

RESOLUTION No. 15

Procedures for Member Countries for the official recognition and maintenance of disease status of certain animal diseases or risk status of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and for the endorsement of national official control programmes

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates (the Assembly) during the 62nd General Session adopted Resolution No. IX, 'Countries and zones that may be considered as free from foot and mouth disease (FMD)',
2. During the 63rd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolutions Nos XII, XIII and XIV, which described the general procedure to update the list of FMD free countries and added contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and rinderpest to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*,
3. During the 65th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XII, which required that Member Countries with an official free status, either for the whole country or for zone(s), confirm by official letter, in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code*, during the month of November of each year, that their official disease free status and the criteria by which that status was recognised have remained unchanged,
4. During the 65th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. XVII, which delegated to the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised FMD free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
5. During the 67th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XVI, which described the general procedure to be followed by the OIE Member Countries wishing to achieve an officially recognised status according to the provisions of the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and made official recognition contingent to a 60-day consultative period given to all Member Countries' Delegates,
6. During the 69th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XV, which added bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE,
7. During the 72nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXIV, which extended the authority of the Scientific Commission to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or zone has regained its previously recognised disease free status following outbreaks that have been eradicated in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* to the other diseases included in the procedure of official status recognition,
8. During the 73rd and the 74th General Sessions, the Assembly adopted Resolutions No. XXVI and No. XXVII, respectively, which established a new procedure for BSE status recognition based on risk assessment and described three categories of BSE risk status (negligible, controlled and undetermined),

9. During the 75th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXXII, which introduced in the *Terrestrial Code* the concept of an FMD containment zone, allowing a Member Country to establish an FMD containment zone for the purpose of minimising the impact of an outbreak of FMD on an entire free country or zone,
10. During the 76th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. XXII, which compiled and updated the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases,
11. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 18, which declared global freedom of rinderpest, and Resolution No. 26, which suspended the duty of Member Countries to annually confirm rinderpest free status,
12. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolutions Nos 19 and 26, which established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for FMD being in compliance with the provisions of the chapter on FMD in the *Terrestrial Code*,
13. During the 79th General Session, the Assembly noted that an explanatory document outlining the standard operating procedures for official disease status evaluations had been compiled by the OIE Headquarters for the benefit of Member Countries and the document was published and kept up-to-date on the OIE website,
14. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 19, which added African horse sickness (AHS) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
15. During the 80th General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 25, which updated the procedures that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases or endorsement of a national official control programme for FMD,
16. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 29, which added classical swine fever (CSF) and peste des petits ruminants (PPR) to the list of diseases for which status is officially recognised by the OIE and established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for PPR in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*,
17. During the 81st General Session, the Assembly also adopted Resolution No. 30, which updated the procedure that Member Countries should follow to achieve recognition and maintenance of official status of certain animal diseases or endorsement of a national official control programme,
18. During the 82nd General Session, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 31, which established the endorsement by the OIE of a national official control programme for CBPP, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*, and Resolution No. 21, which described the procedure that Member Countries should follow to achieve the endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP,
19. Financial obligations due by Member Countries applying for official recognition of disease status and for the endorsement of a national official control programme have been determined and updated in specific resolutions,
20. Information published by the OIE is derived from declarations made by OIE Delegates of Member Countries,

21. The OIE is not responsible for publication or maintenance of Member Countries' or zonal disease status based on inaccurate information or untimely or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of changes in epidemiological status or other significant events subsequent to the initial declaration,
22. The OIE is also not responsible for publication or maintenance of the endorsement of Member Countries' national official control programme based on inaccurate information or non-reporting to the OIE Headquarters of significant changes in the implementation of relevant measures in the Member Country subsequent to the endorsement of the national official control programme.

THE ASSEMBLY

DECIDES

1. That the OIE Member Countries wishing to be officially recognised and listed for a disease status for AHS, CBPP, CSF, FMD, PPR and risk status for BSE or for the endorsement of their national official control programme for CBPP, FMD and PPR have to provide documented evidence that they comply with the disease specific provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the recognition of disease status or endorsement of a national official control programme as well as the specific guidelines contained in disease specific questionnaires and the general provisions for Veterinary Services as outlined in Chapters 1.1., 1.6., 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
2. That the Scientific Commission, following the evaluation of documented evidence provided by a Member Country for the recognition or reinstatement of a specific disease status or endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the applicant Member Country to verify compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
3. That the Scientific Commission, following the allocation of a specific disease status, a BSE risk status or endorsement of a national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, may request, in consultation with the Director General of the OIE, a mission of experts to the Member Country to monitor the maintenance of the allocated disease or risk status or the progress of the national official control programme and to verify continuous compliance by that Member Country with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code* for the control of that particular disease.
4. That in the event of the application for an official status to be assigned 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 is being merged with the adjoining zone to become one enlarged zone, and, if the two zones remain separate, provide details on the control measures to be applied for the maintenance of the status of the separate zones and particularly on the identification and movement of animals between the two zones of the same status in accordance with Chapter 4.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.
5. That the recognition by the Assembly of the disease status or BSE risk status of a Member Country or the endorsement of its national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR following the recommendation made by the Scientific Commission is contingent upon a 60-day consultative period by all Member Countries' Delegates for all new disease status recognitions, changes in the category of disease free status or BSE risk status as specified in the *Terrestrial Code*, changes in the boundaries of an existing free zone, and endorsement of a national official control programme.

6. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, that a Member Country or a zone within its territory has regained its previously recognised disease status following outbreaks or infections as appropriate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
7. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to recognise, without further Assembly consultation, the reinstatement of the free status of a Member Country or a zone outside of a containment zone on evaluation of documented evidence provided by that Member Country that a containment zone has been established in accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*.
8. To delegate to the Scientific Commission the authority to confirm or reject, without further Assembly consultation, the maintenance of the allocated BSE risk status of a Member Country or a zone following a report of a change in the epidemiological situation by the Delegate of the Member Country.
9. That a Member Country can maintain its recognised disease status, its recognised BSE risk status or the OIE endorsement of its national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR, provided that the Delegate submits, during the month of November of each year, to the Director General of the OIE the relevant information as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code* and that the Scientific Commission is satisfied that the requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* continue to be met.
10. That further to the declaration of global eradication of rinderpest in 2011, Member Countries are exempt from annual reconfirmation for rinderpest free status.
11. That when a Member Country having an officially recognised disease status or an endorsed national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR has failed to comply with the conditions for maintenance of this status or endorsement as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Code*, it is deleted from the list of officially recognised Member Countries or zones or from the list of Member Countries having an endorsed national official control programme presented yearly to the Assembly for adoption.
12. That a Member Country having been deleted from the list mentioned in the previous paragraph can apply again for recognition of the lost disease status or endorsement of the national official control programme for CBPP, FMD or PPR by re-submitting documented evidence to the Director General for evaluation by the Scientific Commission.
13. That the Delegates of Member Countries should document and clarify aspects of Veterinary Services and the specific animal health situation in non-contiguous territories covered by the same Veterinary Authority when submitting new applications for official recognition of disease status or endorsement of national official control programme.
14. That financial participation of Member Countries to the cost of official recognition and endorsement procedures is determined by Resolution No. 16 of the 83rd General Session.
15. This Resolution No. 15 cancels and replaces Resolution No. 30 of the 81st General Session and Resolution No. 21 of the 82nd General Session.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015
in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)