

VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF BSE STANDARDS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE OFFICIAL STATUS RECOGNITION

(SIXTH MEETING)

21, 23, 28, 29, 30 June, and 1 July 2021

Terms of reference

Purpose

The purpose of this *ad hoc* Group (the Group) is to conduct an assessment of the impact of BSE revised provisions on the Members with a currently officially recognized status, and to provide independent analysis and advice to the OIE in response to the comments received from the Members regarding the revised draft Chapters 11.4 and 1.8 for the recognition and maintenance of BSE risk status as well as the recommendations for international trade.

The Group is convened under the authority of and reports to the OIE Director General.

Background

In February 2018, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (Scientific Commission) agreed on an in-depth review of Chapter 11.4, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Since July 2018, the OIE has convened five *ad hoc* Groups on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) to complete the revision of the BSE standards: two *ad hoc* Groups on risk assessment (July 2018 and November 2018), one *ad hoc* Group on surveillance (October 2018), and two joint *ad hoc* Groups on risk assessment and surveillance (March 2019 and June 2020). During its September 2019 meeting, the Code Commission reviewed the reports of the first four *ad hoc* Group meetings and the opinion of the Scientific Commission regarding the revised draft chapter, and circulated the revised chapter for comments for the first time.

During its June 2020 meeting (second joint meeting), the Group reviewed the amendments made by the Code Commission at its February 2020 meeting on Chapter 11.4 upon circulation with Members for comments, and revised Chapter 1.8 to address any remaining matters emerging from the revision of Chapter 11.4 ensuring full consistency between the BSE questionnaire and the draft Chapter 11.4. The report of the second joint meeting by the Group was reviewed by the Code Commission at its September 2020 meeting, and the revised Chapters were circulated for second time for Members' comments. The Code Commission, at its February 2020 meeting, reviewed the comments received from Members on the revised Chapters and requested further expert advice on some comments.

Following the revision of BSE standards, an assessment of the impact of the revised provisions on currently officially recognized Members needs to be conducted to identify issues that can potentially affect their status. In a similar way, the requirements for maintenance of BSE risk status have to be in line with the revised provisions; therefore, the draft form for annual reconfirmation of BSE risk status also needs to be reviewed and finalised.

Pre-requisites

Group members should:

- Sign the OIE Undertaking on Confidentiality of information (if not done already);
- Complete the Declaration of Interest Form.
- Understand that the membership of the Group may be retained between *ad hoc* Group meetings to ensure continuity of the work.

Actions to deliver

The members of this Group will conduct the following actions:

1. Conduct the assessment of the impact that the revised BSE provisions may have on the status of Members currently officially recognised with a BSE risk status.

Propose the next steps to follow for each Member considering the information in the summary sheets prepared by the OIE Secretariat and any other relevant additional information. The purpose is to assist Members to comply with the revised BSE provisions as soon as possible to prevent suspensions in the future.

2. Revise and endorse the draft annual reconfirmation form for maintenance of BSE risk status.

Revise and endorse the draft annual reconfirmation form developed for maintenance of BSE risk status based on the conclusions of the *ad hoc* Group on the revision of BSE standards on risk assessment and surveillance that met in March 2019, which were endorsed by the Scientific Commission in September 2019.

3. Revise and endorse the plan to obtain and publish the ‘period for which the risk of recycling of BSE agents in the cattle population can be considered to be negligible’ for all Members with a BSE risk status.

4. Address the Members’ comments to the revision of Chapter 11.4.:

- a. Draft Article 11.4.16bis (Recommendations for importation of tallow derivatives)
 - *Provide opinion on the requirements (temperature, time and pressure) of the methods used safely produce tallow derivatives.
- b. Draft Article 11.4.2. (The BSE risk of the cattle population of a country, zone or compartment)
 - Consider the proposal of a Member in point 1 (a)(i) to add ‘sheep and goats’ in the commodities that should be considered in the entry assessment taking into consideration point 2 of Article 11.4.1.
 - Consider the proposal of a Member to delete ‘through the feeding of ruminant-derived protein meal, with indigenous cases arising’ in point 1 (d).

5. Further revise Chapter 1.8. (the BSE questionnaire):

Address any remaining matters emerging from the revision of Chapter 11.4., ensuring full consistency between the questionnaire and the draft Chapter 11.4.

Point marked with an * will be discussed if time permits.

Deliverables

The Group is expected to produce a detailed report with the outcome for each of the activities listed above. Should the *ad hoc* Group not be able to complete its Terms of reference during this meeting, experts’ contributions will be solicited after the meeting, including by teleconference(s) if needed.

Reporting / Timeline

The OIE will circulate the draft report no more than seven days after the virtual meeting (not later than 8 July 2021) and the Group will finalise its report within the following week (deadline: 15 July 2021).