Updates on the WOAH activities in the field of TSEs

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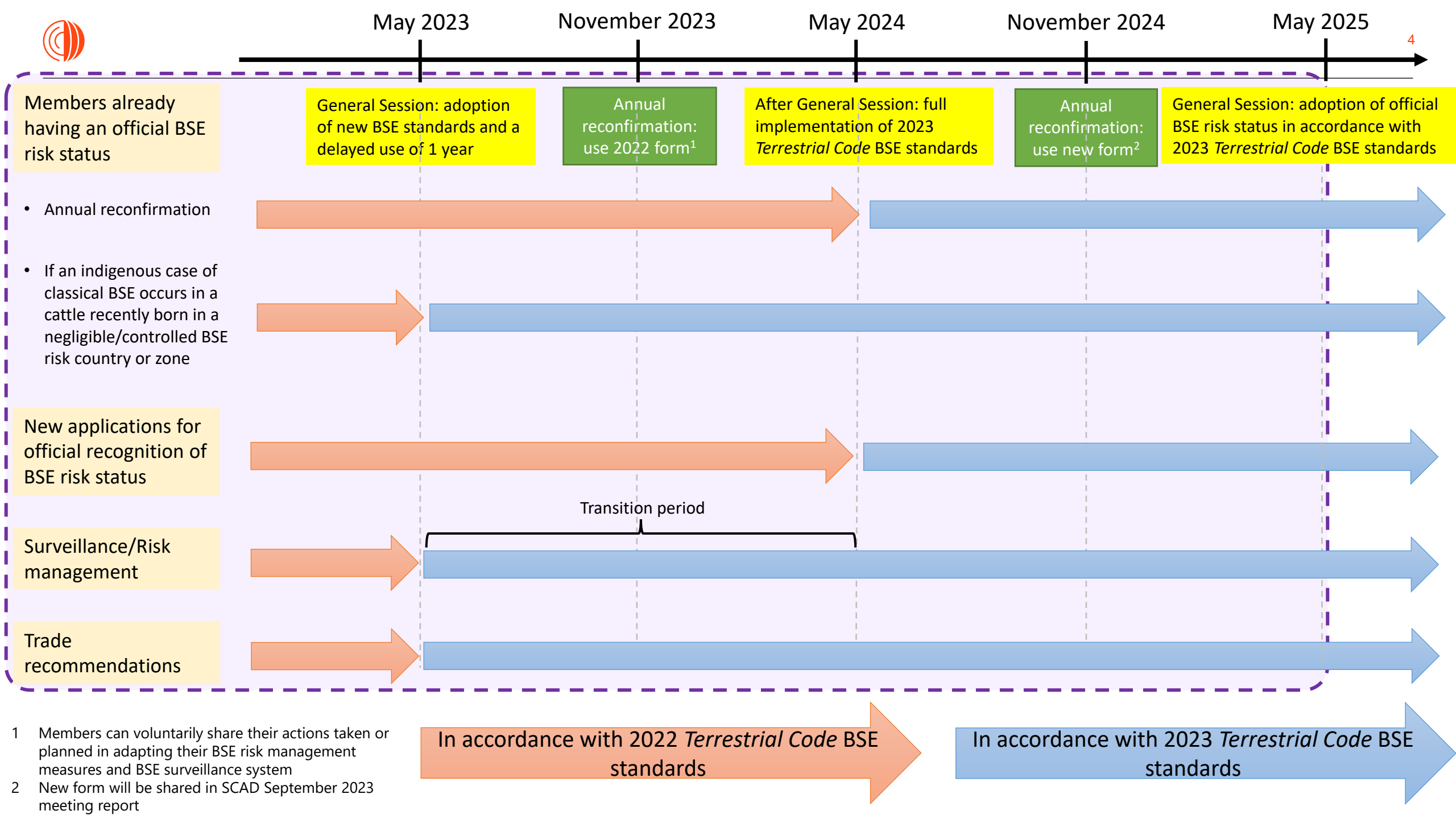
World Organisation for Animal Health
Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

Outline

1. Revised BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)
   a) Transition process: where are we?
   b) Official recognition of BSE risk status
      i. Members/zones recognised as having a negligible or controlled BSE risk status
      ii. New applications
      iii. Annual reconfirmations

2. Revision of Scrapie standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

Transition process: where are we?



1 Members can voluntarily share their actions taken or planned in adapting their BSE risk management measures and BSE surveillance system

2 New form will be shared in SCAD September 2023 meeting report

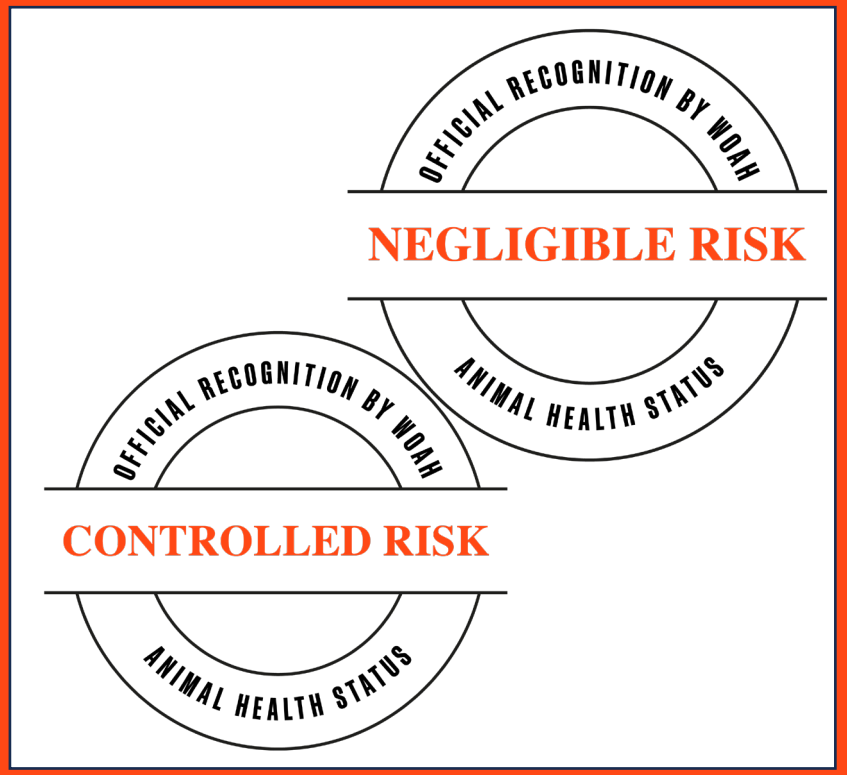
1. Revised BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

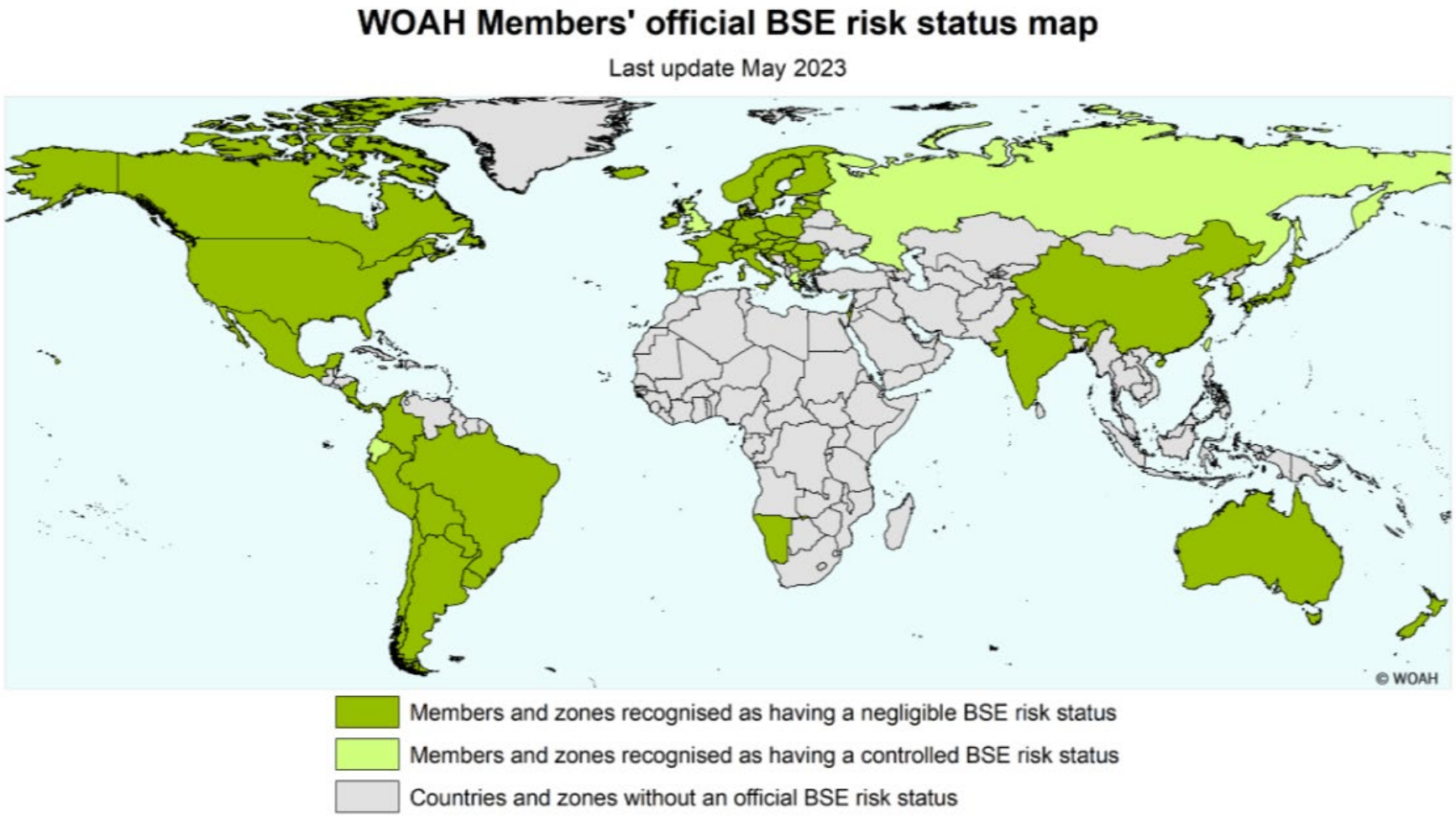
Official recognition of BSE status:

Members/zones recognised as

having a negligible or controlled

BSE risk status





- Negligible risk Members: 53
- Negligible risk zones: 3
- Controlled risk Members: 4
- Controlled risk zones: 2

No applications evaluated in 2023

No suspension of official status in 2023

Official recognition of BSE status: New applications

CHAPTER 11.4.

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY

Article 11.4.1.

General provisions ~~and safe commodities~~

1) The recommendations in this chapter are intended to ~~manage~~ mitigate the human and animal health risks associated with the presence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) agents in cattle ~~(*Bos taurus* and *B. indicus*)~~ only. BSE manifests in two main forms: classical BSE and atypical BSE. 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 cattle population. Cattle have been experimentally infected by the oral route with a low molecular weight type of atypical BSE (L-type BSE). Therefore atypical BSE is also considered capable of being recycled in a cattle population if cattle are orally exposed to contaminated *feed*. ~~For the purposes of official BSE risk status recognition, BSE excludes 'atypical BSE' as a condition believed to occur spontaneously in all cattle populations at a very low rate.~~

2) BSE primarily affects cattle. 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.

3) For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:

   a) BSE is an invariably fatal neurological prion disease of cattle caused by a misfolded form of the prion protein (PrP^{Sc}) which includes both classical (C-type BSE) and atypical strains (H- and L-type BSE having, respectively, a PrP^{Sc} fragment of higher and lower molecular mass than classical BSE). The term 'BSE' includes both classical and atypical forms.

   b) The occurrence of a BSE *case* is defined by the immunohistochemical (IHC) or immunochemical detection of PrP^{Sc} in brain tissue of a bovid of the species *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*. Discrimination between atypical and classical BSE strains is based on the Western immunoblot banding pattern, as described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

4) For the purposes of this chapter, 'cattle' means bovids of the species *Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*.

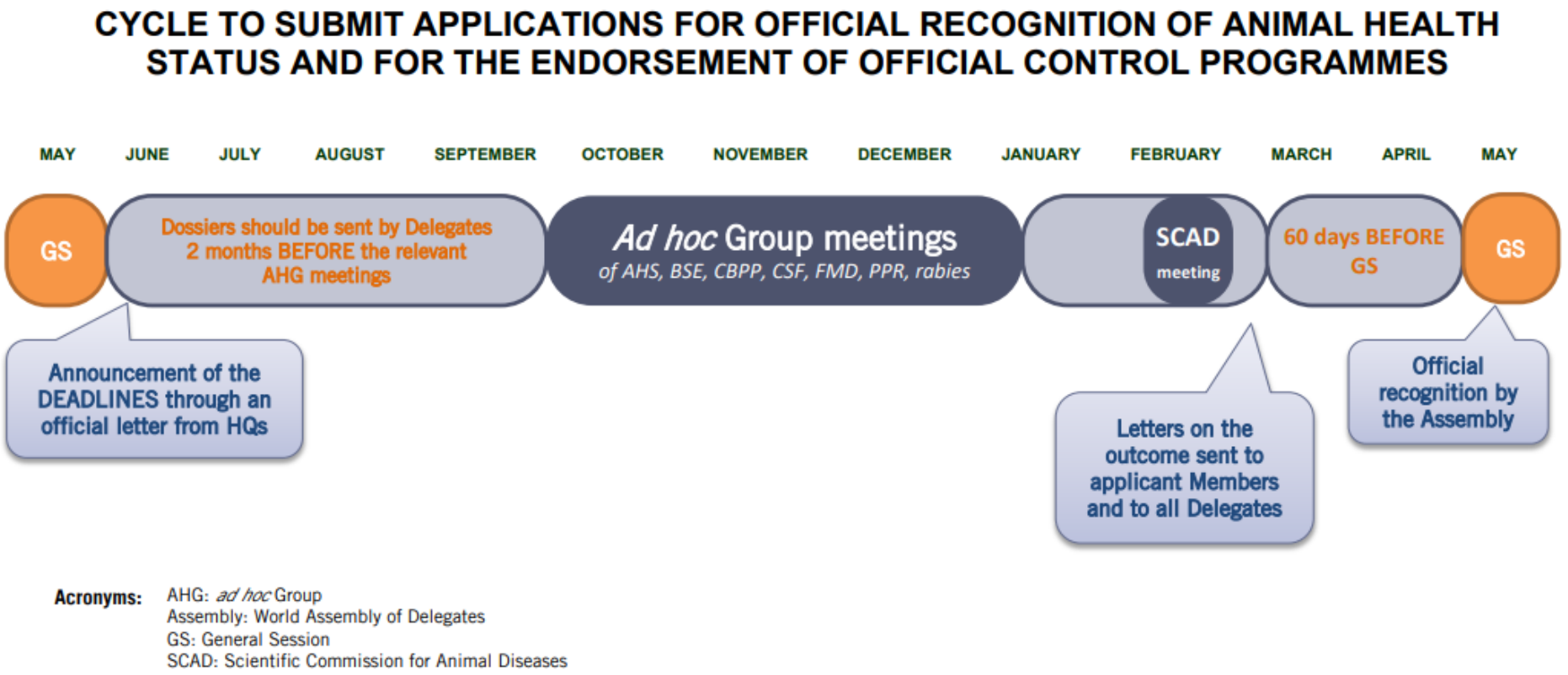
~~1) When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities* and any products made from these *commodities* and containing no other tissues from cattle, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any BSE related conditions, regardless of the BSE risk status of the cattle population of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*:~~

   ~~a) *milk* and *milk products*;~~

   ~~b) semen and *in vivo* derived cattle embryos collected and handled in accordance with the recommendations of the International Embryo Transfer Society;~~

   ~~c) hides and skins;~~

- *ad hoc* Group on evaluation of BSE risk status: 1-3 October 2024 (TBC)
- Applications to be sent at least two months in advance



- Applications for Bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka BSE- WOAH

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. ➡

1. Revised BSE standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

Official recognition of BSE status:

Annual reconfirmations

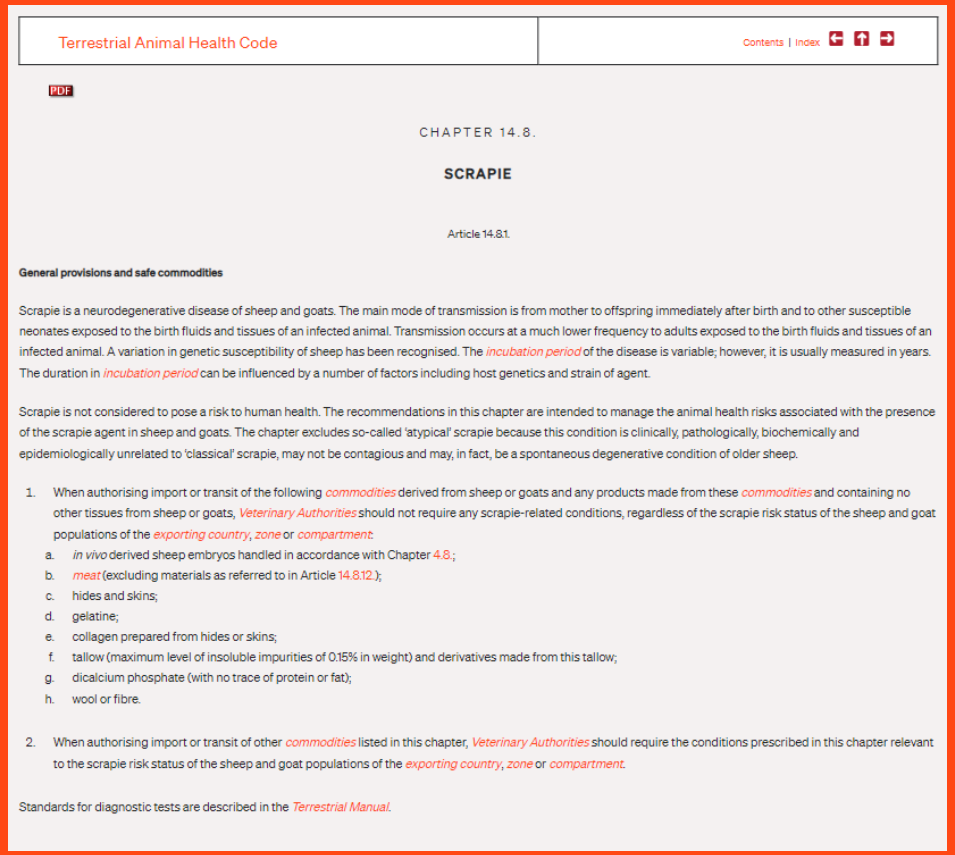
Revised form for the annual reconfirmation of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk status of WOAH Members

	QUESTION			YES	NO
1.	Has the risk assessment for BSE in accordance with Article 11.4.3 been reviewed by the Competent Authority of the country/zone, through incorporation of documented evidence, in the past 12 months?			Please provide the conclusions of the review and any subsequent actions/updates that may have been taken.	Please explain why and provide the tentative date of completion of the review.
2.	a) Have there been any changes in the livestock industry practices in the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?			Please provide an updated description of the industry practices preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal, as per Point 1.b.i of Article 11.4.3. Please provide the rationale for the changes in auditing practices.	
	b) Have there been any changes to the BSE-specific risk mitigation measures (other than import requirements addressed under question 4b) during the past 12 months, as described under Point 1.b.ii of Article 11.4.3., including any changes in auditing practices or any increase in non-compliances detected?			Please provide an updated description of specific risk mitigation measures preventing bovines from being fed bovine-derived protein meal. Please provide the rationale for the change in measures.	
3.	Have any modifications in the legislation regarding BSE (except for import requirements addressed in question 4b) been made during the past 12 months?			Please summarise the modification(s) made, highlighting their potential impact on BSE risk mitigation measures, including surveillance. Please explain how the updated legislation still aligns with Articles 11.4.4 and 11.4.5. Please provide the rationale for the change in legislation.	
4.	a) Have the following commodities been imported during the past 12 months?	i.	Bovines	Please indicate the quantities imported during the past 12 months by commodity and origins in Table 1.	
		ii.	Bovine-derived protein meal		
		iii.	Feed (not intended for pets) that contains bovine-derived protein meal		
		iv.	Fertilizers that contain bovine-derived protein meal		
		v.	Any other commodity that either is, includes, or could be contaminated by commodities listed in Article 11.4.15.		
	b) Have there been any changes to the import requirements of the following	i.	Bovines	Please summarise the modifications, the rationale for the changes, and highlight their potential impact on BSE risk mitigation measures. Please describe how the updated legislation is still aligned with Articles 11.4.3. and 11.4.4.	
		ii.	Bovine-derived protein meal		
		iii.	Feed (not intended for pets) that contains bovine-derived protein meal		

- 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.

- Reconfirmation of BSE risk status - WOAH

Revision of Scrapie standards *(Terrestrial Code)*



Terrestrial Animal Health Code

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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.

1. 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*:
   a. *in vivo* derived sheep embryos handled in accordance with Chapter 4.8.;
   b. *meat* (excluding materials as referred to in Article 14.8.12.);
   c. hides and skins;
   d. gelatine;
   e. collagen prepared from hides or skins;
   f. tallow (maximum level of insoluble impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives made from this tallow;
   g. dicalcium phosphate (with no trace of protein or fat);
   h. wool or fibre.

2. 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*.

2. Revision of Scrapie standards (*Terrestrial Code*)

Chapter 14.8. Scrapie:

1. The most recent update was adopted in 2011. Upon Members' requests, the current Chapter has been circulated for comments.

2. At its February 2024 meeting, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission considered all comments and agreed to Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group who will revise Chapter 14.8 'Scrapie' taking into consideration some Member comments already sent on some specific issues.
   The Commission reminded Members that this revision will be comprehensive to ensure it reflects the latest scientific knowledge.
   The requested consideration of diagnostic tests on live animal and testing for genetic resistance to scrapie as valid methods for ensuring the safe trade of sheep and goats will be considered by the *ad hoc* Group and the Biological Standards Commission.
   The *ad hoc* Group meeting was held at the end of April and further updates will be available after the September Commissions' meetings.

3. Deletion of definition for 'greaves', following adoption of 'protein meal' in 2023

Thank you

- For more information please contact: disease.status@woah.org
- *Terrestrial Code*: www.woah.org/terrestrial-code
- SCAD reports: www.woah.org/scientific-commission

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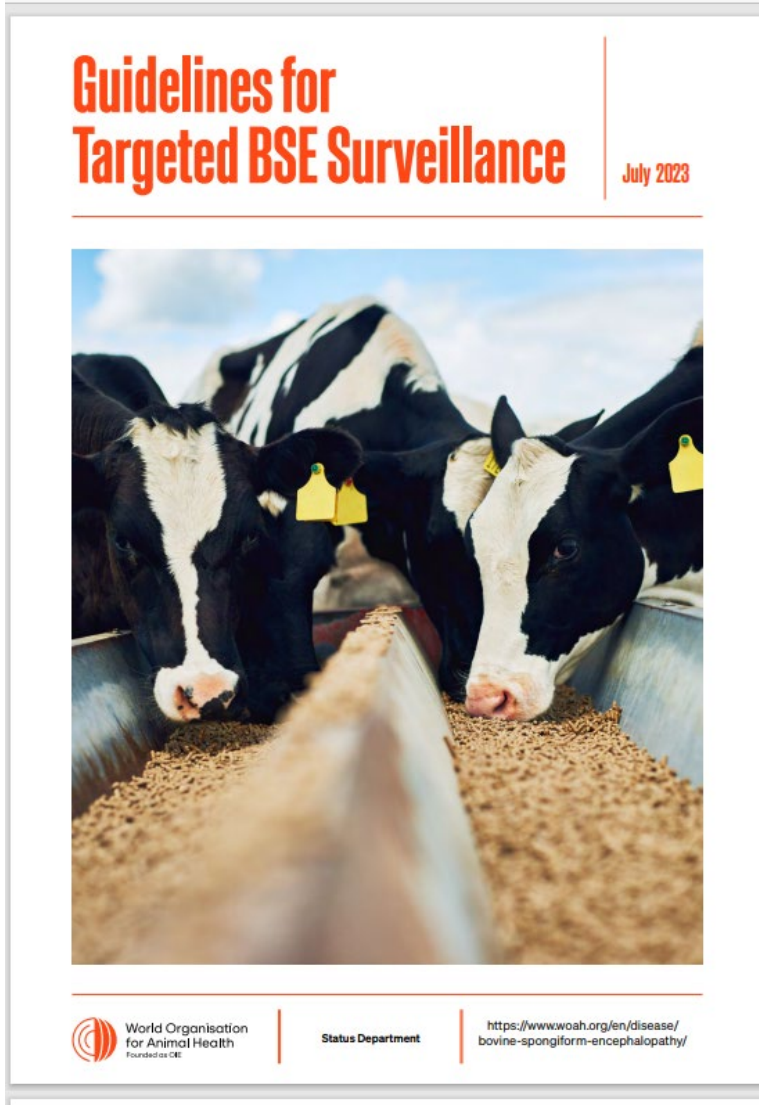
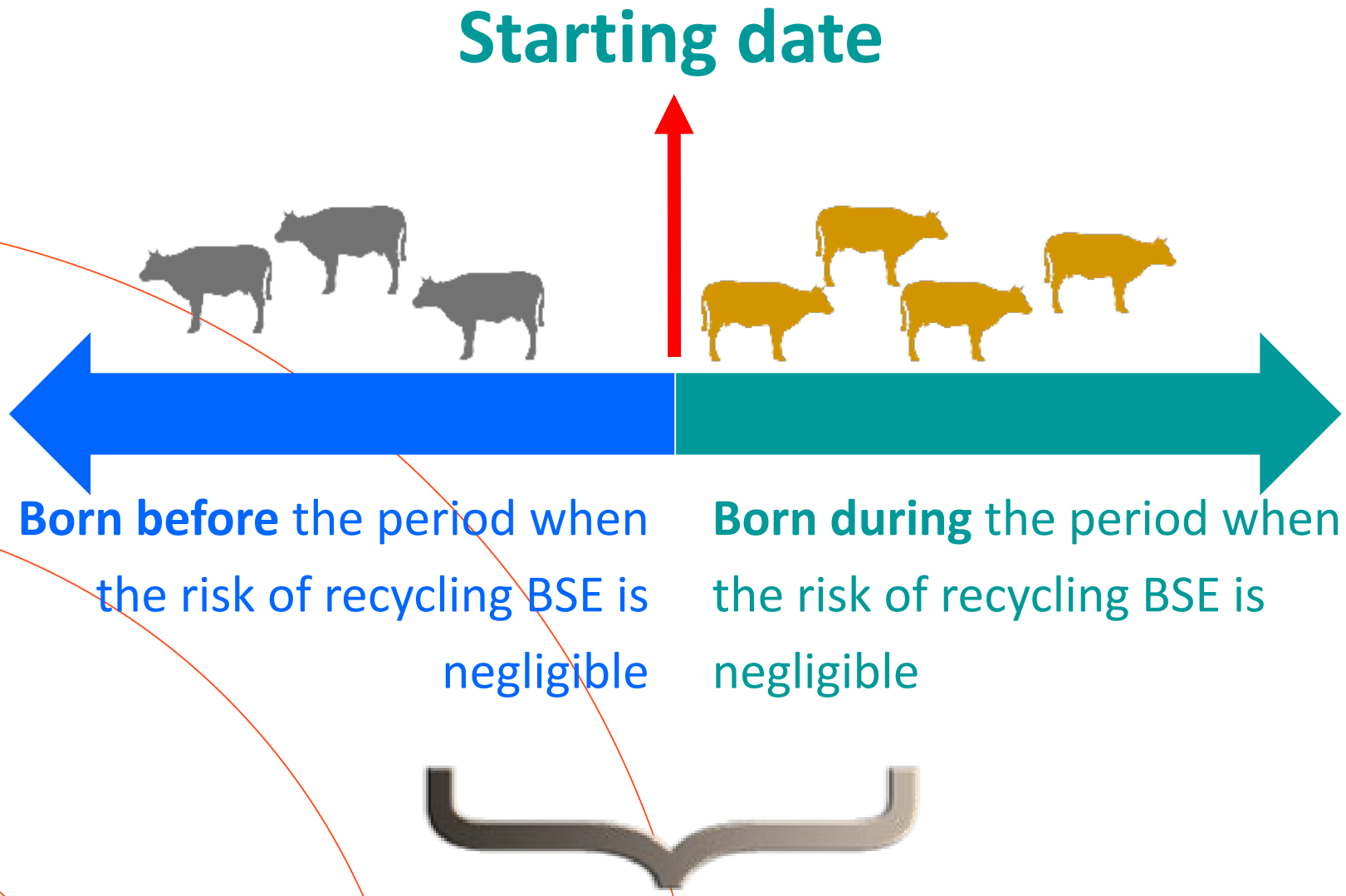
BSE surveillance guidelines

- AIM: Support WOAH 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.



Bovine spongiform encephalopathy aka BSE- WOAH
https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2023/07/ang-book-bse-guidelines-07072023-final.pdf



Bovines and commodities pose a different risk regarding BSE