

Procedure for the Recognition of Infectious Animal Disease-Free Status of a Foreign Country (Zone)

(Note: In case of any discrepancy between the English version and the Chinese text of this Procedure, the Chinese text shall govern.)

Amended by Council of Agriculture on February 6, 2002

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Point 1

This procedure is provided for processing the application of a foreign country (zone) for the recognition of its status as being free from infectious animal disease(s) by the Ministry of Agriculture (hereinafter as the "MOA").

Point 2

2.1 For the applicant country which considers itself as complying with the criteria established in the "Terrestrial Animal Health Code" of the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter as the "WOAH Code") for infectious animal disease free or the risk status, the country may apply for recognition of infectious animal disease-free status for the entire country or a zone, or the risk status.

2.2 Infectious animal diseases refer to one of the following:

- 2.2.1 foot and mouth disease
- 2.2.2 contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- 2.2.3 peste des petits ruminants
- 2.2.4 African swine fever
- 2.2.5 classical swine fever
- 2.2.6 glanders
- 2.2.7 African horse sickness
- 2.2.8 highly pathogenic avian influenza

2.2.9 Newcastle disease

2.2.10 rabies

2.2.11 bovine spongiform encephalopathy

2.2.12 infectious animal diseases otherwise designated

2.3 Countries (zone) that are disease free from infectious animal diseases mentioned in Point 2.2.1 shall comply with the criteria for foot and mouth disease free country or zone where vaccination is not practiced as established in the WOA Code.

Point 3

3.1 The central competent authority of veterinary of the applicant country shall submit the dossiers in Chinese or English for the recognition of infectious animal disease-free status of entire country or a zone and the risk status of BSE to the import/export animal quarantine authority, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency (hereinafter as “APHIA”), for review based on the type of infectious animal disease respectively.

3.2 A country applying for the recognition of infectious animal disease-free zone for highly pathogenic avian influenza, Newcastle disease or foot and mouth disease where vaccination is not practiced shall comply with “The Principles for the Recognition of Infectious Animal Disease-Free Status of a Foreign Country by Zoning Focused on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle Disease (ND), or Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Where Vaccination Is Not Practiced” (as Appendix).

Point 4

4.1 Upon receiving the application, APHIA will refer to available international animal disease information and conduct one of the following actions:

4.1.1 Reject the application with the list of the facts leading to such a decision based on international animal disease information which shows that the applicant country is affected or not complying with the relevant requirements for free status in the WOA Code;

- 4.1.2 Reprocess the risk assessment after the requested supplementary documents are provided by the applicant country when the submitted information or required supplementary documents are incomplete;
 - 4.1.3 Reprocess the risk assessment after the detailed information on the animal health status of the applicant country is collected and evaluated or an on-site verification is conducted when submitted documents are complete but fail to clarify the animal health status of the applicant country; or
 - 4.1.4 Process the risk assessment after the requested documents are complete and the animal health status is clear and comply with the free status criteria established in the WOA Code.
- 4.2 After the risk assessment process for Point 4.1.2 to Point 4.1.4, one of the following actions will be conducted:
- 4.2.1 Reject the application with the list of the facts leading to such a decision;
 - 4.2.2 Reprocess the risk assessment after the requested supplementary documents are provided by the applicant country;
 - 4.2.3 Reprocess the risk assessment after an on-site verification conducted by APHIA;
 - 4.2.4 Submit the application to the Animal Quarantine Advisory Committee of APHIA for further scrutiny and accept possible recommendations made by the Committee to reject, reprocess the risk assessment or approve; or
 - 4.2.5 Approve the recognition for application for recovery of the applicant country's disease-free status.

Point 5

- 5.1 The recognition of infectious animal disease-free status for the entire country or a zone, and the status of risk level of BSE is established and announced by the MOA. The MOA may adjust the risk status of BSE based on information published by the WOA.
- 5.2 The official recognition mentioned on Point 5.1 will become invalid immediately when the country or zone(s) is/are infected with the aforementioned disease and has (have) been removed from the list of disease-free countries.

5.3 The country mentioned on Point 5.2 may submit an application along with the requested information and certified document to APHIA for the recovery recognition of its disease-free status once the disease has been eradicated and the criteria listed in the WOA Code has been fulfilled.

The Principles for the Recognition of Infectious Animal Disease -Free Status of a Foreign Country by Zoning Focused on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) , Newcastle Disease (ND), or Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Where Vaccination Is Not Practiced

Point 1 Definition

- 1.1 Zoning: According to Chapter 4.4 of the “Terrestrial Animal Health Code” of the World Organisation for Animal Health (hereinafter as the WOAHP Code), the extent of a zone and its geographical limits should be established by the Veterinary Authority on the basis of natural, artificial or legal boundaries in order to separate animal subpopulations of distinct health status.
- 1.2 Infectious animal diseases: Infectious animal diseases in the Principles refer to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), Newcastle disease (ND) and foot and mouth disease (FMD) free status where vaccination is not practiced.
- 1.3 The administrative division: The administrative division refers to the subnational entity designated by the applicant country based on its laws and decrees for the purpose of administration. Overseas territories, dependencies and autonomies are excluded.
- 1.4 The control unit: Based on the Principles that the control unit of the applicant country must have a permanent veterinary authority supervised by the central competent authority (CCA) in charge of veterinary affairs, and the permanent veterinary authority is the highest administrative division that can effectively implement animal disease prevention and control measures. Second tier of the administrative division can be used as a control unit after being evaluated and approved by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency (hereinafter as “APHIA”).
 - 1.4.1 The control range of the affected zone shall comply with Point 3

of the Principles.

- 1.4.2 The adjustment of the control unit shall comply with Point 5 and Point 6 of the Principles.

Point 2

- 2.1 If the applicant country complies with the criteria established in Chapters 10.4, 10.9 and 8.8 of the WOA Code and the conditions of zoning, the applicant country can apply for the zoning recognition of infectious animal disease-free status based on the “Procedure for the Recognition of Infectious Animal Disease-Free Status of a Foreign Country (Zone)” to APHIA. The recognition may be established after approval is granted.
- 2.2 The CCA in charge of veterinary affairs of the applicant country shall submit the dossiers and relevant documents to APHIA for review.
- 2.3 After APHIA completes the risk assessment process, one of the following actions will be conducted:
 - 2.3.1 Reject the application with the list of the facts leading to such a decision;
 - 2.3.2 Reprocess the risk assessment after the requested supplementary documents are provided by the applicant country;
 - 2.3.3 Approve the recognition when the risk assessment result is accepted and the applicant country agrees to comply with the requirements as stated in Point 3.

Point 3

- 3.1 If an outbreak of an infectious animal disease occurs within the control unit of the zoning-recognized country after acceptance and verification based on the Principles, the following measures shall be complied with and implemented by the CCA of the zoning-recognized country:

- 3.1.1 The affected premise(s) and in control unit within a 10 kilometer radius from the affected premise(s) are designated as the infected zone. Live animals and animal products susceptible to infectious animal diseases in the zones are suspended for export to Taiwan.
- 3.1.2 The CCA in charge of veterinary affairs of the zoning-recognized country shall notify APHIA with an official letter as soon as possible, and no later than 72 hours following confirmation of the outbreak. The letter shall include the following information for APHIA's review: etiology of the infectious animal disease (HPAI subtype or FMD serotype shall be specified), outbreak location, date of confirmation, map of the 10 kilometer radius control zones around the affected premises reflecting the control unit, and control measures (movement control, stamping out or slaughtering, and other preventive measures).

Point 4

The zoning-recognized country may submit the dossier with relevant documents (each control unit shall submit one application dossier in principle) for recovering the zoning recognition application based on the "Procedure for the Recognition of Infectious Animal Disease-Free Status of a Foreign Country (Zone)" once termination of the outbreak has been confirmed and the criteria listed in the WOAHP Code has been fulfilled.

Point 5

The zoning-recognized country may submit the request to the CCA of Taiwan for adjusting the level of the control unit from the highest administrative division into a secondary division after a certain period of time of its implementation through bilateral consultation(s).

Point 6

- 6.1 APHIA reserves the right to revoke the recognition or adjust the control unit to the whole country when the zoning-recognized country fails to notify APHIA within 72 hours after confirmation of the outbreak or there is a lack of sufficient information requested in accordance with Point 3.
- 6.2 For a country which has its recognition revoked by APHIA, APHIA reserves the right to deny future application for the recognition of infectious animal diseases-free by zoning within 5 years from the date of revoking.

Point 7

Applicant countries that have signed a bilateral agreement for the mutual recognition of the zoning principle with Taiwan are excluded from the Principles.