

# Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of disease status and endorsement of an official control programme

**Regional Training Workshop on  
WOAH Procedures for Official Status Recognition,  
Endorsement of Official Control Programmes and their  
Maintenance with regard to  
Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)**

30 March – 1 April 2026, Lusaka, Zambia

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WOAH Status Department



# Outline

- Importance of WOAHA official recognition & Endorsement
- Overview of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)



# Official recognition of animal health status

- **Great significance for international trade and constitutes one of the most important legal links between WOAHA and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).**
- **Benefits of official recognition of animal health status include:**
  - Demonstration of compliance with WOAHA international standards;
  - Protection of animal and human health in international trade;
  - Facilitation of safe trade of animals and their products;
  - Demonstration of the quality of Veterinary Services.



# WOAH endorsement of disease control programmes

## Objectives & Benefits include:

- To progressively improve the disease situation and eventually attain official recognition of animal health status;
- Wider access to international expertise and capacity-building activities;
- Visibility for facilitation and access to international funding;
- Increased engagement of governments in disease control and elimination;
- Opportunities for stronger coordination in disease control and elimination at the regional level.



# Overview of the Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status & endorsement of control programmes

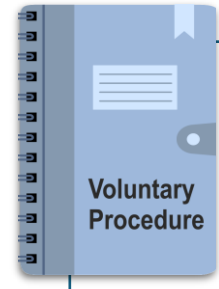
## Application\_SOP

### Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members

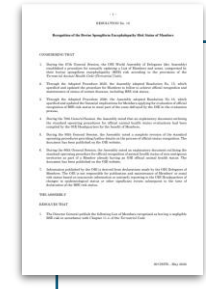
<b>Description/ Scope:</b>	This procedure describes the process for the preparation, assessment and approval of dossiers for the official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members.
<b>Related documents:</b>	Guidelines for the Official Status Recognition Process <sup>1</sup> (Annexed) Resolution No. 15 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure Resolution No. 16 of the 2020 Adapted Procedure
<b>Related processes:</b>	Expert Mission Deployment <sup>¶</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedure (Mission_SOP)</li> <li>- Guidelines (Mission_Guidelines)</li> </ul> Reconfirmation of a Status or Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedure (Reconfirmation_SOP)</li> <li>- Guidelines (Reconfirmation_Guidelines)</li> </ul> Suspension, Recovery and Withdrawal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procedure (Suspension_SOP)</li> <li>- Guidelines (Suspension_Guidelines)</li> </ul> Addendum: Establishment of a protection zone
<b>List of acronyms:</b>	AHG: <i>ad hoc</i> Group Assembly: World Assembly of Delegates DDG: Deputy Director General, Standards and Science DG: Director General SD: Status Department GS: General Session SCAD: Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases <i>Terrestrial Code: Terrestrial Animal Health Code</i>

Step	Time Reference	Responsible person	Action	Reference Document
1.	After the GS	DG	Sends letter to Delegates confirming SCAD and AHGs dates and deadlines for dossiers submission.	

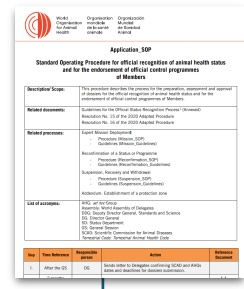
# The procedure



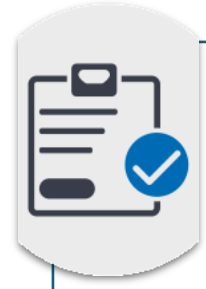
A voluntary procedure developed on Members' request to facilitate trade



Resolutions adopted by the World Assembly



SOPs and rules & guidelines



Updated when relevant

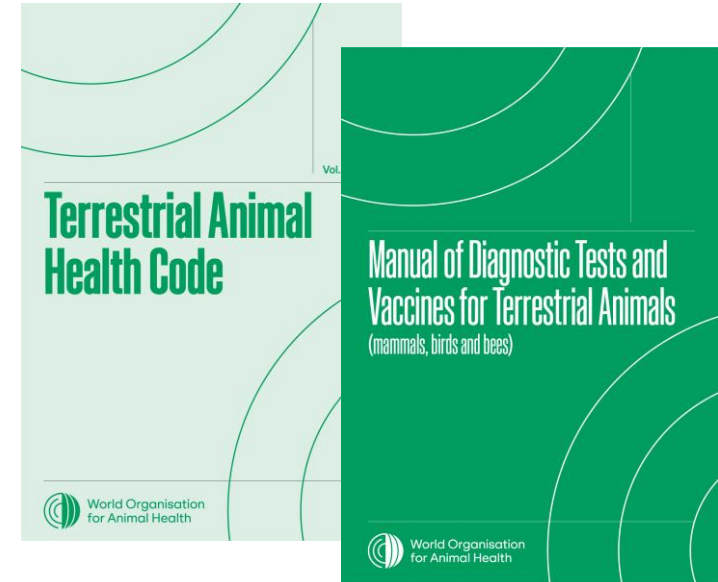


Available online in the three WOAHA official languages

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/official-disease-status/>

# The procedure: Submission of an application

- Compliance with the relevant provisions of the *Terrestrial Code*: **Chapter 11.5.**
- Complete – relevant to template **Questionnaire (Chapter 1.10.)** in the *Terrestrial Code* (also on WOAHA website) – **documented evidence**
- 50 pages + appendices (cross-referenced) + executive summary
- Digitalised map if relevant (free zone)
- Proof of payment – fee
- Contact details of technical staff



Demonstrate by **EVIDENCE**

# The procedure: Submission of an application

## WOAH calendar meetings:

- Cycle from a General Session to the following one
- Letter from the DG after each General Session announcing dates of the AHG
- Deadline to submit dossier: 2 months before the meeting of the AHG



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## *Tentative dates* of official status evaluation *ad hoc* Groups

Disease	Dates	Deadline for submission
BSE	28–30 September 2026	30 July 2026
FMD	13–15 October 2026	14 August 2026
Dog-mediated rabies	20–22 October 2026	21 August 2026
PPR	20–22 October 2026	21 August 2026
AHS	9–10 November 2026	10 September 2026
<b>CBPP</b>	<b>9–10 November 2026</b>	<b>10 September 2026</b>
CSF	17–19 November 2026	18 September 2026

# The procedure: evaluation

Voluntary application - Submission of dossier by Members

Preliminary screening by Status Department

Evaluation by the *ad hoc* Group

Evaluation by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Communication of the outcome by Director General

Official recognition by the World Assembly of Delegates  
(if positive outcome)



# The procedure: Preliminary screening



Archiving and screening



Acknowledge receipt of the submission to the Delegate



Request of additional information or amended dossier, if gap(s) identified



Translation in English if needed



Processing for the *ad hoc* Group



# The procedure: Evaluation by the *ad hoc* group

## An *ad hoc* Group:

- Usually comprised of six internationally recognised experts
- Takes into consideration geographical representation and gender balance, when possible.



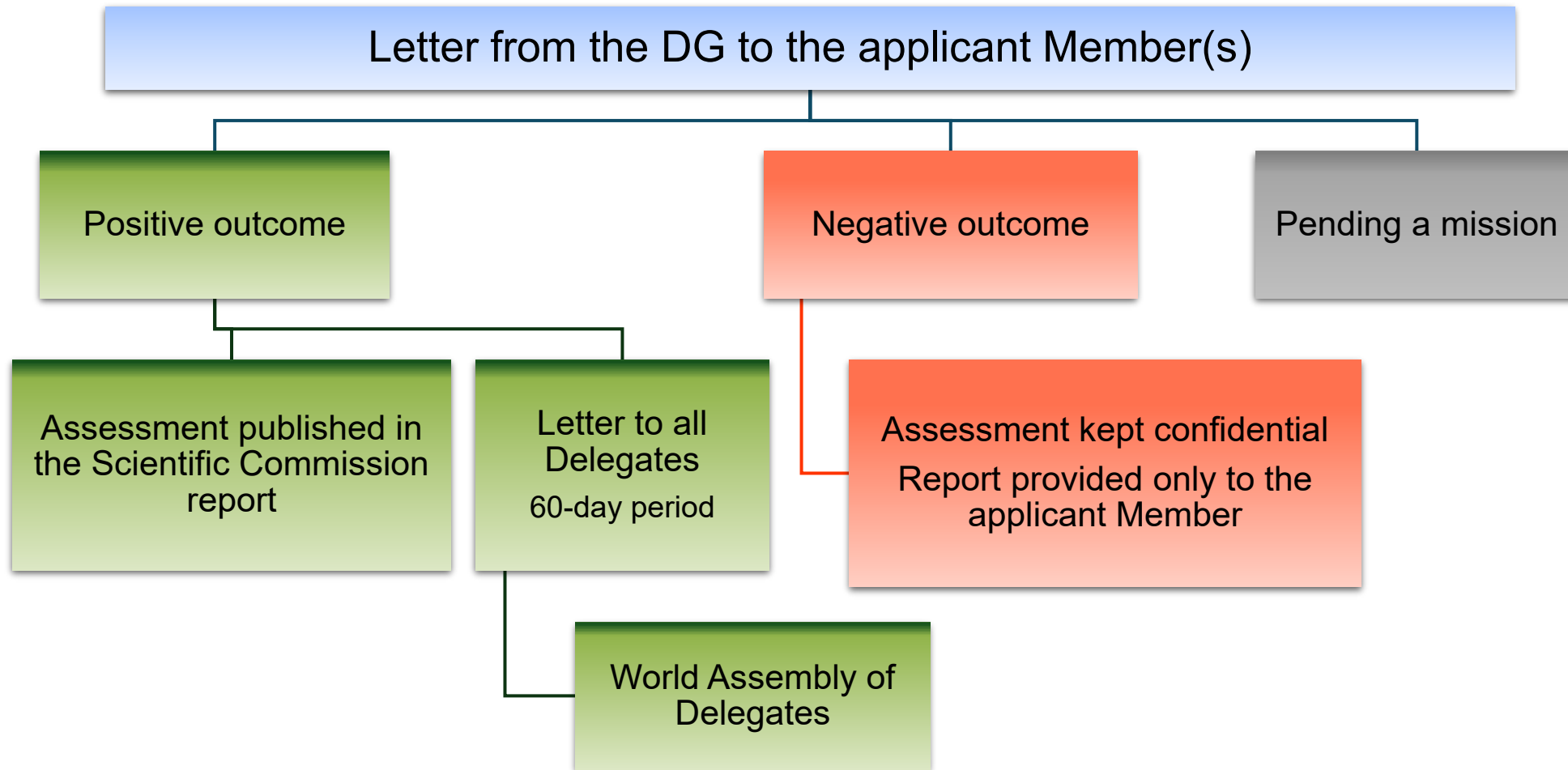
- Assessment against *Terrestrial Code* requirements
- Based on:
  - Information from the application and other Member reports submitted to WOAHA (e.g., WAHIS, PVS)
  - Experts' knowledge
  - Information available in the public domain
- Possible interaction (electronic) with the applicant Member
- Detailed evaluation report and recommendations forwarded to the Scientific Commission



## The procedure: Evaluation by the *Scientific Commission*

- Scientific Commission: Members elected by the World Assembly of Delegates for a three-year term
- Assess the dossier, including the *ad hoc* Group recommendations
- Possible interaction with
  - The chairperson of the *ad hoc* Group
  - Applicant Members, including the possible visit of a delegation
    - /!\ official request to WOAHA by the Delegate before 31 December
- Final recommendation proposed for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates
- **May request an expert mission (field or virtual) to verify the dossier**

# The procedure: communication of the outcome



## The procedure: official recognition

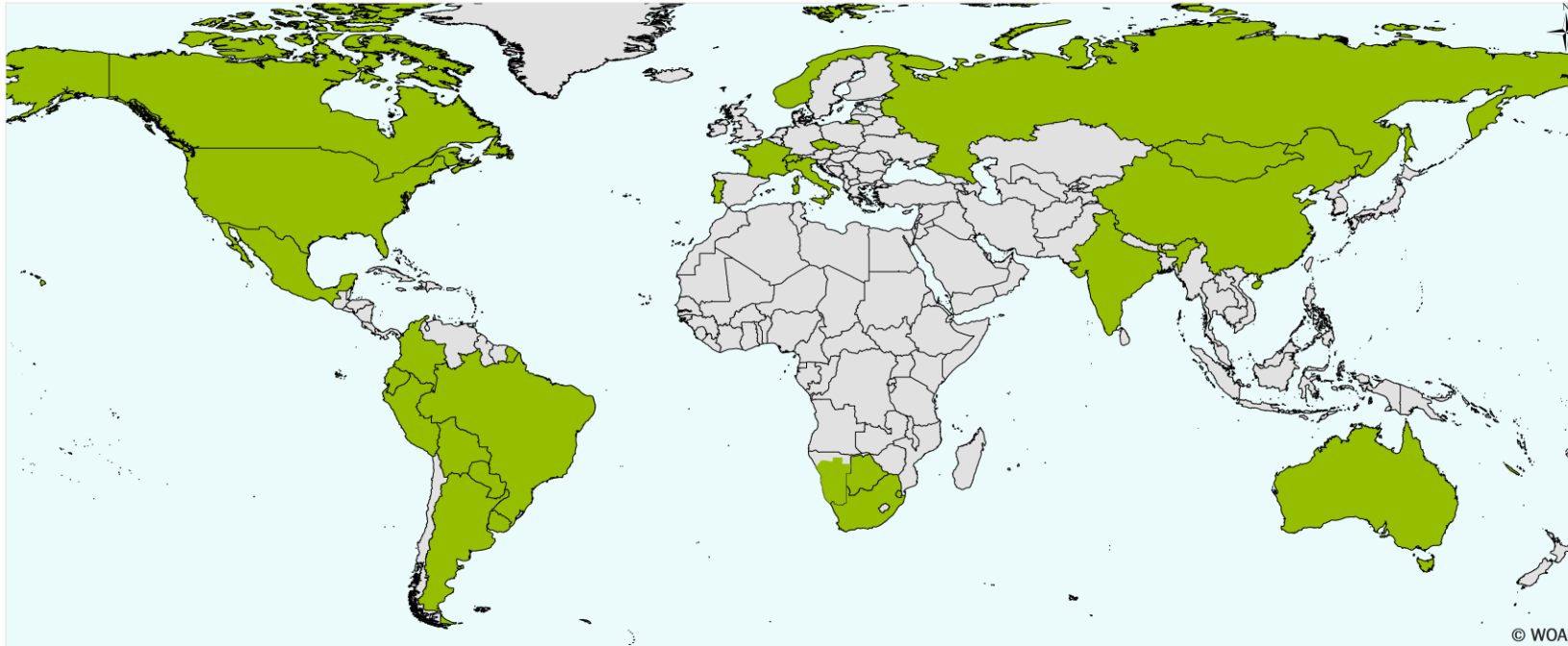
- By adoption of a  
**Resolution by the World  
Assembly of Delegates  
at the General Session**





# Current CBPP status of Members

## WOAH Members' official CBPP status map

Last update June 2025



-  Members and zone recognised as free from CBPP
-  Countries and zone without an official status for CBPP

**Endorsed official control programmes: Namibia, Zambia**

# Thank you for your attention!

WOAH Status Department

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