

news from Member Countries

Self-declaration

Other than for African horse sickness, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, classical swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, foot and mouth disease and peste des petits ruminants, for which the OIE currently has a procedure of official recognition of status, the self-declaration of freedom of a country or a territory from a given OIE-listed disease is under the responsibility of the Member concerned. The OIE is not responsible for inaccuracies in the publication of self-declarations concerning the status of a country or zone with regard to a disease.

Self-declaration from the Republic of Korea of zonal freedom for equine diseases

submitted to the OIE on 22 May 2014 by Dr Taeyung Kim, Delegate of the Republic of Korea to the OIE, General Animal Health Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea

Background information

The Republic of Korea is hosting the 17th Asian Games Equestrian Events in Incheon from 19 September to 4 October 2014. To facilitate the international participation of horses from Asian countries, the OIE had advised the Korean Veterinary Services to embrace the principles of the high health, high performance (HHP) equine subpopulation concept as currently being developed by the OIE, as well as the principles of equine disease-free zones (EDFZ), as already tested during the Asian Games in Guangzhou, on the equestrian competition site in Conghua, the People's Republic of China. The EDFZ is a temporary establishment of a free zone for multiple equine diseases.

Import health requirements were developed in line with the HHP concept, allowing horses to undergo appropriate health preparation in resident countries, travel to Korea to compete and travel back to their resident country. No post-arrival quarantine in Korea is required, as all horses are expected to be of the same health status.

Description of the EDFZ

The establishment of this EDFZ follows the principles of zoning and compartmentalisation as described in Chapter 4.3. and 4.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The venue for the equestrian competitions, 'Dream Park', has been designated as a 'core zone', which is surrounded by a surveillance zone of 10 km in radius. Horses arriving at the international airport some 35 km away will be transported to Dream Park through a bio-secure safe passage route, as shown on the map below.

The 'core zone' venue is isolated by water canals from the outside environment. Fences separate stable buildings from the rest of the venue to regulate the entry of animals, humans and equipment, and special approval is required to enter the stable area.



Zone/Path		Range
EDFZ	Core zone	Dream Park equestrian venue
	Surveillance zone	10 km radius around the equestrian venue
Safe passage route		Incheon International Airport → Cheongna Interchange → Dream Park equestrian venue (approx. 35 km)

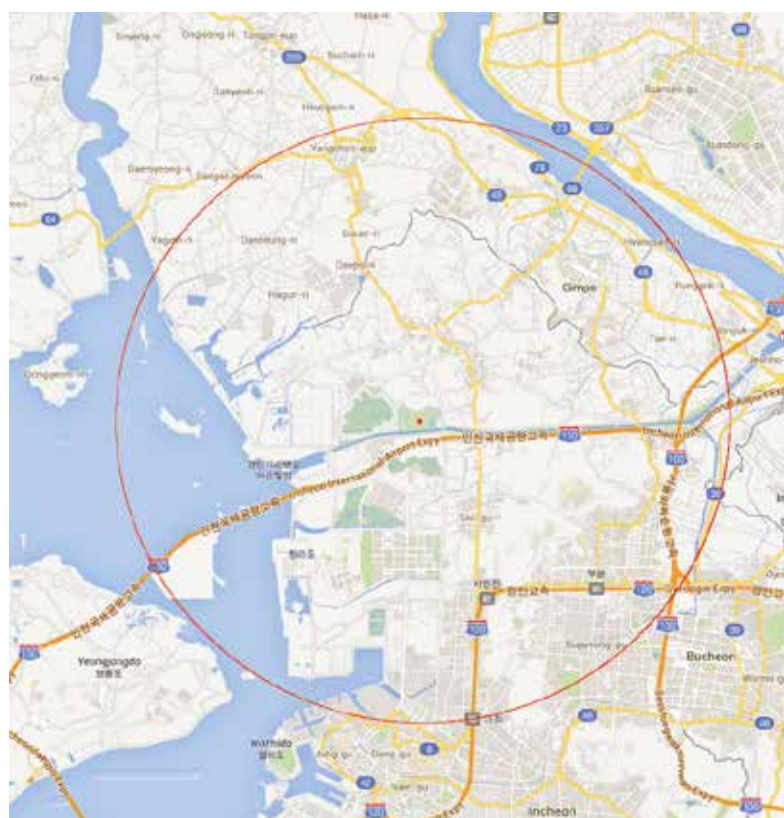


Fig. 1
Horses arriving at the international airport will be transported to Dream Park through a bio-secure safe passage route

Equine disease situation in the Republic of Korea

Korea reports regularly to the OIE as being free from major equine diseases and is recognised by the European Union as an approved third country for the importation of registered horses. The census data for equines in Korea show that only 0.5% of the population is located in Incheon. Within the surveillance zone of the EDFZ, 101 horses are being raised at seven locations.

In the Republic of Korea, major equine diseases are classified as ‘notifiable’. No outbreaks of such diseases have been reported in the last three years countrywide, with the exception of a case of piroplasmiasis in the province of Yangju-si, Gyeonggi-do. As for other notifiable diseases that also affect horses, cases of rabies in dogs have been reported during the last three years in other provinces.

Equine disease surveillance

Active serosurveillance for equine diseases is carried out twice a year on a representative sample of horses from throughout the country for the following diseases: African horse sickness, vesicular stomatitis, equine infectious anaemia, West Nile fever and Japanese encephalitis. Telephone surveillance of any establishment of more than five animals is carried out twice a month to check for any other disease.

In addition to this routine surveillance programme, an enhanced surveillance system will be put in place for one month before, during and one month after the Asian Games, with telephone surveillance of all farms within the EDFZ every second day, and twice a month for all farms outside the EDFZ.

Biosecurity Plan before, during and after the Asian Games

Horses arriving at the international airport will undergo individual verification of their identification documents and health certificates, as

well as a clinical examination after disembarkation. If a horse is found to be healthy and fit, it will be directly transported to Dream Park through the bio-secure safe passage route.

At Dream Park, horses will be stabled according to their countries/regions in separate stable blocks and Piroplasma-seropositive horses will be kept in a separate stable block. A schedule will be developed, assigning specific times for residents of different stable blocks to use the training facilities. Horses will be inspected regularly and their rectal temperatures will be taken twice daily.

There are isolation boxes available as well as a veterinary clinic and a separate room to take samples for doping control.

Regular pest and insect control of the empty venue will start one month before the Games begin and continue during the Games. Disinfection will also be carried out on the seven farms located in the surveillance zone, where a strict movement ban will also be applied during the period between the arrival and departure of the competition horses.

Contingency plan

A contingency plan has been prepared to cover accidents during transport, minor and major injuries during competition and the outbreak of an infectious disease at the venue. Furthermore, if active and passive surveillance during the period of the Games give rise to suspicion within the surveillance zone, immediate diagnosis will be attempted and appropriate control measures in line with the Act on the Prevention of Contagious Animal Diseases will be implemented.

Conclusion

All measures have been put in place to isolate the Dream Park equestrian event location from the rest of the country, including a surrounding surveillance zone. Passive and active surveillance have demonstrated the EDFZ to be free from the following diseases: African horse sickness, equine encephalomyelitis (all types), vesicular stomatitis, glanders, dourine, equine infectious anaemia, rabies, anthrax and Japanese encephalitis.



Fig. 2
Dream Park equestrian venue