

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

USA Comments

CHAPTER 2.5.14.

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

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Article 2.5.14.3.

AHSV seasonally free zone

1. An AHSV seasonally free zone is a part of an infected country or an *infected zone* for which for part of a year, ongoing surveillance and monitoring demonstrate no evidence of AHSV transmission and of the presence of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors.

General Comment: With respect to African Horse Sickness, it will likely be difficult to identify seasonally free zones because of the following:

- The length of the vector season and the geographic distribution of the vector may change markedly from year to year due to such climactic events as El Niño and global warming;
- Complex surveillance and monitoring systems are required, and these may always be imperfect in design and have relatively low sensitivity

2. For the application of Articles 2.5.14.6., 2.5.14.8. and 2.5.14.9., the seasonally free period is:
 - a) taken to commence the day following the last evidence of AHSV transmission and of the cessation of activity of adult *Culicoides* likely to be competent AHSV vectors as demonstrated by an ongoing surveillance programme, and
 - b) taken to conclude either:
 - i) at least ~~28~~ 40 days before the earliest date that historical data show AHSV activity has recommenced; or

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Comment: If the *infective period* is 40 days, then b)i) should reflect this.