

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF  
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND  
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL  
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND  
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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Items 5 and 6 of the agenda

**Existing mechanisms for the surveillance, detection and diagnosis of  
infectious animal diseases in Italy**

Submitted by Italy

**Legislative framework**

1. Since 1954, the Italian “Regulation of Veterinary Police” (“Regolamento di Polizia Veterinaria”) has established a nation-wide mechanism for the surveillance of infectious animal diseases. This framework legislation, promulgated by decree of the Italian President of the Republic, has been eventually amended according to relevant decisions and regulations of both the European Community and of the “Office International des Epizooties” (OIE).
2. The Ministry of Health has therefore indicated a list of infectious animal diseases whose detection activates standard notification procedures and specific public health response measures.

**Operational frameworks**

Routine notification system

3. The Italian Ministry of Health identifies over 70 infectious animal diseases - mirroring OIE “List A” and “List B” diseases (see annex) - whose outbreak requires notification.

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*Subjects responsible for notification*

4. The following categories are obliged to notify of all cases of infectious animal diseases detected in their ordinary activity, including cases of animals' death not related to accidental causes:

- (i) Veterinary doctors (either private or belonging to the "Local Health Agencies" (ASL), units of the Ministry of Health at the level of each municipality);
- (ii) Public or private owners of animals, as well as owners or tenants of stables;
- (iii) Deans and directors of universities faculties or of research institutes in the field of veterinary medicine;
- (iv) Public authorities and private companies in the sector of transports;
- (v) Members of public security forces and of the National Authority for Animal Protection.

5. The above notification is also compulsory for any new case of disease or death occurred within 8 days from a previous case not related to a common disease already known.

*Standard notification procedures*

- (i) Any alleged case of infectious animal disease must be immediately reported to the Veterinary Service of the competent ASL;
- (ii) Each notification - that can be in either written or oral form - must indicate the type of alleged or verified disease, the name of the animals' owner, the exact location of concerned animals, the number of involved animals, the number of animals belonging to the same group not yet showing disease's symptoms, the area (if any) from where involved animals have recently come, the day of disease's beginning or of animal's death;
- (iii) The ASL Veterinary Service must notify the alleged case to the Veterinary Service of the regional administrative authority ("Regione"), that eventually forward the notification to the Ministry of Health;
- (iv) Cases of infectious diseases belonging to OIE "List A" are directly notified by local ASL (that informs however also the regional Veterinary Service) to the Ministry of Health;
- (v) Cases of infectious diseases belonging to OIE "List A" are notified within 48 hours by the Ministry of Health to both the EC "Animal Diseases Notification System" and to the OIE.

6. The Italian competent authority for activating emergency plans related to outbreaks of infectious animal diseases is generally the local mayor.

*“Zoo-prophylactic Experimental Institutes” (IZS)*

7. The 10 Italian “Zoo-prophylactic Experimental Institutes” (IZS) play an important role in the national plans of epidemiological surveillance related to infectious animal diseases, as they are the local official veterinary laboratories.

8. Their main tasks are:

- (i) To carry out researches with reference to infectious diseases of domestic and wild animals, animal breeding and production;
- (ii) To update laboratory methods, in co-operation with the “High Institute of Health” (ISS);
- (iii) To perform the diagnosis of animal diseases and zoonosis;
- (iv) To provide an operative support in the field of veterinary health, animal production and drug monitoring.

9. The IZS are laboratories highly specialised and primarily engaged in diagnosis. The tests used for the diagnosis are consistent with OIE directives.

10. Each of the ten IZS is a “National Reference Centre” for specific infectious animal diseases. In particular:

- (i) IZS of Piemonte, Liguria and Valle d’ Aosta is the laboratory of reference for TSE, BSE and other related neuro-pathologies, as well as for wild animals diseases;
- (ii) IZS of Lombardia and Emilia Romagna is the laboratory of reference for vesicular diseases, tuberculosis (mycobacterium bovis), tularemia, leptospirosis, chlamydiosis, pseudo-rabies, lagomorphus diseases, milk quality check, cellular substratus;
- (iii) IZS of Veneto, Trentino Alto Adige and Friuli is the laboratory of reference for avian influenza, salmonellosis, fishes-pathology;
- (iv) IZS of Umbria and Marche is the laboratory of reference for swine fevers;
- (v) IZS of Lazio and Toscana is the laboratory of reference for equine diseases, genetically modified organisms research, antibiotic resistance;

- (vi) IZS of Abruzzo and Molise is the laboratory of reference for exotic diseases, brucellosis, epidemiology and information;
- (vii) IZS of Campania and Calabria is the laboratory of reference for hygiene and technology of buffalo production;
- (viii) IZS of Puglia and Basilicata is the laboratory of reference for anthrax;
- (ix) IZSu of Sicilia is the laboratory of reference for babesia, anaplasma rickettsia and theileria;
- (x) IZS of Sardegna is the laboratory of reference for biological zoo-technology, echinococcosis and hydatidosis.

11. IZSs are structured in 95 provincial sections, whose laboratories are tasked to carry out the routine analysis in the area of competence.

#### “Special Surveillance”

12. Whenever it appears necessary to acquire additional information with the aim of furthering the knowledge of a specific pathology and/or developing targeted response strategies, the routine notification system (paragraphs 3-11 above) can be integrated by “systems of special surveillance”.

13. Over the last years, consistent with the adoption of relevant EC regulations, Italy introduced special surveillance for the following diseases:

- (i) Bovine spongiform encephalopathy;
- (ii) Avian influenza;
- (iii) Classical swine fever;
- (iv) African swine fever;
- (v) Swine vesicular diseases;
- (vi) Newcastle disease;
- (vii) African horse sickness;
- (viii) Bluetongue;
- (ix) West Nile encephalomyelitis.

## Annex

### Diseases notifiable to the OIE

#### List A

**Transmissible diseases that have the potential for very serious and rapid spread, irrespective of national borders, that are of serious socio-economic or public health consequence and that are of major importance in the international trade of animals and animal products**

Reports are submitted to the OIE as often as necessary to comply with Articles 1.1.3.2 and 1.1.3.3 of the *International Animal Health Code*.

- Foot and mouth disease
- Swine vesicular disease
- Peste des petits ruminants
- Lumpy skin disease
- Bluetongue
- African horse sickness
- Classical swine fever
- Newcastle disease
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Rinderpest
- Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
- Rift Valley fever
- Sheep pox and goat pox
- African swine fever
- Highly pathogenic avian influenza

## List B

**Transmissible diseases that are considered to be of socio-economic and/or public health importance within countries and that are significant in the international trade of animals and animal products.**

Reports are normally submitted once a year, although more frequent reporting may in some cases be necessary to comply with Articles 1.1.3.2 and 1.1.3.3 of the *International Animal Health Code*.

### Multiple species diseases

- Anthrax
- Aujeszky's disease
- Echinococcosis/hydatidosis
- Heartwater
- Leptospirosis
- New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)
- Old world screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
- Paratuberculosis
- Q fever
- Rabies
- Trichinellosis

### Cattle diseases

- Bovine anaplasmosis
- Bovine babesiosis
- Bovine brucellosis
- Bovine cysticercosis
- Bovine genital campylobacteriosis
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
- Bovine tuberculosis
- Dermatophilosis
- Enzootic bovine leukosis
- Haemorrhagic septicaemia
- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginitis
- Malignant catarrhal fever
- Theileriosis
- Trichomonosis
- Trypanosomosis (tsetse-transmitted)

**Sheep and goat diseases**

- Caprine and ovine brucellosis (excluding *B. ovis*)
- Caprine arthritis/encephalitis
- Contagious agalactia
- Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia
- Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis)
- Maedi-visna
- Nairobi sheep disease
- Ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)
- Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis
- Salmonellosis (*S. abortusovis*)
- Scrapie

**Swine diseases**

- Atrophic rhinitis of swine
- Enterovirus encephalomyelitis
- Porcine brucellosis
- Porcine cysticercosis
- Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
- Transmissible gastroenteritis

**Equine diseases**

- Contagious equine metritis
- Dourine
- Epizootic lymphangitis
- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)
- Equine infectious anaemia
- Equine influenza
- Equine piroplasmosis
- Equine rhinopneumonitis
- Equine viral arteritis
- Glanders
- Horse mange
- Horse pox
- Japanese encephalitis
- Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis

**Avian diseases**

- Avian chlamydiosis
- Avian infectious bronchitis
- Avian infectious laryngotracheitis
- Avian mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum*)
- Avian tuberculosis
- Duck virus enteritis
- Duck virus hepatitis
- Fowl cholera
- Fowl pox
- Fowl typhoid
- Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)
- Marek's disease
- Pullorum disease

### **Lagomorph diseases**

- Myxomatosis
- Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
- Tularemia

### **Fish diseases**

- Epizootic haematopoietic necrosis
- Infectious haematopoietic necrosis
- *Oncorhynchus masou* virus disease
- Spring viraemia of carp
- Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia

### **Crustacean diseases**

- Taura syndrome
- White spot disease
- Yellow head disease

### **Bee diseases**

- Acariosis of bees
- American foulbrood
- European foulbrood
- Nose mosis of bees
- Varroosis

### **Mollusc diseases**

- Bonamiosis (*Bonamia exitiosus*, *B. ostreae*, *Mikrocytos roughleyi*)
- Marteiliosis (*Marteilia refringens*, *M. sydneyi*)
- Mikrocytosis (*Mikrocytos mackini*)
- MSX disease (*Haplosporidium nelsoni*)
- Perkinsosis (*Perkinsus marinus*, *P. olseni/atlanticus*)
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### **Other List B diseases**

- Leishmaniosis
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