

Swine Vesicular Disease Policy - Option for the future

WORKING DOCUMENT

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SANCO/6716/2009-Rev 1
SCOFCAH, 12 January 2010



Objective

- To discuss the **proportionality and sustainability** of our present control measures for SVD;
- To reflect if SVD **legislation should be amended** in the framework of the new Animal Health strategy;
- To **coordinate with OIE** to ensure that international SVD standards are in line with the EU policy in order to avoid trade disputes.

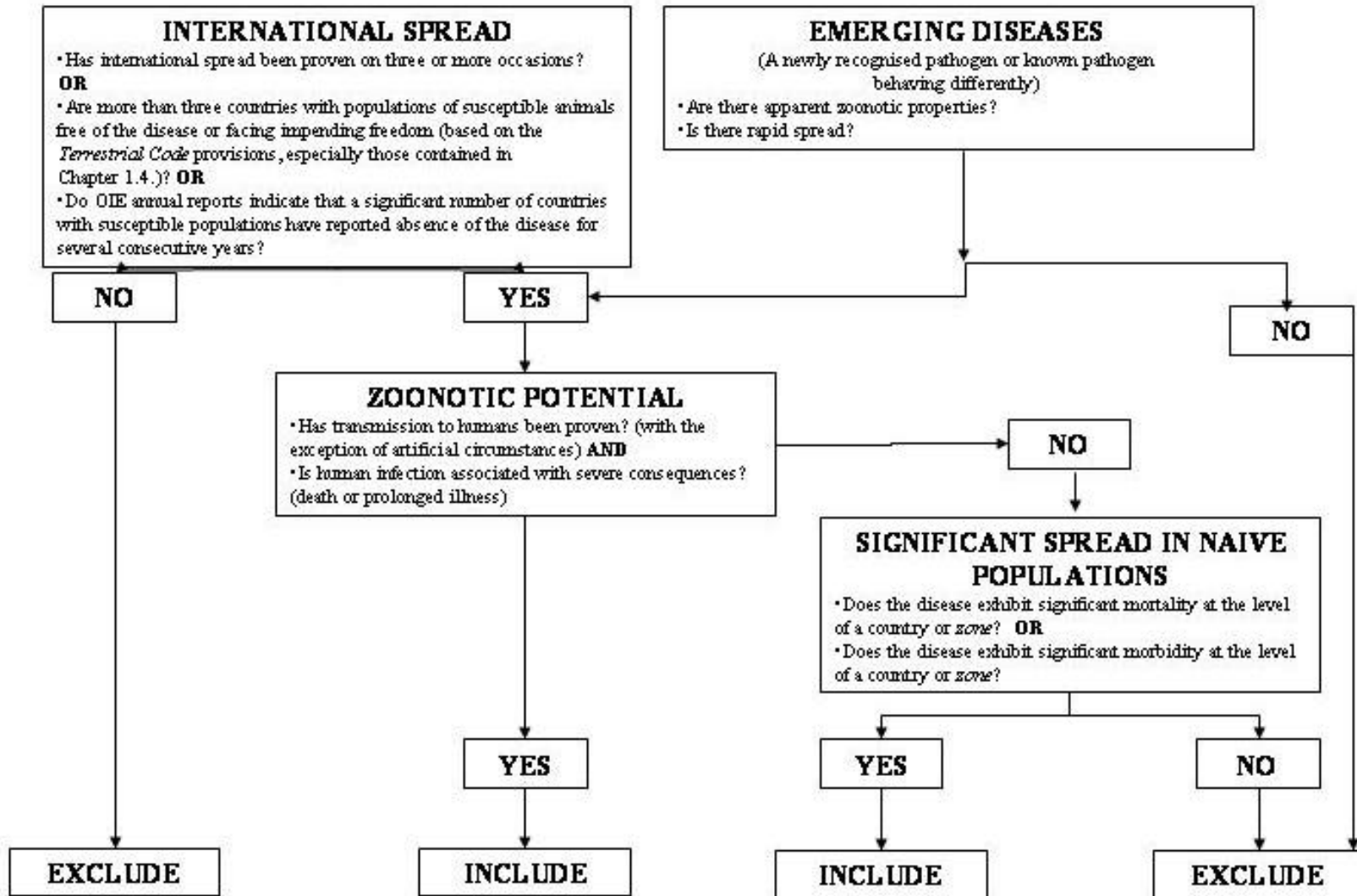
A follow up document of **SANCO/10708/2002 Rev1**
"Swine Vesicular Disease policy – Which options for the future?"
from December 2002

The main importance of SVD is that it is clinically indistinguishable from FMD, and any outbreak of vesicular disease of pigs must be assumed to be FMD until investigated by laboratory test and proven otherwise.

Currently very sensitive and specific tests for the detection of antibodies and genome (ELISA and PCR) and for the differential diagnosis between SVD and FMD are available!!!

The experiences gained on SVD surveillance in the last years have established the most appropriate sampling procedures to confirm or rule out SVD in a suspected holding.

Criteria for inclusion of a disease in the OIE List of diseases



SVD

International spread

No/Yes

Zoonotic potential

No

Significant spread
within naïve populations

No

Emerging diseases

No

The socio-economic consequences and importance in international trade seems to be more connected with its inclusion in the OIE List and the very stringent EU measures than to its morbidity and mortality rates or its tendency to spread.

EU legislation for SVD

Council Directive 92/119/EEC, Annex II
(similar to the control measures for FMD, CSF, AI)

Commission Decision 2000/428/EC
(Diagnostic Manual for SVD)

Commission Decision 2005/779/EC (animal health rules for the regions of Italy which are not recognized as SVD free and for the free regions)

Confirmation of SVD

- *SVDV isolation either from the pigs or from the environment*
- *Serology plus clinical signs*
- *Serology plus epidemiological link to an outbreak*
- *Clinical signs plus epidemiological link to an outbreak*

SVD in the EU

Within the EU mainly Italy was affected by SVD during the last 15 years. The disease is still considered to be present in the regions of **Campania and Calabria.**

Secondary outbreaks were also detected in central and Northern Italy.

Outbreaks in Italy



Apart from Italy, only Portugal was affected in 2007 (one outbreak).



Necessity to review the EU policy on SVD

Current legislation is based on the assumption that in case SVDV enters a susceptible animal population, clinical signs would become evident.

New diagnostic tool available (ELISA, PCR)

Better knowledge on SVD pathogenesis and epidemiology

Current EU approach is not consistent with the increasing findings of very mild and sub-clinical SVD

the current EU stamping-out policy may raise questions

the provisions on the establishment of the restricted zones around disease outbreaks do not appear to be fully justified by the limited contagiousness of SVDV.

Current legislation on SVD control can not be regarded as consistent, proportional and sustainable and it needs to be updated.

Option for the future

Revision of legislation, more flexibility to avoid massive culling of pigs

Restrictions to be adapted to the epidemiology of SVD

Measures should be proportionate to the seriousness of SVD and its limited health and economic impact

Pigs which are not infected should not be culled and destroyed but slaughtered in slaughterhouses

Provisions should stay in place to ensure a quick differential diagnosis with FMD

Additional guarantees should be granted to those MS/areas where SVD is absent

The Union should together with the OIE reflect on the current chapter on SVD