

CHAPTER 4.4.

United States	Comment category: General Proposed amendment: Recommend using the word “designating” in place of “defining” in the title of this chapter and throughout the text where the action applies to subpopulations. This would include updates to all associated paragraphs in Article 4.4.1, particularly the Paragraph 1 sentence beginning “Subpopulations may be designateddefined...” and Article 4.4.2, including its title. Rationale: The term “subpopulation” has been specifically defined in the glossary. This chapter’s intent is not to change the exact meaning of subpopulation, but rather to assign meaning for a specific purpose. The word “designate” more precisely captures this action. Supporting evidence: n/a
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United States	Comment category: General Proposed amendment: Recommend a review and restoration of content on compartmentalization, including Articles 4.4.1, 4.4.3 and 4.4.8 from the current Chapter 4.4, be added back into the current Chapter 4.5 Rationale: Concepts important to the application of compartmentalization, such as biosecurity plan language captured in points 3 and 5 of Article 4.4.3, will be missing from the Terrestrial Code entirely if not moved to an appropriate place in Chapter 4.5 describing compartmentalization. We strongly advocate for retaining these texts and request justification for permanently removing any sections of the current Chapter 4.4 specific to compartmentalization. Supporting evidence: n/a
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DEFINING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING SUBPOPULATIONS OF ANIMALS

Article 4.4.1.

General provisions

There may be benefits to a Member Country in defining, establishing and maintaining *subpopulations* of animals within its territory for the purposes of disease prevention, control, eradication or *international trade*. *Subpopulations* may be defined by natural or artificial geographical barriers, by the application of *biosecurity* management or both.

The establishment and maintenance of such *subpopulations* should be based on the epidemiology of the disease(s) of concern, including the role and presence of competent *vectors* and susceptible *wildlife*, environmental factors, animal production systems and rely on the application of *biosecurity*, *surveillance*, animal traceability, movement controls and *sanitary measures*.

Zoning (described in Chapter 4.Y.) and compartmentalisation (described in Chapter 4.5.) are two different methods to establish and maintain *subpopulations* and countries may use either or both methods to manage *risks* associated with diseases. The essential difference between these two methods is that zoning applies to an animal *subpopulation* defined primarily on a geographical basis, whereas compartmentalisation applies to an animal *subpopulation* defined primarily at the level of *establishments* by management and husbandry practices related to *biosecurity*. However, spatial aspects and *biosecurity* management play important roles in the application of both concepts.

The purpose of this chapter is to outline the main principles for defining, establishing and maintaining *subpopulations* of *animals* using zoning or compartmentalisation for disease prevention, control, eradication or *international trade*. Member Countries may consider the use of either option or both, depending on their animal health situation, the intended purpose, and the capacities of the *Veterinary Authority* and the private sector, as well as any other relevant factors. Member Countries may wish to define *subpopulations* using methods other than zoning or compartmentalisation, such as *vaccination* or husbandry practices, among others.

United States	Comment category: General Proposed amendment: Move the final sentence of the last paragraph in Article 4.4.1 and any new content the Code Commission has not yet added on designating subpopulations (other than for zoning and compartmentalization purposes) to the first paragraph of Article 4.4.1 for general discussion on methods and use of designating subpopulations <u>before</u> explaining the more specific methods of zoning and compartmentalization. Rationale: Moving this sentence and future associated material would help clarify the main purpose and content of this chapter is “to outline the main principles for defining, establishing and maintaining <i>subpopulations</i> of <i>animals</i> using zoning or compartmentalisation for disease prevention, control, eradication or <i>international trade</i>,” as stated at the beginning of Paragraph 4 of Article 4.4.1 In relation to the final sentence of the last paragraph in Article 4.4.1, the Code Commission notes in their February 2026 Report that more information will be added to the chapter on other ways that countries may designate subpopulations. Along with this additional detail should be enough clarification to explain the purpose for designating subpopulations using other methods, such as vaccination or husbandry practices. Further, how do the “husbandry practices” in this sentence differ from “husbandry practices” associated with compartmentalization as mentioned in the previous paragraph? Supporting evidence: n/a
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Article 4.4.2.

Principles for defining, establishing and maintaining animal subpopulations

The *Veterinary Authority* of a Member Country that is establishing *zones* or *compartments* within its territory should clearly define the *subpopulation* in accordance with the recommendations in the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, including those on *surveillance*, *animal identification* and *animal traceability*, *vaccination* and on *official control programmes*.

United States	Comment category: Change & Addition Proposed amended text: ...should clearly define the <i>subpopulation</i> in accordance with the
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	recommendations in the relevant chapters of the <i>Terrestrial Code</i>, including chaptersthose on risk analysis, <i>surveillance</i>, <i>animal identification</i> and <i>animal traceability</i>, <i>vaccination</i> and on <i>official control programmes</i>. Rationale: Recommend the following edits to the first sentence of Paragraph 1 in Article 4.4.2: 1. changing “those” to “chapters” for added clarity 2. Adding “risk analysis” to the list of relevant chapters for designating subpopulations to highlight the importance of assessing risk factors for disease introduction and spread when establishing zones or compartments Supporting evidence: n/a
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The *Veterinary Authority* should communicate through official channels up-to-date information on *zones* and *compartments*.

The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that sufficient resources are available to establish and maintain a *zone* or *compartment*. These include the human and financial resources and the technical capability of the *Veterinary Services* and of the relevant industry and production system (especially in the case of a *compartment*), including for *surveillance*, diagnosis and, when appropriate, *vaccination*, treatment and protection against *vectors*.

The existence of an *animal identification system* is a prerequisite for the establishment and maintenance of a *subpopulation* within a *zone* or *compartment*.

United States	Comment category: Addition Proposed amended text: The existence of an <i>animal identification system</i> is a prerequisite for the establishment and maintenance of a <i>subpopulation</i>, including within a <i>zone</i> or <i>compartment</i>. Rationale: Recommend adding “including” before “within a zone or compartment” to capture that animal identification is a general subpopulation need but is noted here in relation to zoning and compartmentalization. Supporting evidence: n/a
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Biosecurity and *surveillance* are also essential and should be developed through active cooperation between the private sector and the public sector.

Supervision of the measures necessary to maintain *zones* and *compartments* should be carried out by the *Veterinary Authority*. These measures may include movement controls, *biosecurity*, *surveillance*, laboratory testing, *vaccination* and record-keeping.

United States	Comment category: Addition Proposed amended text: These measures may include, but are not limited to, movement controls, <i>biosecurity</i>, <i>surveillance</i>, laboratory testing, <i>vaccination</i> and record-keeping. Rationale: Recommend adding “but are not limited to” after “include” to the second
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	sentence of Paragraph 4 under Article 4.4.2 to clarify that additional measures may be needed to maintain zones and compartments. Supporting evidence: n/a
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The *Veterinary Services*, including *laboratories*, should operate in accordance with Chapters 3.2. and 3.4., to provide confidence in the integrity of the *zone* or *compartment*. The final authority over the *zone* or *compartment*, for the purposes of domestic and *international trade*, lies with the *Veterinary Authority*.

Unless otherwise specified in the disease-specific chapters, the type, number and duration of *zones* or *compartments* to be established are at the discretion of a Member Country.
