



Project: Technical assistance to improve implementation of food safety standards and disease crisis preparedness

**Training course: Animal Health Law - operators' responsibilities**

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- Operator responsibilities for:
  - Animal health
  - Animal I&R
  - Animal traceability
  - Animal movement
  - Animal emergencies

# Preventive approach



- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases ('Animal Health Law') (AHL)
  - applies from 21 April 2021
  - it is complemented by additional rules, mainly adopted in 2020



# New element of AHL



- Responsibilities of keepers, operators, veterinarians, competent authorities, etc.
- More risk-based approach including prioritisation and categorisation of animal diseases for EU intervention
  - more prevention
  - biosecurity
  - surveillance
  - knowledge on animal health
  - use of vaccines
  - emerging diseases
  - AMR
- Easy and safe trade



- Operators:
  - The health of their animals, biosecurity, etc.
  - Knowledge of animal health
    - Animal diseases, biosecurity, interaction with animal welfare, good husbandry practices, prudent use of antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance
  - Observe the animal health
  - Observe changes in production
  - Observe abnormal mortalities and other signs of animal health
  - Animal health visits

# Disease notification and reporting



- Rules for notification of animal diseases
- Notification of natural and legal persons to veterinarians and the CA Union notification and reporting
- Computerized information system (ADIS)





- Surveillance (responsibilities):
  - Obligation of operators for surveillance (incl. Animal Health Visits)
- Aim:
  - Early detection
  - Prevalence
  - Incidence
  - Disease freedom
  - Eradication



- Compulsory and optional eradication programmes
  - Compulsory for Category B diseases
  - Optional for Category C diseases
- Measures under programmes and contents
- Disease free status
  - Countries
  - Zones
  - Compartments (n.b. only rules for aquatic compartments developed)
  - Maintenance, suspension, withdrawal and restoration



# Registration of establishments



- The following operators shall inform the competent authorities before they take up their activity:
  - Operators of establishments keeping **terrestrial animals**
  - Operators of establishments collecting, producing, processing or storing **germinal products**
  - **Transporters** engaged in transportation of kept ungulates, dogs, cats or ferrets or poultry between Member States (or to a third country)
  - Operators conducting **assembly operations** for kept ungulates and poultry, independently of an establishment
- The type of information to be provided is described in the AHL
- The operators shall also inform the competent authorities of any changes and any cessation of activity

# Operators of the following types of establishments shall apply for approval



- Establishments for **assembly operations of ungulates and poultry (to or from another MS)**
- **Germinal product establishments** of bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and equine animals **(to another MS)**
- **Hatcheries** of poultry (eggs or poultry **to another MS**)
- Establishments keeping poultry (**poultry other than for slaughter or eggs to another MS**)
- Establishments wishing to obtain the status of **confined establishment**
- Other type of establishment (assembly centres and animal shelters for dogs, cats and ferrets, control posts, environmentally isolated production establishments for bumble bees **(to another MS)** and **quarantine establishments (within the MS, to another MS and for imports)**)

# Approval of certain establishments



- **Apply for approval** - not take up the activity before the establishment is approved
- **Provide information** as provided for in AHL and/or DR and/or IR
- **Cease the activity** if the competent authority withdraws or suspends the approval
- **Inform** the competent authorities of **any changes** and any cessation of activity



- Operators of establishments and transporters registered or approved in accordance with AHL shall keep and maintain records
- Operators of establishments and transporters presenting a low risk may be exempted
- Rules on record-keeping for the operators of germinal product establishments that ceased their activity
- General record-keeping obligations for operators keeping terrestrial animals (species, categories, numbers and identification of animals kept, movements of animals into and out of, documents, mortality, biosecurity measures, surveillance, test results and the results of animal health visits)

# Interaction of different acts



- AHL (bovine, ovine and caprine, equine)
- Delegated act on identification
  - Dogs, cats, ferrets, cervids and camelids, captive birds (Psittacidae)
  - Physical means of identification
  - Identification or movement documents
- Implementing act on identification
  - Technical specification for physical means of identification



# Traceability of kept bovine animals



- Means of identification for kept bovine animals
  - Each animal individually identified with
    - two eartags or
    - one eartag and an EID
  - Time period for application of means of identification: up to 20 days (MS)
    - MS may derogate for extensively kept animals
- Computer database
  - Movements to and from the establishment, births and deaths (within 7 days)
- Identification document (or electronically exchange of information) when moved to another MS

# Traceability of ovine and caprine animals



- Means of identification for kept ovine and caprine animals
  - Each animal
    - not for slaughter: individually identified with one eartag + EID
    - for direct slaughter: identified with at least one eartag or pastern band
  - Time period for application of means of identification: up to 9 months (MS)
- Computer database
  - Movements to and from the establishment (at least batch) (within 7 days)
- Movement document (except when the information is kept in the database)

# Traceability of porcine animals



- Means of identification for kept porcine animals
  - Each animal identified with at least one eartag or a tattoo
  - Time period for application of means of identification: up to 9 months (MS)
    - before exit from establishment of birth or supply chain
- Computer database
  - Movements to and from the establishment (batch)
- Movement document



# Traceability of equine animals



- Means of identification for kept equine animals
  - Each animal individually identified with
    - a unique code
    - a physical means of identification (an injectable transponder, ear tag or pastern band) or alternative method of identification, and
    - a single lifetime identification document
- Time period for identification: a period to be determined by the Member State and not exceeding 12 months after birth
- Computer database
  - Information on equine animals habitually kept on the establishment (for more than 30 days)



- Means of identification
  - Each camelid animal individually identified with an ear-tag or EID
  - Each cervid animal individually identified with an ear-tag, EID or tattoo
  - Derogation for reindeer kept in traditional nomadic way
  - Time period for application of means of identification: up to 9 months (MS)
  - Derogation for cervid animals

# Traceability of other terrestrial animals



- Kept dogs, cats and ferrets
  - Individual identification when moved to another Member State by injectable transponder
  - Identification document when moved to another Member State
- Captive birds
  - Individual identification of psittacidae when moved to another Member State by leg ring, injectable transponder (approved by the CA) or tattoo.
- Terrestrial animals in traveling circuses and animal acts
  - Movement document for the travelling circus or animal act
  - Identification document for each kept terrestrial animal (except equine, birds, dogs, cats, ferrets, lagomorphs and rodents)

# Traceability of hatching eggs



- Operators of establishments keeping poultry and operators of hatcheries shall ensure that each hatching egg is marked with the unique approval number of the establishment of origin of the hatching eggs





- Terrestrial animals, germinal products, products of animal origin
- Aquatic animals, products of animal origin from aquatic animals
- Other animals, germinal products, products of animal origin





- Applies to movements within and between Member States
- Movements shall not jeopardise the health status at the place of destination
  - Operators are responsible
  - Applies to all kept animals
  - Listed diseases (point (d) of Article 9(1)) and emerging diseases
- Animals shall come from registered or approved establishments
- Animals shall fulfil the identification and registration requirements

# Preventive measures during transport



- Applies to movements within and between Member States
- The health status shall not be jeopardised during transport
- The transport shall not cause potential spread of listed diseases
- Biosecurity measures for transport operations
- Requirements regarding means of transport and containers
  - Construction
  - Cleaning and disinfection



- AHL, Part IV, Title I, Chapter 3, Section 3
- The animals
  - Show no clinical symptoms or signs of listed diseases
  - Have been subject to a residency period
  - They do not pose a significant risk of spreading listed diseases
    - The health status of the establishment of origin and of destination
    - Test results in order to provide guarantees
    - The application of vaccines or other prevention or risk-mitigating measures



# Requirements for bovines (I)



- Residency period 30 days, no contact with lower health status
- Requirements for brucellosis and tuberculosis
  - from free establishments, situated in free zones or the animals are tested
- From an establishment where there has been no report of
  - rabies and surra for 30 days and anthrax for 15 days
- epizootic haemorrhagic disease for 2 years in an area of 150 km
- «Safe» regarding Bluetongue
- Derogations under conditions if MS of destination gives consent

# Requirements for bovines (II)



- Additional guarantees for C-diseases
  - To zones free from or with an approved programme for EBL, IBR, BVD or Bluetongue
- Derogations for slaughter animals
  - Derogation from residency period
  - From an establishment free from brucellosis (with or without vaccination) and tuberculosis, or the animals are tested
  - From an establishment where there has been no report of
    - rabies and bluetongue for 30 days and anthrax for 15 days



- Ovines and caprines
- Porcines
- Equines
- Poultry
- Hatching eggs
- Camelids
- Cervids
- Other ungulates
- Specific requirements for movements of animals other than ungulates and poultry Primates
  - Bees
  - Dogs, cats and ferrets
  - Other carnivores
  - Captive birds and hatching eggs of captive birds
- Wild animals

# Obligations on operators



- Isolate all animals suspected of being infected with the category A disease;
- Keep the manure, including litter and used bedding, and any product, material or substance likely to be contaminated with and to transmit category A diseases isolated and protected from insects and rodents, kept animals of non-listed species and wild animals to the extent technically and practically feasible;
- Implement the appropriate additional biosecurity measures to avoid any risk of spread of the category A disease;
- Cease all movements of kept animals of listed species from or to the establishment;
- Prevent non-essential movements of animals of non-listed species, products, materials, substances, persons and means of transport from or to the establishment;
- Ensure that production, health and traceability records of the establishment are updated;
- Provide the competent authority, on its request, with any relevant information regarding the category A disease; and
- Follow any instructions given by the competent authority regarding the control of the category A disease, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 and this Regulation.



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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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