

**AD HOC GROUP ON PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS**  
**Virtual, week of 12 November 2024**

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group is to work on selected issues under Chapter 14.7. 'Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus' of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and to provide an opinion regarding the streamlining of the procedure for annual reconfirmations for the maintenance of an official PPR free status or endorsed official control programme for PPR.

**Background and Responsibilities**

**Part 1:** During its September 2024 meeting, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) requested to consult expert opinion on some provisions in Chapter 14.7. 'Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus' of the *Terrestrial Code*. These include:

1. reconsideration of the role of wild animals and unusual hosts in the epidemiology of infection with PPR virus;
2. revision of provisions for imports of certain commodities of sheep and goats from PPR infected countries, and in particular the provisions under Articles 14.7.19 and 14.7.25.
3. When needed for points 1 and 2, the *ad hoc Group* should propose draft provisions for consideration by the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases and Code Commission.

**Part 2:** According to [Article 1.6.2](#) of the *Terrestrial Code*, Members with an officially recognised animal health status or an endorsed disease control programme by WOAHA are required to submit an annual reconfirmation (AR) with supporting evidence each November to maintain this recognition or endorsement. WOAHA is currently working on streamlining the process while still respecting the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* and without compromising the credibility of the WOAHA procedure. As part of this work, the Scientific Commission has recommended to seek the opinion of each of the seven *ad hoc* Groups on status evaluation on the minimum supportive information they would expect Members to provide for each disease when reconfirming their animal health status annually, demonstrating compliance with the relevant requirements of the *Terrestrial Code* for maintenance of official status.

**Expectations**

*Ad hoc* Group members should:

- be familiar with the structure of the *Terrestrial Code* and the use of Glossary definitions and the Framework for *Terrestrial Code* standards;
- have read and considered Chapters 14.7. and 8.8. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- have read all working documents provided by the WOAHA Secretariat;
- contribute to discussions, and;
- contribute to drafting text for the report and, if needed, the revised articles.

*Ad hoc* Group members should:

- sign the WOAHA Undertaking on Confidentiality;
- complete the WOAHA Declaration of Interest form, and;
- read and acknowledge the WOAHA personal data management policy.

**Deliverables**

1. a report presenting the proposed approach for the revised articles, including the rationale for decisions and proposed texts, and supporting references when relevant.
2. a draft summary (to be annexed to the report) of the minimum supportive information expected from Members to provide for PPR when reconfirming their animal health status annually.
3. the draft revised articles to be included in Chapter 14.7., as necessary.

**Reporting / timeline**

The above aspects will be discussed during the virtual meeting. After the meeting, the *ad hoc* Group should finalise the relevant deliverables within 2 weeks after the completion of the meeting.

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