

The OIE's approach to zones

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Definition

- http://web.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.4.3.pdf

CHAPTER 4.3.

ZONING AND COMPARTMENTALISATION

Article 4.3.1.

Introduction

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, ‘zoning’ and ‘regionalisation’ have the same meaning.

Establishing and maintaining a disease free-status throughout the country should be the final goal for OIE Members. However, given the difficulty of establishing and maintaining a *disease* free status for an entire territory, especially for *diseases* the entry of which is difficult to control through measures at national boundaries, there may be benefits to a Member in establishing and maintaining a *subpopulation* with a distinct health status within its territory. *Subpopulations* may be separated by natural or artificial geographical barriers or, in certain situations, by the application of appropriate management practices.

Zoning and compartmentalisation are procedures implemented by a Member under the provisions of this chapter with a view to defining *subpopulations* of distinct health status within its territory for the purpose of *disease* control and/or *international trade*. While zoning applies to an animal *subpopulation* defined primarily on a geographical basis (using natural, artificial or legal boundaries), compartmentalisation applies to an animal *subpopulation* defined primarily by management and husbandry practices related to biosecurity. In practice, spatial considerations and good management including *biosecurity plans* play important roles in the application of both concepts.

Definition

- Zoning or regionalisation, is a procedure implemented by a Member Country under the provisions of the relevant chapters of the Terrestrial Code with a view to define subpopulations, on a geographical basis, of distinct health status within its territory for the purpose of disease control and/or international trade (Article 4.3.1)

Definition

- A zone defined according to the Zoning procedure contain a subpopulation with a distinct health status within its territory. The subpopulation may be separated by natural or artificial geographical barriers or, in certain situations, by the application of appropriate management practices (Article 4.3.1)

Definition

- Spatial considerations (together with good management and biosecurity plans) play important roles in the application of Zoning concept. In particular, the extent of a zone and its geographical limits should be established by the Veterinary Authority on the basis of natural, artificial and/or legal boundaries, and made public through official channels (Article 4.3.3).

Definition

- ‘zoning’ and ‘regionalisation’ have the same meaning
- Zoning is procedures implemented by a country
 - to define sub-populations of different animal health status within its territory
 - in accordance with the recommendations in the *OIE Codes*
 - for the purpose of international trade

Usage

- zoning allows a concentration of resources where there is greatest chance of success
 - in controlling or eradicating a disease
 - gaining or maintaining market access for certain commodities
- where freedom of the **whole** country from the disease is not possible or practicable

zoning/compartmentalisation

- zoning applies to an animal sub-population defined on a **geographical** basis
- compartmentalisation applies to an animal sub-population defined by **management practices** relating to **biosecurity**

OIE definitions

- Zone/Region
 - a clearly defined **part** of a country ...
- Compartment
 - one or more establishments (premises in which animals are kept) under a clearly defined **common biosecurity management system** ...

OIE definitions

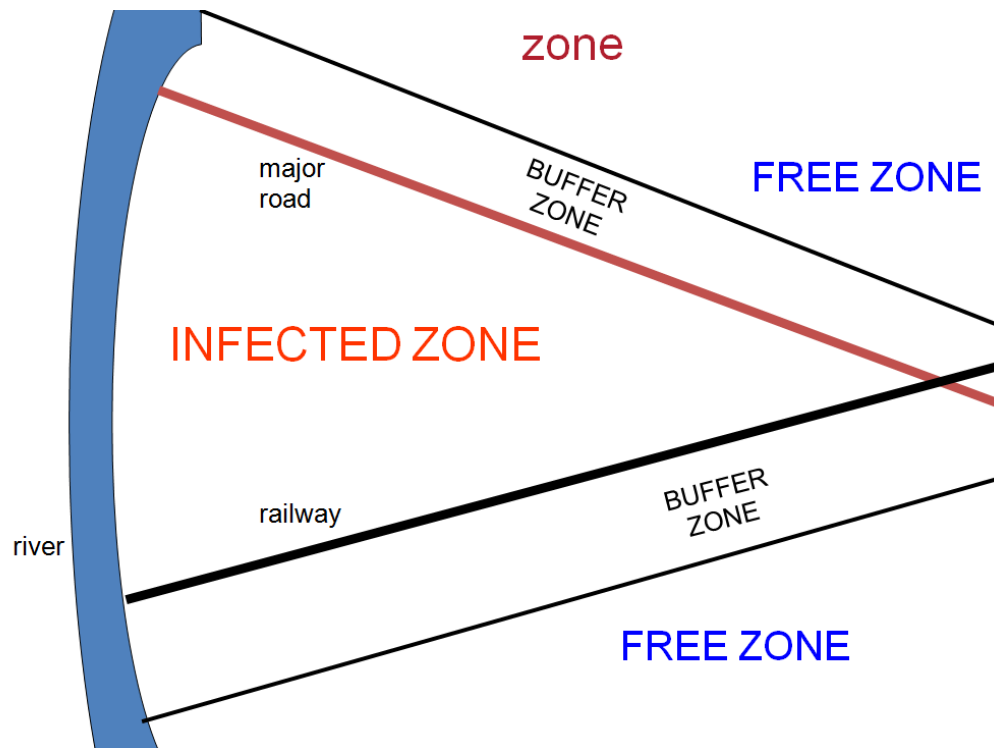
a clearly defined **part** of a country..

..containing an animal sub-population with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases ..

..for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

application of the concepts

- the extent of a zone is established on the basis of **natural**, **artificial** or **legal boundaries** by the Veterinary Administration



recommendations

- zoning is not mandatory
- code recommendations exist or will be developed for zones for diseases for which the concepts are appropriate
 - for some diseases, either concept may not be appropriate

application depends on

- epidemiology of the disease
- environmental factors
- necessary surveillance
- appropriate and applicable biosecurity measures
- quality of vet services / other competent authority
- cooperation between govt and private sector for compartments

some factors

- epidemiology
 - how does the disease spread ?
 - what species does it affect ?
- environment
 - temperature / humidity
 - natural / artificial barriers
- biosecurity measures
 - dedicated staff and equipment
 - animals housed vs free range
 - imposed movement controls

application of the concepts

- Veterinary Administration must document the measures taken to
 - identify the animal sub-population
 - recognise its distinct health status
 - maintain its distinct health status
- dossier will be as detailed as situation requires

application of the concepts

- exporting country wanting to define a zone (or compartment) within its territory needs to implement the Code recommendations for setting up and maintaining such a zone or compartment
 - or equivalent measures
- within the context of
 - competent vet services
 - sound knowledge of the animal population
 - ability to survey for and diagnose disease accurately

application of the concepts

- an importing country should recognise this zone (or compartment), subject to the application of the appropriate Code recommendations
 - with regard to the importation, or transit through its territory, of commodities from that zone or compartment

Uses

- in disease control / eradication campaign
 - progressive zoning (or compartmentalisation) allows stepwise approach
 - allows concentration of resources where greatest chance of success
- in trade zone
 - to gain / maintain market access for certain commodities
 - where whole country freedom not possible or practicable