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## Self-declaration by Kazakhstan as a country historically free from African swine fever

Self-declaration by Kazakhstan as a country historically free from African Swine Fever (ASF) submitted to OIE on 22 October 2018 by Dr Tursyn Kabduldinov, Delegate of Kazakhstan to OIE, Deputy Chairman of Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision, Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan.

### I. Current situation of African swine fever in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Republic of Kazakhstan is a country, which is historically free from ASF, and herewith it is declared that there have been no registered cases, or evidence of ASF on the territory of Kazakhstan. The Republic of Kazakhstan complies with the provisions of articles 15.1.2. and 15.1.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*, regarding provisions for declaration of a country or zone free from ASF.

According to the World Animal Health Information System of the OIE (WAHIS), the animal health situation of Kazakhstan regarding ASF is the disease has never been reported.

In accordance with [Article 25 of the Law No. 339 from 2002 "On Veterinary Activities"](#), individuals and legal entities are obliged to notify veterinary local authorities about cases of death, simultaneous cases of disease of several animals, or about their unusual behaviour. Before arrival of veterinary specialists, animal owners are obliged to take measures for separation of animals with those suspected disease. Since 2003, there is a legal basis providing that ASF is a notifiable disease. In 2003-2014, the legal basis was a Decree of the Government No. 407 of 28 April "On legal basis for veterinary activities". According to the Decree, ASF is a notifiable highly dangerous disease, eradication of which is carried out at the expense of the state budget.

In order to ensure early detection of ASF in the Republic of Kazakhstan, analysis of epizootic situation in neighbouring countries is carried out, according to available information on ASF outbreaks in the region. In case of an outbreak, a decree of the Chief Veterinary and Sanitary Inspector of the Republic of Kazakhstan imposes temporary restrictions and all relevant measures are taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Furthermore, clinical surveillance and monitoring studies are carried out on an on-going basis among domestic and wild pigs for the presence of ASF pathogens.

If an infectious animal disease is suspected, in accordance with the Decree of the Chairman of the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision No. 200 dated December 29, 2012 “On Approval of the Warning Procedure and Action for Suspected Dangerous Diseases of Farm and Wild Animals and Birds”, an individual or legal entity shall immediately notify the veterinary service and the territorial unit of the veterinary service.

There is an obligatory requirement that animals, products and raw materials of animal origin shall derive from territories free from infectious animal diseases, including African swine fever - during the last 36 months. Also the territory of the country or administrative territory of origin should be in accordance with regionalization when the goods are imported into the customs territory of Kazakhstan and other Eurasian Economic Union and (or) moved between the countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (in accordance with the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) requirements for products subject to veterinary control (supervision), approved by the Decision of the Commission of the Customs Union dated June 18, 2010 No. 317).

Veterinary import permit is issued taking into account the epizootic situation of the place of origin of the goods subject to veterinary control.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is historically free from ASF. No cases of ASF among wild and domestic pigs have been recorded in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Also, the results of monitoring studies among wild and domestic pigs confirm the absence of the disease.

ASF is a disease subject to mandatory notification, which is governed by the following legal acts:

1. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 339 of July 10, 2002 “On Veterinary Medicine”. The Law defines the main activities for organization and conduct of veterinary measures against highly dangerous diseases, including ASF, as well as the procedures for control, funding of activities, functions of state veterinary services. The law is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/eng/docs/Z020000339>
2. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 109-IV of December 24, 2008 “On Ratification of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris”. Kazakhstan is guided by the standards of regarding veterinary legislation. The law is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/Z080000109>
3. Decision of the Customs Union Commission No. 317 of June 18, 2010 “On Application of Veterinary and Sanitary Measures in the Customs Union” provides that freedom from ASF is included in the list of requirements for imports from third countries and movement within the Customs Union territory in accordance with the recommendations of OIE. The Decision is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/H10T0000317>
4. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 18-03/128 of March 28, 2012 “On Approval of the List of Infectious Animal Diseases Subject to Restrictive Measures or Quarantine”. The legal act provides that ASF is included in the list of diseases for which quarantine is imposed. <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1200007583>
5. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/559 of October 30, 2014 “On Approval of Veterinary Regulatory Legal Acts” regulates mandatory seizure and destruction of animals in the event of ASF. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V14F0009891>
6. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 16-04/647 of December 9, 2014 “On approval of the Rules for Issuing Permits for Export, Import and Transit of Moved (Transported) Objects, taking into account the Assessment of the Epizootic Situation in the Relevant Territory”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V14F0010254>
7. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/700 of December 30, 2014 “On Approval of the Rules for Quarantine of Animals”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V14F0010223>
8. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/86 of February 9, 2015 “On approval of the Rules for Establishment or Removal of Restrictive Measures and Quarantine”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1500010414>

9. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/393 of April 30, 2015 “On Approval of the Rules for Sampling of Moved (Transported) objects and biological material”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1500011618>

10. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/587 of June 29, 2015 “On Approval of Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) rules”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1500011940>

11. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 767 of December 31, 2009 “On approval of the Rules for Division of a Territory into Zones” regulates procedure for zoning in the event of highly dangerous animal diseases. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V090006027>

12. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 16-07/333 of July 22, 2013 “On approval of Warrant Forms, Procedure for their Compilation and Issuance by a State Veterinary and Sanitary Inspectors”. In case of violation of legislation requirements related to ASF, relevant actions are taken against violators of veterinary legislation in the form of warrants, resolutions, acts. <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1300008662>

13. Decree of Acting Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 16-04/679 of December 19, 2014 “On approval of the Rules for Sale of Animals”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V14F0010131>

14. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/618 of November 27, 2014 “On approval of the Rules for Epizootic Monitoring”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V14F0010021>

15. Decree of the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 7-1/370 of April 27, 2015 “On approval of the Rules for Facilitation of Slaughter of Farm Animals Intended for Subsequent Sale”. The Decree is available at <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/V1500011591>  
Facilitation of activities, principles and guidelines for regulatory legal acts of the Veterinary Service of Kazakhstan are harmonized with the requirements of the OIE. More information is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526329.pdf>

## II. Early detection and surveillance systems

The information provided through WAHIS to confirm compliance with the requirements of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, Chapter 1.4., Article 1.4.6, paragraph 1a) provides that the Republic of Kazakhstan reports all cases of listed diseases, however ASF is a disease that has never been registered in a country.

There are legal provisions for the immediate and compulsory notification of ASF. Individuals and legal units are required to notify the local executive bodies engaged in the activities of the field of veterinary medicines among others, of cases of deaths, simultaneous illness of several animals or unusual behaviour. Before the arrival of veterinary specialists and state inspectors, they must take measures to isolate and maintain the animals suspected of disease. The Order No. 200 of December 29.2012 on “Approving the procedure for notification and action for suspicion of highly dangerous diseases of agricultural and wild animal and birds” defines the procedures for raising a suspicion and response plan for all involved.

Epidemiological surveillance is part of the national program. The country implements a surveillance program for domestic and wild pigs in accordance with Articles 15.1.27-15.1.29 of the *Terrestrial Code*. In case of suspicion, differential diagnosis is carried out. All suspicious cases were studied, and detailed anamnestic data were found. Based on RT-PCR and serological ELISA tests for antibodies and antigens, ASF was excluded. This diagnostic and epizootic monitoring of domestic and wild pigs is supervised by the National Reference Centre for Veterinary Medicine (NRCV) and the National Research Institute of Food and Biological Safety. More information on ASF surveillance is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526253.pdf>

The criteria and survey design are the same for African and classical swine. Sampling is carried out in parallel for these diseases in the same administrative divisions, due to similarities of ASF and CSF in clinical signs and the fact that the susceptible animals are the same.

The administrator of the control program is the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision. PCR, ELISA, cell lines testing, immunofluorescence reaction test methods are used for differential diagnoses in accordance with Chapter 2.8.1 of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. Serological monitoring among domestic pigs in Kazakhstan is carried out using ELISA and PCR methods. More information of ASF diagnosis is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526279.pdf>

**Table 1.** Suspected cases of exotic diseases among pigs, Kazakhstan 2008 to 2018 (ASF was not confirmed)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	-	3	7	4	-	4	9

### III. Species of animals susceptible to African swine fever in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The number of domestic pigs in the Republic of Kazakhstan after the collapse of the USSR in 1992 has significantly decreased since [year]. Over the past 20 years the number of pigs has ranged from 834 000 to 1 300 000 heads. Information on pig breeding industry in Kazakhstan is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526352.pdf>

Monitoring of epizootic situation among wild pigs is carried out in the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Republican Association of Hunters and Hunting Entities and the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision. The Memorandum is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526127.pdf>

The Committee of Forestry and Wildlife is responsible for control of wildlife. It closely works in collaboration with the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision and is a structural unit of the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan. The Committee of Forestry and Wildlife promptly notifies the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision about any suspicious cases.

Population of wild boars (*Sus scrofa*) in Kazakhstan is ubiquitous and has different numbers in different regions of Kazakhstan. Information on population of wild and stray pigs is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526253.pdf>

### IV. Measures to maintain the status of ASF free country status

In addition to the early detection system mentioned in section II, importing pigs or pork requires compliance with animal health regulations; in any case and based on scientific risk analysis in order to fulfil the obligations of Kazakhstan as a Member of the OIE and WTO. The Republic of Kazakhstan fulfils all requirements that exclude the risk of the introduction of ASF to the territory of the country. Import of animals into Kazakhstan from countries/regions infected by ASF is prohibited. More information on ASF prevention is available at <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526229.pdf> and <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526229.pdf>

On regular basis, the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision and the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan develop training programs and organize simulative trainings, seminars and training on highly dangerous animal diseases among veterinarians, animal owners and other interested

individuals and legal entities regarding their prevention, diagnosis and elimination, including ASF. These trainings and seminars contribute to development of practical skills in differential diagnosis of ASF.

**Table 2.** Conducted seminars on ASF recognition and awareness, Kazakhstan, 2011 - 2018

Activities	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Seminars	5	5	5	10	14	5	10	15
Simulation exercises	2	2	3	2	5	5	9	12

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, all measures to eliminate ASF in the event of a disease outbreak are in place. More information is available at: <https://moa.gov.kz/documents/1544526303.pdf>

## V. Conclusions

Considering that:

- Kazakhstan is a historically African swine fever free country;
- ASF is a disease subject to immediate notification, based on national legislation of Kazakhstan;
- the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* related to self-declaration have been met;
- national surveillance and diagnostic systems are able to detect any suspicion of the disease in a timely manner through mandatory notification and application of measures to protect animal health;
- the Committee for Veterinary Control and Supervision of Kazakhstan has implemented the necessary control measures to ensure that imported animals and animal products do not pose a significant risk of imposing ASF;
- Kazakhstan has an effective surveillance system for the prevention and differential diagnosis of ASF;

The Delegate of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OIE declares that the country meets the requirements for a country free from ASF from October 22, 2018, in accordance with Chapter 1.6., Article 1.4.6. paragraph 1a) and Article 15.1.3. paragraph 1 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

*Annex I*

I, the undersigned, Dr. Tursyn Kabduldhanov, Delegate of Kazakhstan to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), take responsibility for the self-declaration of freedom from African swine fever disease.

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Drawn up on 22/10/2018



Dr. Tursyn Kabduldhanov,  
Delegate of Kazakhstan to OIE