

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Facilitation of international movement of competition horses



PERSPECTIVES



DOSSIER



AROUND THE WORLD

Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) is a risk-based approach which can be considered when international horse sports competitions are planned in countries which have not yet been able to control or eradicate specific equine diseases in their entire territory, but which can establish the health status of a smaller zone with a limited equine population.

By establishing an EDFZ, disease risks are mitigated for horses that have been imported to compete and they are able to return safely to their countries of origin or other destinations.

Examples of EDFZs recently established to host international equine sports competitions:

- [In Japan in 2019](#)
- [In Indonesia in 2018](#)
- [In Turkmenistan in 2017](#)

An EDFZ consists of part of a country defined by, and under the control of, the Veterinary Authority. The EDFZ contains an equine population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status for specified equine diseases; i.e. the Veterinary Authority of the country concerned has declared that zone and that subpopulation free from that particular disease.

The list of diseases from which the EDFZ has been declared free should be based on a risk analysis. Such a list is usually based on the equine diseases [listed by the OIE](#) but may include other diseases of relevance to international horse movements. It is worth noting that an EDFZ cannot be self-declared free from **African horse sickness**, as [freedom from this disease is based on official recognition by the OIE](#).

The EDFZ usually comprises a **core zone** separated from surrounding areas by a physical or geographical barrier. Around this core zone, there is usually a **surveillance zone** in which the health status of all animals, and especially equines, should be monitored and documented. All equines should be registered and traceable within the EDFZ.

The establishment of an EDFZ is a complex process that requires a thorough risk assessment, sound planning and dedicated resources. The OIE has recently published **guidelines** to support Member Countries to establish an EDFZ.

[OIE guidelines on EDFZ](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2977>

DOSSIER

Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ)

to host an international horse sports competition

SUMMARY

An equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) contains an equine population or subpopulation with a specific health status. Establishing an EDFZ is a risk-based approach which should be considered when hosting international horse sports competitions.

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ), #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

AUTHORS

[Anthony Kettle](#), Equine International Consulting, Darwin, Australia.

The designations and denominations employed and the presentation of the material in this article do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the OIE concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

The views expressed in this article are solely the responsibility of the author(s). The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by the OIE in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.



© Hong Kong Jockey Club

The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Member Countries to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 312 centres of scientific expertise and 12 regional offices with a presence on every continent.



Follow the OIE: www.oie.int



@OIEAnimalHealth



World Organisation for Animal Health - OIE



OIEVideo



World Organisation for Animal Health



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)



Digital version: www.oiebulletin.com



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

12, rue de Prony - 75017 Paris, France
Tel.: +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 - Fax: +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 - oie@oie.int