



United States Department of Agriculture



THE U.S.-CANADA ZONING ARRANGEMENT—MUTUAL ZONING RECOGNITION FOR BUSINESS CONTINUITY

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*“Trading partners should exchange information allowing the recognition of different subpopulations within their respective territories. This recognition process is best implemented through **establishing parameters and gaining agreement on the necessary measures prior to outbreaks of disease.**”*

—OIE Terrestrial Code Article 4.3.8



U.S.-Canada FAD Zoning Initiative

Objective: To establish parameters and agree on measures necessary for recognition of a disease control zone within each country's territory, in order to reduce disruption of trade and the resulting economic impact.

Rationale:

- High volume of cross-border trade in animal commodities
- Considerable integration of animal industries
- Potential for major economic losses
- No formal guidance for decisions on trade restrictions
- High degree of stakeholder interest in limiting impact



FAD Zoning Initiative components

- Reciprocal evaluations—assessment of risk
- Zoning Arrangement—declaration of intentions
- Guidance Framework—implementation



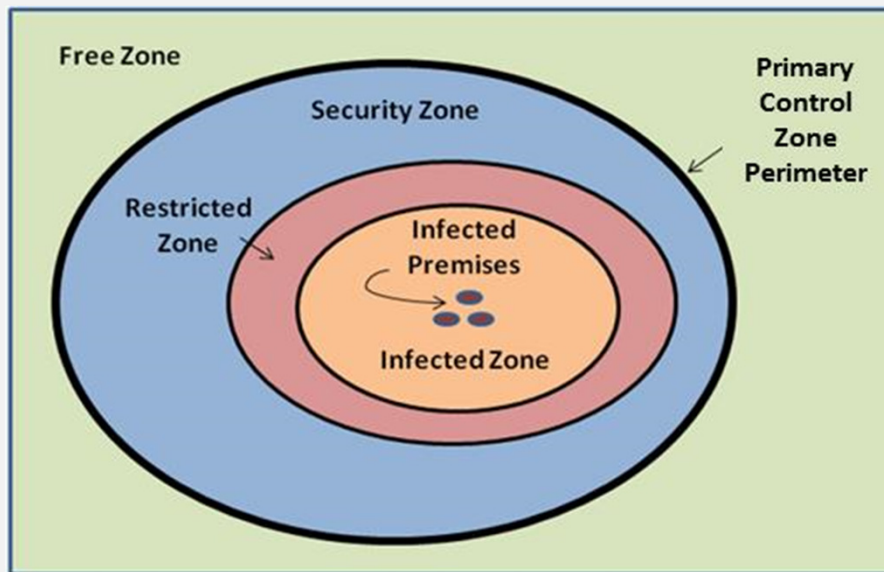
Reciprocal evaluations

Fundamental considerations:

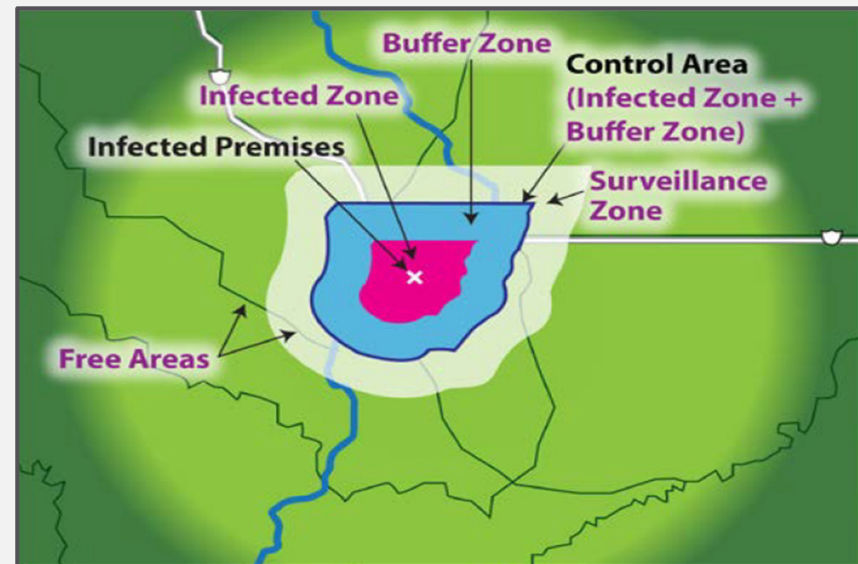
- Organization, infrastructure, and legal authority
- Livestock identification and traceability
- Surveillance and diagnostic laboratory support
- FAD contingency planning and zoning practices
- Prior performance during FAD outbreaks

Reciprocal evaluations

CANADIAN ZONING MODEL



U.S. ZONING MODEL





Zoning Arrangement

“In the event of a highly contagious FAD outbreak in either or both countries, each Participant intends to accept the decisions of the other Participant to establish, maintain, or release a disease control and eradication zone.”

- Signed in October 2012 / re-signed in August 2018
- Lays out basic conditions for zoning recognition
- References a guidance framework for implementation



Guidance Framework

Purpose—to establish:

- An operational plan for zoning recognition
- A structure for maintaining the Zoning Arrangement
- A strategy for engaging with stakeholders



Safeguards

Onsite monitoring—the zoning recognition request form contains an invitation for a designated liaison to embed in the response structure for monitoring purposes.

Extenuating circumstances—caveat for widespread, multifocal, and/or rapidly progressing outbreaks that temporarily overwhelm the resources of the affected country.



Advantages

External factors:

- Similar veterinary infrastructure
- Equivalent animal health status
- Comparable animal industries
- Prior knowledge and collaborative efforts
- Stakeholder support

Project design factors:

- Scope—domestic livestock, disease-free zones
- Systems approach



Timeline

- 2007—initial meeting to discuss zoning for FAD control and trade.
- 2008 to 2012—APHIS and CFIA conduct reciprocal evaluations.
- 2012—the United States and Canada sign the Zoning Arrangement.
- 2014—APHIS and CFIA publish the draft Guidance Framework.
- 2014—Canada first uses the Zoning Arrangement (HPAI).
- 2015—the United States first uses the Zoning Arrangement (HPAI).
- 2015-2016—APHIS and CFIA conduct a joint after-action assessment.
- 2016—Framework refined based on consultation and assessment.
- 2017-2018—APHIS and CFIA update reciprocal evaluations.
- 2018—the United States and Canada re-sign the Zoning Arrangement.



Challenges

Implementation

- Certificate and permit language
- Paradigm shift—risk assessment

Reorganization

- VS structure
- Maintaining awareness

Conceptualization

- Scope—domestic livestock, disease-free zones
- Paradigm shift—response planning
- OIE status diseases



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