

Updates on WOAH activities in the TSE field

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8 May 2026



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Outline

1. Revised BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)
2. BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)
 - i. Members/zones recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk status
 - ii. Trends in new applications
 - iii. Atypical and classical cases reported
3. Revision of Scrapie standards (*Terrestrial Code*)



Transition process: where are we?





Background on official status cycle

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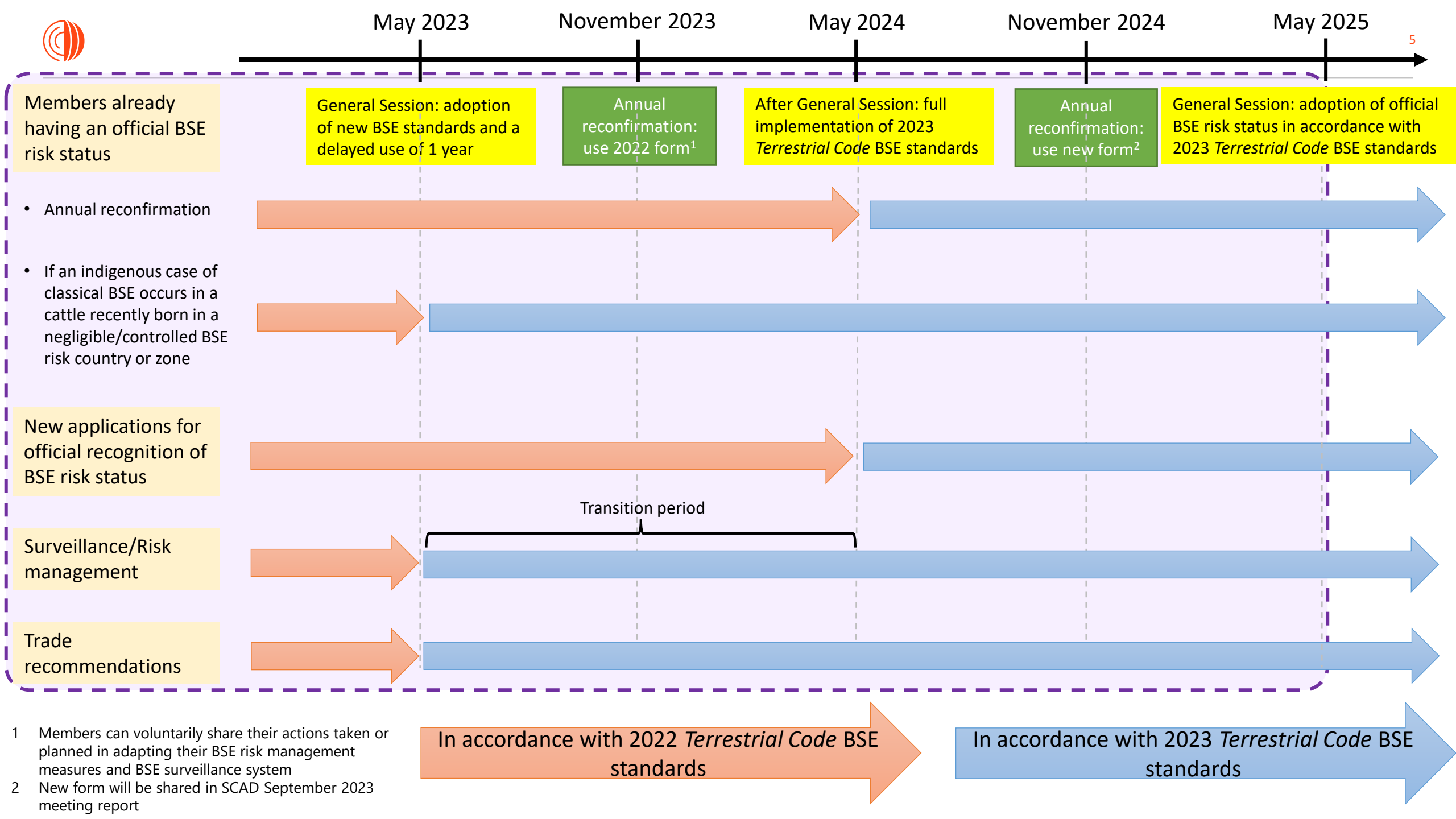
CYCLE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS AND FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF OFFICIAL CONTROL PROGRAMMES



Acronyms: AHG: *ad hoc* Group
Assembly: World Assembly of Delegates
GS: General Session
SCAD: Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Submission of
status
reconfirmation
form

Status
reconfirmation





2024 Applications and onwards:

- Entire BSE risk assessment (entry, exposure, consequence and risk estimation)
- Surveillance requirements shifted from a point-based system to targeting bovines that show signs on the clinical spectrum of BSE
- Importance of awareness and training programmes and evaluation procedures of the surveillance system (including criteria to submit samples for testing for BSE)
- Starting date to be determined by *ad hoc* Group on evaluation of BSE risk status, based on information provided, which could be either eight years prior to the date of recognition (negligible risk) or on the date of recognition of controlled risk status.



- Focuses on changes in risk mitigation practices throughout the industry (industry practices, audits, legislation, surveillance, etc.)
- Reports of atypical BSE cases
- Provide data on the number of animals reported to the Veterinary Authority for suspicion of BSE and tested
- Change in the focus area and level of depth of reporting for reconfirmation of official BSE-risk status: We do not expect serious difficulties or non-compliances.
- Classical BSE cases: reported through IN + epi report within 90 days,
- [Reconfirmation of BSE risk status- WOAH](#)



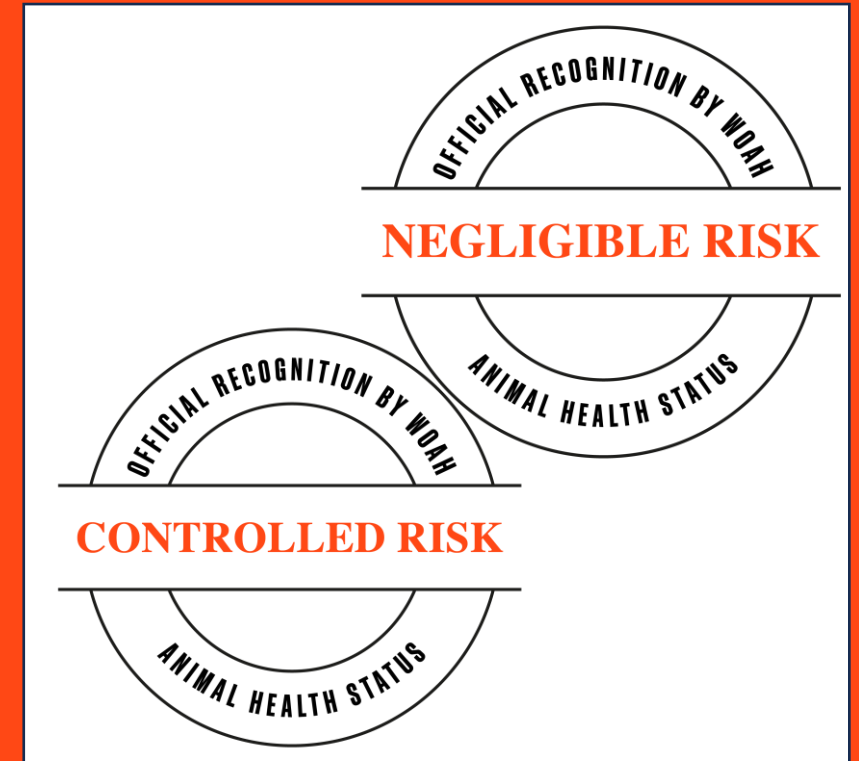
2. BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

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Members/zones recognised as having a

negligible or controlled

BSE risk status



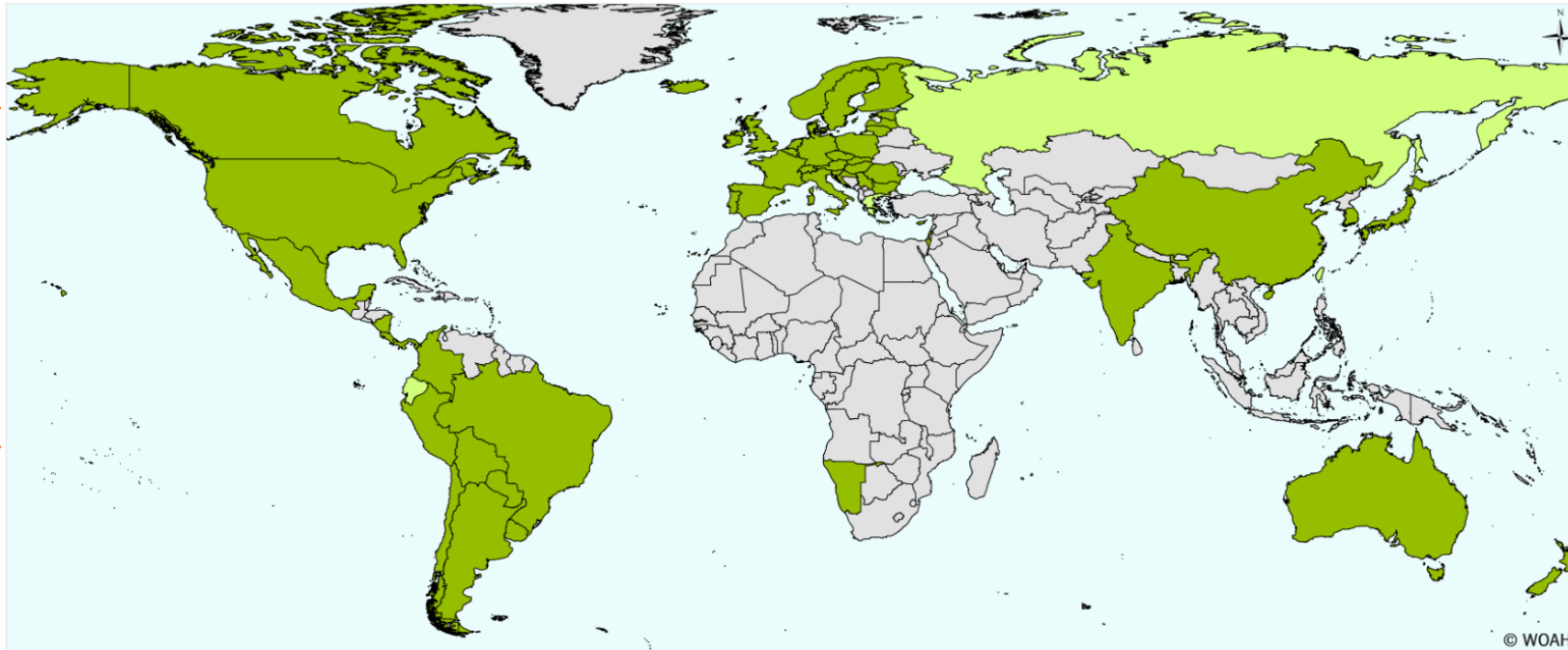


i. Members/zones recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk status

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WOAH Members' official BSE risk status map

Last update June 2025



- Members and zones recognised as having a negligible BSE risk status
- Members and zones recognised as having a controlled BSE risk status
- Countries and zones without an official BSE risk status

- Negligible risk Members: 53
- Negligible risk zones: 3->5
- Controlled risk Members: 4
- Controlled risk zones: 2->0



Official recognition of BSE status: Trends in number of applications

CHAPTER 11.4

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Article.11.4.1

General provisions

1. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) is an invariably fatal neurological prion disease of bovines caused by a misfolded form of the prion protein (Pr^{PSc}), which includes both C-type (classical BSE) and H- and L-type (atypical BSE) agents. Oral exposure to contaminated *feed* is the main route of transmission of classical BSE. Atypical BSE is a condition that occurs at a very low rate and is assumed to occur spontaneously in any bovine *population*. A bovine has been experimentally infected by the oral route with a low molecular weight type of atypical BSE (L-type BSE) and the potential for recycling of atypical BSE cannot be ruled out, although there is no evidence that it plays a significant role in the epidemiology of BSE.
2. BSE primarily affects bovines. Other *animal* species may be naturally and experimentally susceptible to BSE, but they are not regarded as being epidemiologically significant, particularly when feeding ruminants with ruminant-derived *protein meal* is not practised. The recommendations in this chapter are intended to mitigate the human and *animal* health *risks* associated with BSE in bovines only.
3. For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, the occurrence of a *case* of BSE is defined by the detection of the classical BSE agent in brain tissue of a bovine.
4. For the purposes of this chapter, 'bovine' means an *animal* of the species *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*.
5. When *commodities* are imported in accordance with this chapter, the BSE *risk* of the *importing country* or *zone* of destination is not affected by the BSE *risk* of the *exporting country, zone or compartment* of origin.
6. Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article.11.4.2

Safe commodities

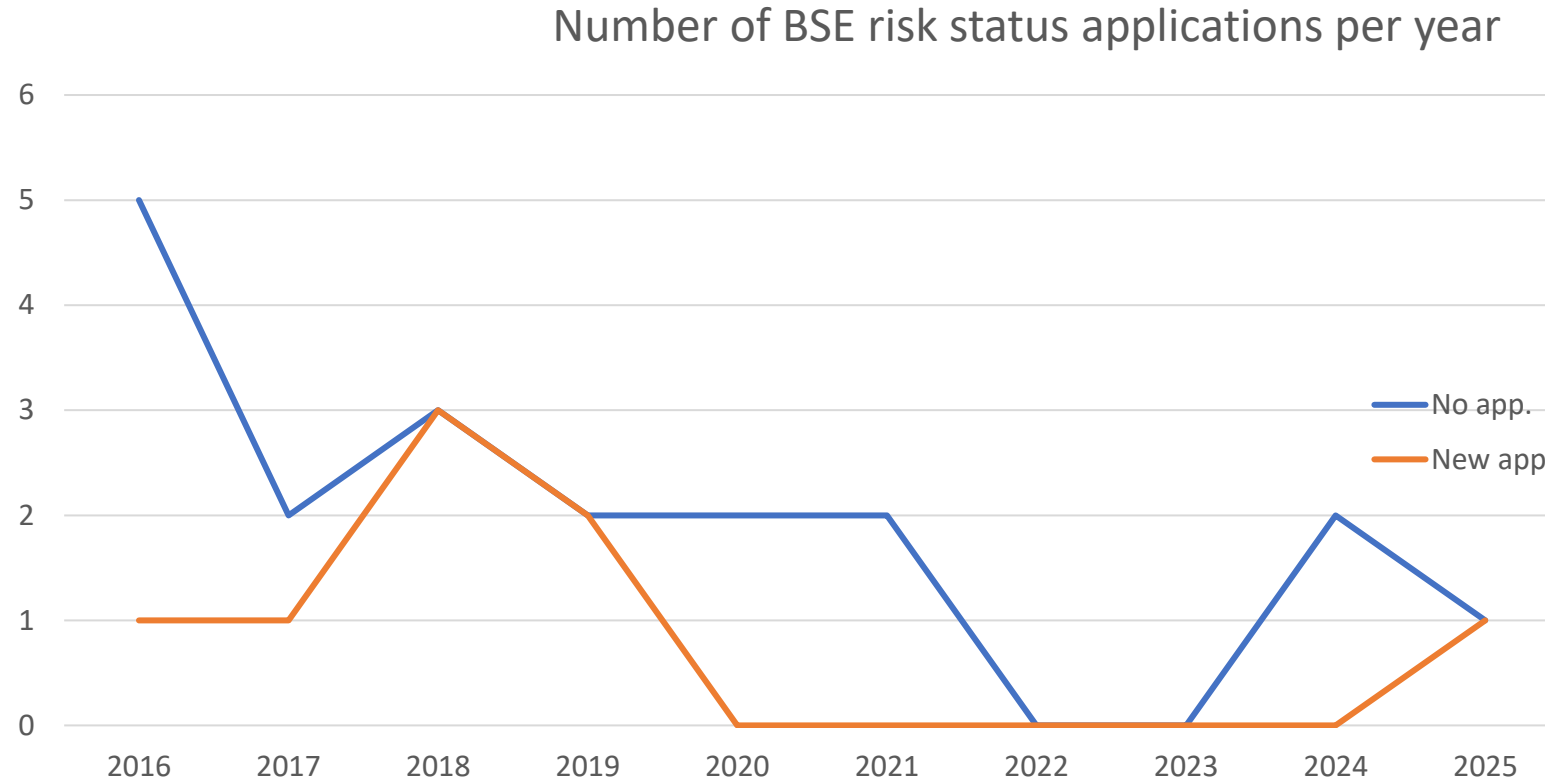
When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities* derived from bovines, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any conditions related to BSE, regardless of the BSE *risk* posed by the bovine *population* of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:

1. *milk* and *milk* products;
2. semen and *in vivo* derived bovine embryos collected and handled in accordance with the relevant chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*;



ii. Trends in number of applications

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2020: 2 controlled -> negligible

2021: 1 controlled -> negligible

+ 1 re-application from 2018

2024: 2 controlled BSE risk zones -> Negligible risk

2025: 1 new application



Atypical and classical BSE cases

 World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1967

Home | Annual Reconfirmations | Applications | Self-declarations | English ▾ | Min-Kyung Park ▾

Welcome to WOAH Disease Status Management Platform

The Disease Status Management Platform serves as a secure, centralised system for archiving, tracking, searching, and submitting all necessary documents related to the official recognition and maintenance of animal health status, and the self-declaration of disease freedom.



Annual reconfirmations of officially recognised disease status/endorsed control programmes

[See all](#)



Applications for official recognition of disease status/endorsement of control programmes

[Under construction...](#)



Self-declarations

[Under construction...](#)



iii. Atypical and classical BSE cases (Members with a BSE risk status)

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- ❑ 4 atypical cases reported during the 2024 annual reconfirmation campaign:
 - ✓ All in Europe
 - ✓ 3 of these cases were identified as part of the over 48 months active surveillance programme for fallen stock, for the other one no information was provided.
 - ✓ In all cases the animals were destroyed and did not enter the food and feed chains.

- ❑ No atypical cases reported during the 2025 annual reconfirmation campaign

- ❑ Last classical BSE case reported to WAHIS: Scotland, May 2024



Revision of Scrapie standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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PDF

CHAPTER 14.8.

SCRAPIE

Article 14.8.1.

General provisions and safe commodities

Scrapie is a neurodegenerative disease of sheep and goats. The main mode of transmission is from mother to offspring immediately after birth and to other susceptible neonates exposed to the birth fluids and tissues of an infected animal. Transmission occurs at a much lower frequency to adults exposed to the birth fluids and tissues of an infected animal. A variation in genetic susceptibility of sheep has been recognised. The *incubation period* of the disease is variable; however, it is usually measured in years. The duration in *incubation period* can be influenced by a number of factors including host genetics and strain of agent.

Scrapie is not considered to pose a risk to human health. The recommendations in this chapter are intended to manage the animal health risks associated with the presence of the scrapie agent in sheep and goats. The chapter excludes so-called 'atypical' scrapie because this condition is clinically, pathologically, biochemically and epidemiologically unrelated to 'classical' scrapie, may not be contagious and may, in fact, be a spontaneous degenerative condition of older sheep.

- When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities* derived from sheep or goats and any products made from these *commodities* and containing no other tissues from sheep or goats, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any scrapie-related conditions, regardless of the scrapie risk status of the sheep and goat populations of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - in vivo* derived sheep embryos handled in accordance with Chapter 4.8;
 - meat* (excluding materials as referred to in Article 14.8.12);
 - hides and skins;
 - gelatine;
 - collagen prepared from hides or skins;
 - tallow (maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives made from this tallow;
 - dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat);
 - wool or fibre.
- When authorising import or transit of other *commodities* listed in this chapter, *Veterinary Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in this chapter relevant to the scrapie risk status of the sheep and goat populations of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.



Chapter 14.8. Scrapie

Chapter is being revised: First *ad hoc* Group meeting on scrapie was convened in April 2025:

- **Revision of the criteria and concept of freedom for scrapie :**
 - replacement of the concept of "scrapie-free" status with the concept of "**Negligible Scrapie Risk**";
 - **deletion of specific provisions for free compartments** (current Article 14.8.4.) as "**free establishments**" (Article 14.8.5.) are considered a more practical and less resource-demanding option.
- **Provision of recommendations on genetic susceptibility:**
 - **Ovine animals of genotype AA 136 and RR 171 and caprine animals of genotype SS or DD 146 or KK 222:** considered as resistant, to be included in the relevant articles



Chapter 14.8. Scrapie (ctd)

- **Surveillance:**
 - The Scientific Commission, in consultation with experts, determined that **no validated ante-mortem tests** exist to replace *post-mortem* diagnosis for surveillance.
- **Safe trade of at-risk commodities raised by Members:**
 - Inclusion of **in vivo derived embryos** from genetically resistant ovine or caprine animals as safe commodities;
 - Recommended to **retain gelatine and collagen as safe commodities**

[SCAD Feb. 2025 report](#) or [TAHSC Feb. 2025 report](#)

Thank you!

- For more information please contact:
disease.status@woah.org
- Official disease status webpage on BSE: [Bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka BSE- WOAH](#)
- *Terrestrial Code*: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/>
- SCAD reports: www.woah.org/scientific-commission

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BSE surveillance guidelines

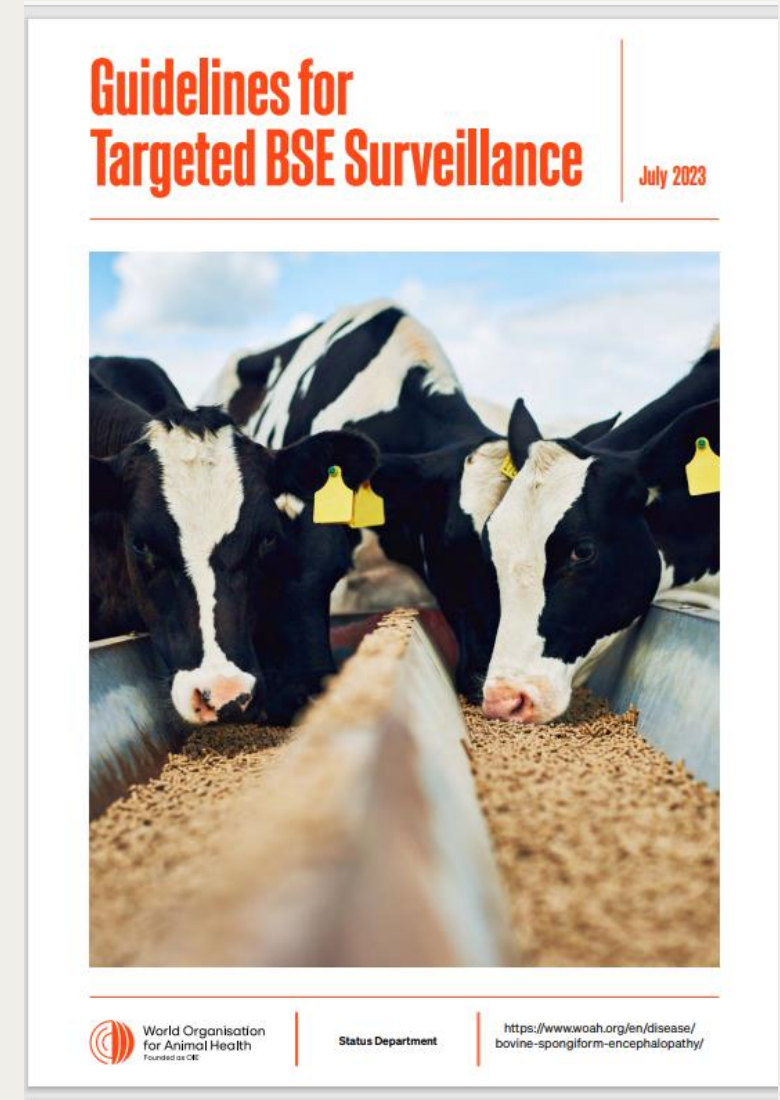
- AIM: Support WOAHA Members in the implementation of a BSE surveillance system.
- PROVIDE:
 - overview of the clinical signs of BSE.
 - criteria for targeted BSE surveillance.
 - overview of the components of a credible BSE surveillance system.
 - reading and training material.



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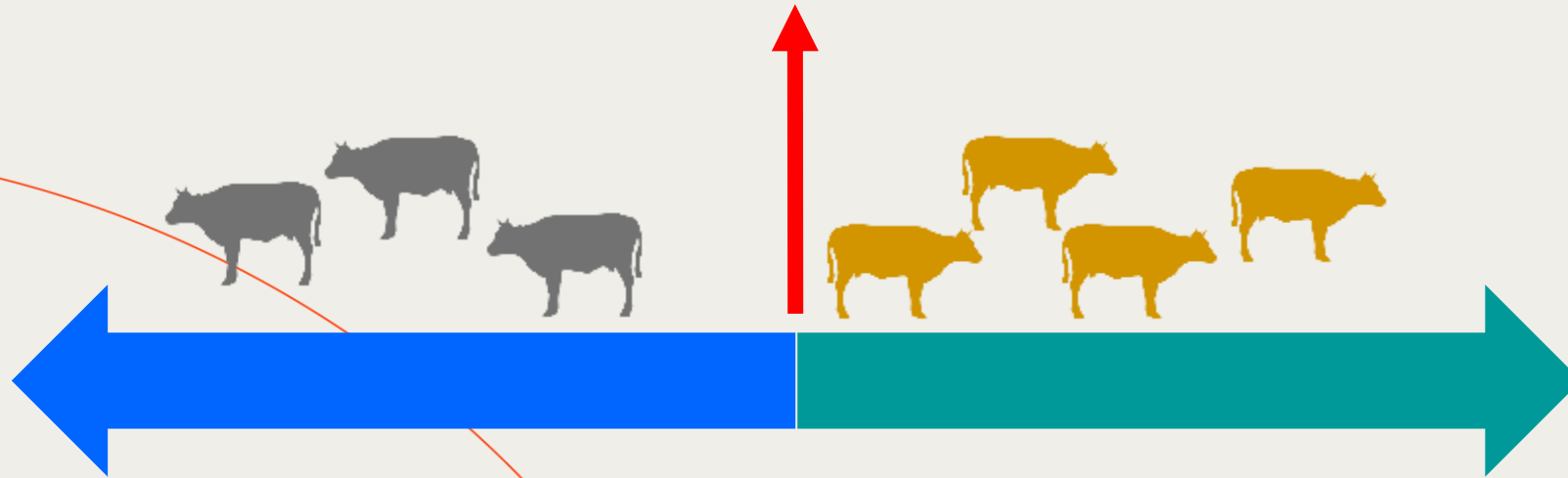


[Bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka BSE- WOAH](https://www.woah.org/en/disease/bovine-spongiform-encephalopathy/)

<https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2023/07/ang-book-bse-guidelines-07072023-final.pdf>

Starting date

Starting date



Born before the period when
the risk of recycling BSE is
negligible

Born during the period when
the risk of recycling BSE is
negligible



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Bovines and commodities pose a different risk regarding BSE