

THE OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL – TRADE FACILITATING ISSUES

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The OIE continues to develop science based improvements to the Chapter on foot and mouth disease in order to minimize impediments to the trade in animals and animal products, while at the same time promote the eradication of the disease. The latest biosecurity measures, such as the implementation of compartmentalisation are being added to the already existing recommendations on zoning. The application of ‘protection zone’ and ‘containment zone’ will also be illustrated. Commodity specific recommendations are also expanded in order to facilitate the safe trade in certain commodities even when the disease is present in the country or zone.

The recent improvements proposed by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and adopted by the International Commission have fundamentally changed to emphasis of this disease chapter from a heavy focus on country freedom to a clearly risk based approach to facilitated safe trade of individual commodities. This change in emphasis is only possible when the application of biosecurity measures is accompanied by a sound and credible certifying veterinary infrastructure.

The presentation will illustrate the link between strong veterinary governance and the advantages on trade, even in the presence of the disease, while the ultimate goal continues to be that of the complete eradication of foot and mouth disease.

