

CHAPTER 1.6.

PROCEDURES FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, ENDORSEMENT OF AN OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMME, AND PUBLICATION OF A SELF-DECLARATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS, BY THE OIE

Article 1.6.1.

Application for official recognition of animal health status and endorsement of an official control programme by the OIE

A Member Country may request:

- 1) official recognition of *animal health status* by the OIE of:
 - a) freedom of a country or *zone* from African horse sickness (AHS);
 - b) risk status of a country or *zone* with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
 - c) freedom of a country or *zone* from classical swine fever (CSF);
 - d) freedom of a country or *zone* from contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP);
 - e) freedom of a country or *zone* from foot and mouth disease (FMD), where *vaccination* is either practised or not practised;
 - f) freedom of a country or *zone* from peste des petits ruminants (PPR);
- 2) endorsement by the OIE of:
 - a) an *official control programme* for CBPP;
 - b) an *official control programme* for FMD;
 - c) an *official control programme* for PPR;
 - d) an *official control programme* for dog-mediated rabies.

The OIE does not grant official recognition of *animal health status* or endorsement of an *official control programme* for diseases other than those listed under points 1 and 2 above.

The Member Country should present documentation setting out the compliance of their *Veterinary Services* with the provisions of Chapters 1.1., 1.4., 3.2., 3.3. and 4.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*, when relevant, and with the provisions of the relevant disease-specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

When requesting official recognition of *animal health status* or endorsement by the OIE of an *official control programme*, the Member Country should follow the Standard Operating Procedures (available on the OIE website) and submit to the OIE a dossier providing the information requested in the following chapters (as appropriate): 1.7. (for AHS), 1.8. (for BSE), 1.9. (for CSF), 1.10. (for CBPP), 1.11. (for FMD) or 1.12. (for PPR).

The OIE framework for the official recognition of *animal health status*, the endorsement of *official control programmes*, and their maintenance is described in relevant Resolutions adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.

The country or the *zone* will be included in the relevant lists of official *animal health status* or endorsed *official control programmes* only after the evidence submitted has been adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates.

When a Member Country requests official recognition of *animal health status* for a *zone*, the geographical boundaries of the proposed *zone* should be clearly defined. When applying for recognition of a free *zone* that is adjacent to another *zone* of the same status, it should be stated whether the new *zone* is being merged or kept separate. If the proposed *zone* remains separate, details should be provided of the control of the movement of relevant *commodities* between the *zones* in accordance with Chapter 4.4.

The overall objective of the OIE endorsed *official control programmes* is for Member Countries to progressively improve their animal health situation and eventually attain official recognition of *animal health status* or in the case of dog-mediated rabies to make a self-declaration as a free country or *zone*. The *official control programme* should be applicable to the entire country even if certain measures are directed towards defined *zones*.

Article 1.6.2.

Maintenance of official recognition of animal health status and endorsement of an official control programme by the OIE

Retention on the lists of countries and *zones* having an official *animal health status* or of countries having an endorsed *official control programme* requires that the information in relevant chapters be re-submitted annually and that changes in the epidemiological situation or other significant events be notified to the OIE in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 1.1.

Non-compliance with the requirements for the maintenance of *animal health status* results in the suspension of that status. Within 24 months of suspension, except otherwise stated in the disease-specific chapter, a Member Country may apply for the recovery of a previously recognised status, following the provisions of the relevant disease-specific chapter. When the status has not been recovered within the specified period of its suspension, it is withdrawn and the Member Country should reapply following the procedure for the application for official recognition of *animal health status*.

The OIE may withdraw the endorsement of an *official control programme* if there is evidence of:

- non-compliance with the timelines or performance indicators of the programme; or
- significant problems with the quality of the *Veterinary Services* as described in Section 3 of the *Terrestrial Code*; or
- an increase in the *incidence* or distribution of the disease that cannot be addressed by the programme.

Article 1.6.3.

Publication by the OIE of a self-declaration of animal health status by a Member Country

A Member Country may make a self-declaration of freedom of a country, *zone* or *compartment* from an OIE *listed disease* or another animal disease, *infection* or *infestation*. The Member Country may inform the OIE of the claimed status and request publication by the OIE of the self-declaration to inform OIE Member Countries.

A Member Country requesting the publication of a self-declaration should follow the Standard Operating Procedure (available on the OIE website) for submission of a self-declaration of *animal health status* and provide documented information on its compliance with the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, including:

- evidence that the *infection* or *infestation* is a *notifiable disease* in the entire country;
- history of absence or eradication of the *infection* or *infestation* in the country, *zone* or *compartment*;
- *surveillance* including an *early warning system* for all relevant species in the country, *zone* or *compartment*;
- measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country, *zone* or *compartment*.

The self-declaration may be published only after all the information provided has been received and administrative and technical screening has been performed by the OIE. Publication does not imply endorsement of the claim of freedom by the OIE and does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE. Responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member Country concerned.

Except when otherwise provided for in the *listed disease*-specific chapter, an *outbreak* in a Member Country, a *zone* or a *compartment* having a self-declared free status results in the loss of the self-declared free status. A Member Country wishing to reclaim a lost free status should submit a new self-declaration following the procedure described in this article.

The OIE does not publish self-declarations for *listed diseases* in point 1 of Article 1.6.1.