

**MONITORING/REVISION OF AN INTERNATIONAL STANDARD:  
AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS**

Request by South Africa

In accordance with the provisions made by the SPS Committee of the WTO, South Africa wishes to request the monitoring/revision of the international standard in the OIE *International Animal Health Code* for African Horse Sickness (Chapter 2.1.11 of the *Code*).

The main reasons for this request are the following:

1. The current Chapter in the *Code* is outdated in terms of the epidemiology of the disease – especially related to vectors responsible and risk mitigation procedures;
  2. The required radius of 100 km around an outbreak for a protection zone and 50 km around the protection zone for the creation of a surveillance zone, need to be re-evaluated in view of more recent information on the epidemiology of the disease;
  3. The same applies for the scientific justification of a period of 2 years before an infected zone can be declared free from disease;
  4. The principles currently established by the OIE Code Commission for the revision of the *Code* chapter on Bluetongue need to be taken into consideration to determine a more updated approach on the *Code* chapter for African Horse Sickness;
  5. The *Code* should make provision for low and high seasonal incidence or freedom from disease to coincide with the approach in other seasonal vector borne diseases such as Bluetongue; and
  6. The outdated scientific justification for the international standard set by Chapter 2.1.11 of the *Code* could be perceived as an impediment to the international trade in equines.
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