

Second Meeting
Geneva, 6-10 December 2004

Meeting of Experts
Geneva, 19-30 July 2004
Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Reporting and Surveillance of Diseases in Germany

Submitted by Germany

1. The working paper entitled "Electronic Reporting System for Public Health Surveillance in Germany" describes Germany's current system for the reporting of human communicable diseases under the Protection against Infection Act. Similar reporting and surveillance systems are required by law for both animal and plant diseases.

Reporting and Surveillance of Animal Diseases

2. Animal diseases that are infectious must be reported under the Animal Infectious Disease Act and the Animal Disease Notification Ordinance; the reporting of other animal diseases is regulated in the Animal Disease Reporting Ordinance and a series of other ordinances dealing with specific animal diseases.

3. The various veterinary authorities responsible for surveillance all participate in a national animal disease electronic reporting system (TSN system), which also collates and transmits the relevant data. Any case of specified infectious animal diseases must be reported notably to the EU electronically and without delay via a central databank. This procedure ensures compliance with the requirement under German law that all relevant authorities should be notified simultaneously.

4. Since 1 January 1995 all notifications of animal infectious diseases subject to mandatory reporting must be made through the TSN system. The same applies since March 1997 to all other animal diseases subject to mandatory reporting.

5. The following authorities participate in the TSN system:

- 1 federal ministry, veterinary services directorate,
- 16 Land (state) ministries,
- 32 regional commissioners,

- 438 local veterinary offices,
- 13 veterinary investigation offices.

Surveillance of Plant Diseases

6. Like animal disease surveillance, plant disease surveillance in Germany is organized in accordance with our federal system of government.

7. On the bottom tier regional offices of the plant protection services collect data on and monitor outbreaks of plant diseases. These regional offices are under the authority of the plant protection services of the Länder (Federal states), which operate their own laboratories. These services are supervised by the relevant ministries of the 16 Länder. These ministries liaise with the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. In the event of an outbreak of plant disease, also the Federal Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry is involved in coordination and liaison activities at federal level.

8. The legal basis for the surveillance system are the Plant Protection Act and the Phytosanitary Ordinance.

German Legislation Relating to the Reporting of Human, Animal and Plant Diseases

	Activity	Legislation	Penal provisions	Comments
1	National reporting system for human infectious diseases	Protection against Infection Act, of 20 July 2000, paragraphs 6 – 12 and 15, as amended (Infektionsschutzgesetz (1) vom 20. Juli 2000)	Protection against Infection Act, paragraphs 73, 74 (1)	Report to local health authority; local health authority reports to competent authority of the Land (Federal State), Land reports to Robert-Koch-Institut (a federal agency)

2	National reporting system for animal infectious diseases	<p>1. Animal Disease Reporting Ordinance, of 11 April 2001, as amended (Verordnung über meldepflichtige Tierkrankheiten (3) vom 11. April 2001)</p> <p>2. Animal Disease Notification Ordinance, of 11 April 2001, as amended (Verordnung über anzeigepflichtige Tierseuchen (4) vom 11. April 2001)</p> <p>3. Animal Infectious Disease Act, of 11. April 2001, as amended (Tierseuchengesetz (2) vom 11. April 2001)</p>	<p>1. Animal Disease Reporting Ordinance, paragraph 4 (3)</p> <p>3. Animal Infectious Disease Act, paragraphs 74 - 77 (2)</p>	Veterinary agencies, veterinarians, etc report to competent authority of the Land (Federal State), competent authority reports to Bundesministerium für Verbraucherschutz, Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture)
3	National reporting system for plant infectious diseases	<p>1. Phytosanitary Ordinance, of 10 October 2000, paragraphs 13n, 14b, as amended (Pflanzenbeschauverordnung (6) vom 10. Oktober 2000)</p> <p>2. Council Directive 2000/29/EC (7) on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community, of 8 May 2000, Annex I and II</p> <p>3. Commission Directive 94/3/EC (8) establishing a procedure for the notification of interception of a consignment or a harmful organism from third countries and presenting an imminent phytosanitary danger, of 21 January 1994</p>	<p>1. Phytosanitary Ordinance, paragraph 15 (6)</p>	Reports to the competent federal agency: Biologische Bundesanstalt für Land- und Forstwirtschaft (Federal Biological Institute for Agriculture and Forestry)
4	Reporting of human infectious diseases to WHO and EU	Protection against Infection Act, of 20 July 2000, paragraph 12 (1)		Reporting to WHO (IHR) (14) as well as to European Network

				(2119/98/EC) (9)
5	Reporting of animal infectious diseases to OIE and EU	International Agreement for the Creation of an Office International des Epizooties, of 25 January 1924, Appendix to the Agreement: Organic Statutes (10)		European Union Reporting Regulation: Council Directive 82/894/EEC (11) on the notification of animal diseases within the Community, of 21 December 1982, as amended
6	Reporting of plant infectious diseases to FAO and EPPO	No reporting to FAO mandatory, but reporting to European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), which publishes national contributions, as well as cooperation with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)		1. EPPO Convention (12) , of 18 April 1951, as amended (Articles V f and VI) 2. IPP Convention as of 1979 (13)

Internet Links:

- (1) <http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/ifsg/index.html>
- (2) <http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/viehseuchg/index.html>
- (3) http://www.mibi-hannover.de/lehre/tierseu/VO_ueber_meldepflichtige_Tierkrankheiten.pdf
- (4) http://www.mibi-hannover.de/lehre/tierseu/anzeigepflichtige_Tierseuchen.pdf
- (5) http://bundesrecht.juris.de/bundesrecht/pflschg_1986/index.html
- (6) <http://www.bba.de/ag/gesund/national/pbvo.pdf>
- (7) http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=32000L0029&model=guichett
- (8) http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31994L0003&model=guichett
- (9) http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31998D2119&model=guichett
- (10) http://www.oie.int/eng/OIE/textfond/en_statuts_organiques.htm
- (11) http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexapi!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=EN&numdoc=31982L0894&model=guichett
- (12) http://www.eppo.org/ABOUT_EPPO/convention/convention.htm
- (13) http://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/1979_English.pdf?filename=1034340455937_IPPC97.pdf
- (14) <http://www.who.int/csr/ihr/current/en/print.html>

9. Further details of the relevant German laws and ordinances, EU regulations and directives and international treaties listed above are available on the CD-ROM prepared as background information by the Federal Foreign Office for participants at the BTWC Meeting of Experts in July 2004.
