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
Operational plan

1. Initial notification of an outbreak
2. Notification of an area of control
3. Recognition of an area of control
4. Trade between disease-free zones
5. Release of an area of control
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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