA laboratories of National Centre for Animal Health Diagnosis (CENASA), which uses the complement fixation technique indicated by the OIE for diagnosing the disease, in addition to isolating the pathogenic agent in cell culture and real-time PCR.

III. Measures implemented to ensure that the disease is absent from the country

3.1. Promoting notification

SENASICA, has a programme to promote timely notification of suspect cases of glanders, which is conducted by distributing information material at points of contact such as production units, slaughterhouses, farmers’ associations and unions, veterinary clinics and pharmacies, agricultural colleges and universities, animal health laboratories, government agencies and so on. Its purpose is to encourage timely reporting of a high-impact disease such as glanders. Likewise, talks and training courses are given to farmers, veterinary medicine students, self-employed veterinarians and federal, state and municipal institution and agency staff, involved in animal health, so that the participants acquire the tools to recognise diseases and plagues such as glanders, placing the emphasis on its prevention and timely notification to SENASICA.

From 2014 to 2018, 241 courses were dispensed including courses on the recognition of glanders:

COURSE NAME	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL
Recognising the main exotic diseases in animals; their surveillance, prevention and control	39	45	47	51	42	224
Seminar with simulation exercise on the main exotic diseases in animals; the emergency systems and plans (AUTOSIM I)	3	2	3	2	7	17

Any individual who suspects or has knowledge of the presence of glanders, must notify SENASICA’s SIVE. Notification can be made by any means to the official animal health bodies. Once the report has been obtained, it is channelled for immediate response through official field veterinarians distributed throughout the country.

3.2. Equid import and export animal health measures

Equids, their products and goods must fulfil, in the case of:

- I. Imports – the provisions of the SADER-SENASICA Animal Health Requirement Data Sheets (HRZ): <https://sistemasssl.senasica.gob.mx/mcrz/moduloConsulta.jsf>,
- II. Exports – the conditions of the SADER-SENASICA Animal Health Certificate for Export (CZE): <https://sistemasssl.senasica.gob.mx/sinacertweb/pages/publico/consultaRequisitosExportacion.xhtml>.

In both cases the animal health measures that mitigate the risk of introduction or spread of the disease are detailed. As an example, the HRZ and CZE for equines used for racing, reproduction or exhibition are described.

The equine import and export requirements include:

- In the pre-export inspection, they must be found to be clinically healthy and will be inspected at the time of import by official livestock, aquaculture and fisheries health officers, who will check that the state and health condition of the animals match the certificates issued.
- They must guarantee that they have stayed in places where glanders is absent and have not been involved in any reproduction activity during their stay in the country of origin and for exporting they must guarantee that no cases of glanders have occurred in the installations where the equines stayed.
- The entry of bedding, feed or any other kind of waste matter is forbidden.
- They will be quarantined for at least 30 days for import and prior to export (NOM-054-ZOO-1996) under official supervision in installations previously approved by official SENASICA staff, to enable diagnostic testing for glanders.

Stallions must be quarantined in an Authorized Insemination Centre under official supervision for a minimum 30-day period, during which time their semen must be submitted to diagnostic testing and test negative to glanders.

Monitoring of imported equines and those for export is included in the measures to detect for the introduction and spread of glanders, as described in the following chart:

Samples processed for glanders diagnosis, 2014 – 2018					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Samples processed	1314	1215	1166	1072	1559
Positive samples	0	0	0	0	0

IV. Conclusions

- In Mexico, the causal agent of glanders has not been diagnosed anywhere in the country.
- Glanders is immediately notifiable throughout the national territory, supported by Mexican legislation.
- The relevant articles of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for self-declaration of a glanders-free country have been complied with.
- The epidemiological surveillance and national diagnosis systems have the capacity to detect the suspicion of disease in a timely manner through compulsory notification and the application of animal health measures.
- SENASICA has implemented the necessary measures to ensure that imports of animals and products into the country do not present a significant risk of introducing glanders.

The OIE Delegate for Mexico declares that the country fulfils the requirements for glanders-free country status as of 23 April 2019, in compliance with Chapter 12.10. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

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