

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND PROVISION OF
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Organic Statutes of the Office International des Epizooties, Member Countries shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Authority* of its territory or territories.

All *notifications* and all information sent by WOAAH to the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to WOAAH by the *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through WOAAH, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread and impact of important animal diseases, and their pathogenic agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.
- 3) For the purposes of this chapter, an “event” means a single *outbreak* or a group of epidemiologically related *outbreaks* of a given *listed disease* or *emerging disease* that is the subject of a *notification*. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain type, subtype and variant, ~~when appropriate as relevant~~, and includes all related *outbreaks* reported from the time of the initial *notification* through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species animal hosts, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and *epidemiological units*.
- 4) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, notification reports shall conform as closely as possible to the WOAAH disease reporting format.
- 5) ~~The occurrence of a case of infection of an animal host with detection of the pathogenic agent of a listed disease in an animal should shall be reported notified~~, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between diseases and their pathogenic agents is constantly developing and that the presence of a pathogenic agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a disease, Member Countries shall ensure, through their notification reports, that they comply with ~~the spirit and intention of point 1 above~~.
- 6) In addition to notifying ~~new findings events~~ in accordance with Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of listed diseases and emerging diseases. Information shall include *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures*, including vaccination and restrictions applied to the movement of commodities animals, ~~animal products, biological products and other miscellaneous objects~~ fomites which could ~~by their nature be~~ responsible for the transmission of diseases. In the case of diseases transmitted by *vectors*, the measures taken against such *vectors* shall also be ~~specified~~ described.
- 7) The Headquarters shall communicate to Veterinary Authorities all notifications received and other relevant information.

Article 1.1.3.

Notification of listed diseases

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) in accordance with Chapter 1.3. and relevant provisions the definition of the *listed disease* and its occurrence in the disease-specific chapters, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) ~~or by fax or email~~ by electronic correspondence under the authority of the Delegate within 24 hours of the confirmation, of any of the following events:

United States	Comment category: Addition 1) Proposed amended text: in accordance with <u>Chapter 1.3. and relevant provisions</u> the definition of the <i>listed disease</i> and its occurrence in the disease-specific chapters, <i>notification</i>, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or email by electronic correspondence under the authority of the Delegate within 24 hours of the confirmation, of any of the following events in an animal host: Rationale: Recommend adding “in an animal host” before listing the reasons for notification to best clarify the reporting requirements under Article 1.1.3 apply to animal hosts as defined in the new glossary term and designated in the disease-specific chapters of the Terrestrial Code. Supporting evidence: n/a
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- a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- b) recurrence of an eradicated *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the last event ended;
- c) first occurrence of a *listed disease* due to a ~~new strain-type, subtype or variant of the~~ a pathogenic agent ~~previously absent of a listed disease~~ in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- d) recurrence of a *listed disease* due to an eradicated ~~strain-type, subtype or variant of the~~ a pathogenic agent ~~of a listed disease~~ in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the last event ended;
- e) a sudden and unexpected change in the geographical distribution or increase in incidence ~~or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality, or the occurrence in a previously unaffected animal host caused by, the pathogenic agent~~ of a *listed disease* present within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: e) a sudden and unexpected change in the <u>geographical</u> distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality, or the occurrence in a previously unaffected animal host caused by, the pathogenic agent of a <i>listed disease</i> present within a country, a <i>zone</i> or a <i>compartment</i>; Rationale: Recommend deleting the phrase “or the occurrence in a previously unaffected animal host.” The language “previously unaffected” implies animal hosts that are defined in disease-specific chapters but not previously
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	detected during a disease event. Notification of listed diseases affecting multiple species have historically captured all animal host detections in the same event report, when applicable. Separate notifications for separate animal hosts would increase the burden of reporting and cause confusion in tracking disease event animal information. Reporting an unusual animal host is already captured in point e by the language, “a sudden and unexpected change in morbidity or mortality...” Supporting evidence: n/a
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f) ~~occurrence of a listed disease in an unusual host species;~~

- 2) ~~Weekly~~ reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports ~~should~~ shall continue until either the listed disease has been eradicated or is considered the situation has become sufficiently stable which means its incidence, morbidity, mortality and spread have stabilised. In the latter situation, that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will shall apply satisfy the obligation of the Member Country. For each event notified and in both situations (eradication or stabilisation), a final report ~~should~~ shall be submitted;
- 3) ~~Six-monthly~~ reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *listed diseases* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4) ~~Annual~~ reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

Article 1.1.4.

Notification of emerging diseases

Veterinary Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*:

- 1) a *notification* through WAHIS or by electronic correspondence under the authority of the Delegate ~~fax or email~~, when an *emerging disease* has been detected in a country, ~~a zone or a compartment~~;
- 2) ~~periodic at least monthly~~ reports subsequent to a *notification* of an *emerging disease*:

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: 2. periodic at least monthly reports subsequent to a <i>notification</i> of an <i>emerging disease</i>: Rationale: Recommend deleting the phrase “at least monthly” and restoring the original text (“periodic”). The nature of identifying and describing an emerging disease can be challenging based on uncertain characteristics, fragmented epidemiology and other confounding factors. Reporting about emerging diseases should be on the frequency of sharing new or updated information to aid in disease control and prevention. It does not necessarily follow a short, regular interval, such as monthly, that will add to the burden of reporting when no significant updates are available to provide. [Alternatively, “at least semi-annually” would be a more specific reporting timeframe that could provide sufficient update on emerging disease events coinciding with other required six-monthly reporting.]
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	Supporting evidence: n/a
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a) ~~for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty demonstrate~~ that:

i)a) the *infection* or *infestation* has been eradicated; or

ii)b) ~~the situation has become stable; its incidence, morbidity, mortality and spread have stabilised; in this situation, information shall continue to be sent through the six-monthly reports.~~

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: the situation has become stable; its incidence, morbidity, mortality and spread have stabilised; in this situation, information shall continue to be sent through the six-monthly reports. Rationale: Recommend deleting the phrase “in this situation, information shall continue to be sent through the six-monthly reports.” Six-monthly reports are the method of reporting for listed diseases. Emerging diseases have not yet been listed, nor have technical reporting mechanisms ever captured them on six-monthly reports to date. Due to the frequency and changing nature of emerging diseases, they may need to be added and/or removed more regularly than updates to six-monthly reports happen in WAHIS for listed diseases, causing confusion for Member Countries over where and when to report emerging diseases, adding to workload for WOAHS staff and Focal Point reporters to create or learn new, shorter-term processes in technical systems and/or creating potential delays to six-monthly listed disease reporting and validation timelines, which are important to maintain and expected for timely global trade and disease management decision-making throughout the year, and particularly for General Session planning. Supporting evidence: n/a
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OR

b) ~~until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAHS list as described in Chapter 1.2.;~~

3) a final report once point 2 a) or 2 b) above has been complied with.

The requirement for notification of *emerging disease* will continue until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for inclusion in the WOAHS list as described in Chapter 1.2.

Article 1.1.5.

Other important animal health information

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide WOAHS with other important animal health information such as findings of pathogenic agents of *listed diseases* in susceptible species not listed as animal hosts, findings of types, subtypes or variants of pathogenic agents of *listed diseases* that are not included in the definition of the disease, and findings of non-listed diseases of interest to Member Countries.

United States	Comment category: Change Proposed amended text: 1. ...with other important animal health information such as findings of pathogenic agents of <i>listed diseases</i> in <u>susceptible species susceptible to infection but not listed as animal hosts</u>,... Rationale: Recommend deleting “susceptible,” and adding “susceptible to infection but” after species, to convey the same intent while avoiding confusion with the specific meaning of “susceptible species,” as defined in the Aquatic Code. The Terrestrial Code has no glossary definition for “susceptible species,” instead defining “animal host” and designating which animal hosts in disease-specific chapters require notification to WOAHP for a listed disease. By contrast, the Aquatic Code defines “susceptible species” and describes how it particularly applies to notification. Using “susceptible species” in the Terrestrial Code when discussing notification could Supporting evidence: n/a
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2) ~~The Headquarters shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to Veterinary Authorities all notifications received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4. and other relevant information.~~