



EUROPEAN LIVESTOCK BREEDS ARK AND RESCUE NET

## Guidelines for Rescue in the Case of an Outbreak of a Disease

### *Introduction*

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of biungulates. Although foot-and-mouth disease has no public health importance, due to its exceptional economic importance, it is on the top of list A diseases of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE). Because of this facts, this guidelines focus on FMD. Relevant EU regulations are: directive 2003/85 FMD (especially Art. 15, 64 and 77), directive 92/65, directive 2005/94 (Avian Influenza). Furthermore the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Chapter 4 ( traceability and concept of compartmentalisation)

Necessary measures to protect animals indispensable for the survival of a special breed are identified as follows:

### **1. Measures *BEFORE* an outbreak**

#### **1.1.1. A list of holdings (approved centres)**

Here animals are kept for purposes related to the conservation of animals that are indispensable for the survival of that breed (rare breeds, nucleus groups), so that they may benefit from any special measures that may apply at the time of an FMD outbreak.

- A list of holdings (approved centres) must be established (by the state):
- These holdings should be placed at different regions of a country, to be in place when outbreaks occur
- Conditions for an approved centre (EU Council Directive 92/65 Annex C):
  - clearly demarcated and separated from its surroundings or the animals confined and located so as not to pose a health risk to agricultural holdings whose health status might be jeopardised
  - have adequate means for
    - catching
    - confining and isolating animals
    - have available adequate quarantine facilities (for at least 30 days)
    - approved procedures for animals coming from non-approved sources;

#### **1.1.2. Infrastructural factors** (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Art. 4.4.3.2)

Structural aspects of the establishments within a compartment contribute to the effectiveness of its biosecurity. Consideration should be given to:

- fencing or other effective means of physical separation;
- facilities for people entry including access control, changing area and showers;
- vehicle access including washing and disinfection procedures;
- unloading and loading facilities;
- isolation facilities for introduced animals;
- facilities for the introduction of material and equipment;
- infrastructure to store feed and veterinary products;
- disposal of carcasses, manure and waste;
- water supply;
- measures to prevent exposure to living mechanical or biological vectors such as insects, rodents and wild birds;
- air supply;
- feed supply/source.



## 1.2. Breed at risk register

A register of breeds at risk needs to be compiled to identify the animals, which should benefit from special measures in case of an outbreak (of FMD).

(Therefore a herdbook is a pre-condition, also in the case of vaccination to identify the offspring)

## 1.3. Transport

Animals are usually not allowed to enter or to leave the holding. By way of derogation from the prohibitions provided for, the competent authority may authorise movements onto and off the holding subject to all conditions necessary in order to avoid the spread of the disease virus.

Further the transportation underlies the Eu rules for a healthy transportation of animals (e.g. EU regulation 1/2005)

Facilities to be in place are:

- leak proof trailer
- integrally closed trailer to prevent spread of germs

## 1.4. Contract with the registered Holding

A contract with all details about the necessary equipment and appointments should be made with the place which comes into consideration is important. This contract should be made with the appropriate governmental authority of the country.

The contract includes (according to annex C, Council directive 92/65) :

-General information (size, kind etc. of the farm/station

-Animals: kind of animals and health status

-Detailed information of the holding

- clearly demarcated and separated from its surroundings
- or the animals confined and located so as not to pose a health risk to agricultural holdings whose health status might be jeopardised
- The holding must have adequate means for
  - catching
  - confining and isolating animals
  - have available adequate quarantine facilities (for at least 30 days)
  - approved procedures for animals coming from non-approved sources;

-duration of the agreement

-financial agreements

- To keep the free space
- In case of activation of the facilities of the holding

## 1.5. Contingency plan

- Contingency plans specify the national measures
- Contingency plans shall provide for the access to all facilities, equipment, personnel and other appropriate measures. Coordination with neighbouring states shall also be secured.
- Contingency plans ensure access to emergency funds, budgetary means and financial resourcesDetailed plans for emergency vaccinations shall be available
- An up-to-date operations manual shall be available
- All (preventive) measures needs to be in place
- Information about the measures (preventive and acute measures) shall be given to all relevant stakeholders (Holdings, Governmental and Non Governmental institutions working on rare and autochthonous breeds)



## **2. Minimum Measures necessary in the Case of an Outbreak**

The above mentioned preventive measures will come into force in the case of an outbreak:

### **2.1. Census**

The holding stands under official surveillance. It should be ensured that a census is made. All stocks of meat, milk, semen, slurry and animal feed have to be recorded

### **2.2. Disinfection**

Appropriate means of disinfection and biosecurity are used at the entrances and exists at all buildings or places housing animals of susceptible species and of the holding itself. Inquiries and samples will be taken according to directive 2003/85 EG.

### **2.3. Animal movement**

Animals are usually not allowed to enter or to leave the holding, except of holdings consisting of different epidemiological production units. The animals of susceptible species on the holding are kept in their living quarters or another place, where they can be isolated.

By way of derogation from the prohibitions provided for, the competent authority may authorise movements onto and off the holding subject to all conditions necessary in order to avoid the spread of the disease virus.

### **2.4. Control zones**

The competent authority shall establish a protection zone based on a minimum radius of 3 km and a surveillance zone based on a minimum radius of 10 km centred on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease

Restricted zone and free zone: when regionalization of FMD: The restricted zone shall as far as possible be delimited on the basis of administrative boundaries or geographical barriers.



## **Annex I**

### **1. OIE- Concept of Compartmentalisation**

In this concept, rare autochthonous breeds and their nucleus groups should be included:

- OIE concept of compartmentalisation: Compartment: one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.
- OIE “collecting centres”: a premise or place where animals for breeding or rearing or animals for slaughter from different establishments or markets are collected together

### **2. Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability** (See Chapter 4.2. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code)

Animal traceability means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.

Animal identification system means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments/owners, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with animal identification.

In designing animal identification systems it is useful to conduct preliminary studies, which should take into account:

- animal populations, species, distribution, herd management,
- farming and industry structures, production and location,
- animal health,
- public health,
- trade issues,
- aspects of animal husbandry,
- zoning and compartmentalisation,
- animal movement patterns (including transhumance),
- information management and communication,
- availability of resources (human and financial),
- social and cultural aspects,
- stakeholder knowledge of the issues and expectations,
- gaps between current enabling legislation and what is needed long term,
- international experience,
- national experience,
- available technology options,
- existing identification system(s),
- expected benefits from the animal identification systems and animal traceability and to whom they accrue.



## ***Annex II***

### ***Vaccination*** (in case of FMD)

Holdings and animals must be registered in any case

The application of the principle of regionalisation should allow the implementation of strict control measures, including emergency vaccination, in a defined part of the Community without endangering general Community interests. Dairy and meat products from vaccinated animals may be placed on the market in accordance with the relevant Community legislation and Directive 2003/85 in particular.