

# PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



## Facilitation of international movement of competition horses



# PERSPECTIVES

# DOSSIER

# AROUND THE WORLD

## DOSSIER

### Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ)

to host an international horse sports competition

***An equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) contains an equine population or subpopulation with a specific health status. Establishing an EDFZ is a risk-based approach which should be considered when hosting international horse sports competitions.***

#### KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ), #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

#### AUTHORS

[Anthony Kettle](#), Equine International Consulting, Darwin, Australia.

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*Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) is a risk-based approach which can be considered when international horse sports competitions are planned in countries which have not yet been able to control or eradicate specific equine diseases in their entire territory, but*

*which can establish the health status of a smaller zone with a limited equine population.*

By establishing an EDFZ, disease risks are mitigated for horses that have been imported to compete and they are able to return safely to their countries of origin or other destinations.

#### **Examples of EDFZs recently established to host international equine sports competitions:**

- [In Japan in 2019](#)
- [In Indonesia in 2018](#)
- [In Turkmenistan in 2017](#)

An EDFZ consists of part of a country defined by, and under the control of, the Veterinary Authority. The EDFZ contains an equine population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status for specified equine diseases; i.e. the Veterinary Authority of the country concerned has declared that zone and that subpopulation free from that particular disease.

The list of diseases from which the EDFZ has been declared free should be based on a risk analysis. Such a list is usually based on the equine diseases [listed by the OIE](#) but may include other diseases of relevance to international horse movements. It is worth noting that an EDFZ cannot be self-declared free from **African horse sickness**, as [freedom from this disease is based on official recognition by the OIE](#).

The EDFZ usually comprises a **core zone** separated from surrounding areas by a physical or geographical barrier. Around this core zone, there is usually a **surveillance zone** in which the health status of all animals, and especially equines, should be monitored and documented. All equines should be registered and traceable within the EDFZ.

The establishment of an EDFZ is a complex process that requires a thorough risk assessment, sound planning and dedicated resources. The OIE has recently published **guidelines** to support Member Countries to establish an EDFZ.

[OIE guidelines on EDFZ](#)

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2977>

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*Protecting animals, preserving our future*

12, rue de Prony - 75017 Paris, France  
Tel: +33 (0)1 44 15 18 88 - Fax: +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87 - [oie@oie.int](mailto:oie@oie.int)