

MEMORANDUM
between the European Community represented by DG Health and Consumer Protection and the Presidency and the Russian Federation represented by the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance concerning principles of zoning and regionalisation in the veterinary field

In the framework of the negotiations on cooperation in veterinary field between the European Commission and the Russian Federation and given the technical arrangements already established by the Memorandum on veterinary certification of 2 September 2004, further technical arrangements are needed aimed at applying the principles of zoning/regionalisation (the terms zoning and regionalisation are synonymous and only the term zoning is used henceforth) in the international movement of animals and products of animal origin between the Member States of the European Community and the Russian Federation. To this end the recommendations of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code shall be used as a basis for zoning and the following principles shall be applied:

1. Zones may be established in the course of disease control and prevention measures to control an outbreak of a disease or zones may refer to the presence or absence of the disease/disease agent or micro-organisms which may change their properties to become pathogenic or arthropods and other possible vectors of disease in a zone, different prevalence of the disease in zones or the control measures (including vaccination) in place in the zones.
2. The borders of the zones may be administrative/legal, natural or artificial boundaries. Administrative boundaries include borders of countries, and any administrative/legal entity within a country. Natural boundaries include mountains, rivers, seas, lakes, etc. Artificial boundaries include physical features such as roads, canals and railways. The choice of the type of borders should always take into account the best available option or combination of administrative/legal, natural and artificial boundaries in the establishment of the zones. Detailed information with maps must be provided describing the zone.
3. Legislation or applicable procedures enable the establishment, lifting, maintenance and control of the zones and their borders, including movement controls for all susceptible animals and products produced from these animals. The measures above must be risk based and flexible, reflecting the different levels of risk.
4. The disease for which zoning is carried out must be immediately notifiable in the party concerned.
5. Depending on the disease and its epidemiology different types of zones may be foreseen such as affected zones, protection zone, surveillance zone, buffer zones, vaccination zones and free zones. These zones (except the

free zones) may present different types of risk and may be classified as zones:

- with an unacceptable risk where the level of prevalence of the disease or risk associated with vaccination may not be acceptable to the importing party; or

- with an acceptable risk where the level of prevalence of the disease or risk associated with vaccination is acceptable to the importing party.

6. Control measures, prevention measures and investigations should take into account the epidemiology of the disease under consideration. To effectively manage the zones surveillance must be carried out inside and outside the different zones. Surveillance programs should consider the epidemiology of the disease, and may include active and passive surveillance.
7. Confirmed and suspected cases should be followed by epidemiological investigations and surveillance. Surveillance programs should be designed taking into account the specific features of the disease agent, the host population, environmental and infrastructural factors, and disease control measures.
8. If disease is detected or eliminated in free/buffer/affected/protection/surveillance zones or vaccination stopped in a vaccination zone, the status of those zones is subject to reassessment. Scientifically supportable measures may be taken to protect or re-establish the status of the zones, including stamping out, movement control, stand still and vaccination.
9. All measures taken and any changes in the situation as referred to above shall be notified without delay, in particular concerning the legislation/administrative procedures and control measures including the methodology for, and implementation of, the zoning, as well as information on disease outbreaks, and changes in the vaccination status.
10. A joint permanent working group shall be set up to discuss issues which may arise from the implementation of, or amendments to, this memorandum.
11. The final decision whether trade in animals and animal products on the basis of zoning can occur lays with the importing party*. In determining whether import or movements of animals and animal products can occur, the importing party may consult the exporting party and may include an evaluation visit concerning the health situation on the spot. The importing party may decide on any reasonable and justifiable additional guarantees or risk mitigating factors, such as de-boning/maturation, treatment, quarantine, time delays and tests taking account of any measures set out in

* The Parties will aim to maintain the principle of parity when they introduce temporary restrictions linked to infectious animal diseases.

the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The importing party shall notify the exporting party without delay of the decision taken.

12. This Memorandum can be reviewed by an agreement of both sides.

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