

RESOLUTION No. XXII

**Update on procedures for Members for the official recognition  
and maintenance of status of certain animal diseases**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The International Committee during its 67<sup>th</sup> General Session has adopted Resolution XVI describing the general procedure to follow by OIE Members wishing to achieve an officially recognised status for foot and mouth disease (FMD), rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), according to the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.
2. This procedure invites Delegates of the applicant OIE Members for recognition to submit to the OIE Central Bureau documentation for analysis by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) and its designated experts.
3. Recognition of the status following the proposal made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Members' Delegates and the corresponding Resolutions containing the established disease specific list are submitted for adoption to the International Committee.
4. Regarding FMD, rinderpest and CBPP, the recognition of an official disease status is suspended upon an outbreak in a previously recognized national territory or zone for this disease, as soon as the outbreak is declared by the Delegate of the affected OIE Member,
5. Regarding BSE, the official BSE status of a country or zone, is determined on the basis of risk. This status should be re-assessed in the event of any change in the epidemiological situation.
6. Resolution XII of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Session (FMD), Resolution XVI (RP) and XV (BSE) of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Session and Resolution XXIII of 72<sup>nd</sup> the General Session (CBPP), required that Delegates of Members where countries or zones are recognised for a disease free status or their BSE risk, should confirm by official letter during the month of November of each year that their official disease free status or BSE risk status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
7. During the 70th General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolution No. XVIII asking Members applying for evaluation for officially recognized status of certain diseases to meet part of the costs sustained by the OIE Central Bureau in the evaluation process,
8. During the 65th and 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session, the International Committee adopted Resolutions No. XVII and XXIV, respectively, delegating to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member country or zone has regained its previously recognised disease free status following outbreaks that are eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,

9. During the 75<sup>th</sup> General Session the International Committee approved the addition of Article 2.2.10.7 to the *Terrestrial Code* allowing a Member to establish a FMD *containment zone* for the purpose of minimising the impact of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease on an entire free country or zone,
10. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by the OIE Delegate of Members and that the OIE is not responsible for inaccurate publication of country disease status based on inaccurate information or changes in epidemiological status or other significant events that were not promptly reported to the Central Bureau subsequent to the time of initial declaration.

## THE COMMITTEE

## RECOMMENDS

1. That OIE Members wishing to be officially recognized and listed for a specific disease status have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the recognition for disease status as well as the specific guidelines contained in disease specific country questionnaires endorsed by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and the general provisions for veterinary services as outlined in Chapters 1.1.2, 1.3.3 and 1.3.4 of the *Terrestrial Code*,
2. That the Scientific Commission, following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member for the recognition or reinstatement of a specific disease status, could in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, request if needed a mission of experts to the applicant Member to verify compliance by that Member with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
3. That in the event of the allocation of an official status to a new zone adjacent to another zone having already the same official status, the Delegate should indicate in writing to the Director General whether the new zone should be merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone or whether the two zones shall be managed as two distinct zones by the Member.
4. That recognition by the International Committee of the disease status of a Member following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60 day consultative period by all Members' Delegates for all new applications for disease status recognition, change in the category of disease free status or disease risk status as specified in the *Terrestrial Code* or change in the boundaries of an existing free zone.
5. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, that a Member country or a zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised status of the same zone following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
6. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further International Committee consultation, the reinstatement of the free status of a zone outside a FMD *containment zone* on evaluation of documented evidence provided by that Member that a FMD *containment zone* has been established in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
7. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority, without further International Committee consultation, to consider the maintenance in the previously allocated BSE risk status of a country or a same zone following a report of any change in the epidemiological situation by the OIE Delegate of the Member.

8. That a Member maintains its recognised disease status provided that the Member has been continuously compliant with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* and that the Delegate submit during the month of November of each year, a letter to the Director General of the OIE which includes the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* for that disease, for confirming the maintenance of the recognized disease status.
  9. That Members having an officially recognized disease status and who fail to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this status as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code*, will be deleted from the list of officially recognized countries or zones presented yearly to the International Committee for adoption.
  10. That a Member who has been deleted from the list due to failure to confirm the maintenance of its disease status should apply again for recognition of the lost disease status by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.
  11. That OIE Delegates are encouraged to document and clarify aspects of veterinary services and the animal health situation in non-contiguous territories covered by the same Veterinary Authority when submitting applications for official recognition of disease status.
  12. That financial participation of Members to the cost of official recognition procedures would be fixed in a specific Resolution.
  13. This Resolution XXII replaces the Resolution XV of the 62<sup>nd</sup> General Session, the Resolutions XII and XVII of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XVI of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XV of the 69<sup>th</sup> General Session, Resolution XXI of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Session and Resolutions XXIII and XXIV of the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2008)