

By-law No. 4 : Notification and control of transmissible  
diseases of livestock and poultry

preamble : The purpose of this By-law is to prevent the spread of socio-economically important animal diseases which exist in the country, with the ultimate aim to achieve their eradication or to reduce their incidence to insignificant levels, and thus to make livestock rearing more remunerative by improving the health status and consequently the productivity and output of livestock and by reducing morbidity and mortality losses, and thus to raise the nutritional standards and income levels of the farmers and to enable the country to move towards the National Objective of self-reliance. It is also a purpose of this By-law to ensure the early detection and immediate eradication of any important exotic animal disease, which may involve the danger of a national emergency and which in spite of quarantine measures at the frontier might penetrate in to the country.

Scope.

1. Provisions under this By-law refer to all domestic animals and their products, and to wildlife and wildlife products as far as relevant for the health protection of domestic animals.

Duty Channel.

2. On all matters concerning the implementation of this By-law, the DAHO/DVO shall report directly to the Animal Husbandry Department in Ministry of Development and shall receive orders directly from there.

Permanent measures.

3. In order to control the permanent threat of disease spread, the DAHO/DVO and his representative are empowered:

- a) to enter and inspect any premises or area where animals, animal products or animal feed are kept,
- b) to inspect animals and to apply such prophylactic or therapeutic treatments as may be ordered by the Ministry of Development; the owner may be obliged to assemble the animals for that purpose and to give any assistance which may be reasonably requested,
- c) to inspect vehicles used for transport of animals, animal products or animal feed and related items and to request or perform their cleaning and disinfection, if appropriate, or prohibit their use for certain purposes, if found inadequate,
- d) to inspect animals prior to transport, during transport and after transport and to restrict, limit or prohibit their movement, if so required for the protection of animal health.
- e) to apply identifying marks to animals and animal products, or order such marks to be applied, in the form of tags, brands, tattoos or others, as may be ordered by the Ministry of Development.
- f) to inspect documents related to the keeping, performance or movement of animals or to the origin, storage, handling or movement of animal products, feed or related items.
- g) to give instructions to animal owners concerning the hygienic management of animals, pastures and premises.
- h) to give instructions concerning hygienic practices to the managers of establishments where animal products or feed are handled, stored, transported or marketed, and to order in agreement with the responsible civil administration that repairs or reconstructions be made or that all or parts of the establishment's activities be suspended, if so required for reasons of human or animal health.

**Certificates of origin and health, movement permits and license.**

4. The Ministry of Development, in agreement, with the Dzongkhag Administrations may temporarily or permanently introduce the requirement of certificates of origin and health and movement permits for the transport of animals, animal products or feed, and licenses for establishments where animal products are elaborated, handled, stored, transported or marketed,

**Measures applicable to specific diseases.**

5. Specific measures, as defined in this By-law and as may be ordered by the Ministry of Development, shall be applied to the control of:

- a) Notifiable diseases, where compulsory notification by the public and intensive tracing by the veterinary authorities is legally required for every case occurring in the country, and where a prescribed sequence of actions has to be taken by the DAHO/DVO until the outbreak is extinguished.
- b) *Officially controlled diseases, which are to be controlled by means of systematic official programmes, as may be ordered by Ministry of Development, with a view to reduce their incidence to acceptable levels and ultimately to achieve their eradication, if biologically feasible.*

#### Notifiable Diseases.

6. The following diseases are notifiable:

- a) Rinderpest in all susceptible domestic and wild species.
- b) Foot and Mouth Disease in all susceptible domestic and wild species.
- c) Contagious Bovine pleuropneumonia in cattle.
- d) Haemorrhagic septicaemia in cattle, Yak and buffalo.
- e) Sheep Pox in sheep.
- f) Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) in pigs.
- g) Glanders in horses and donkeys.
- h) Dourine in horses and donkeys.
- i) Ranikhet Disease in poultry.
- j) Blackleg in cattle.
- k) Anthrax in all domestic and wild species.
- l) Rabies in all domestic and wild species.
- m) Any other disease which the Ministry of Development may add to this list from time to time.

7. Every animal owner or person in-charge of animals is obliged to report without delay to the nearest Veterinary Institute or Police Station:

- a) any facts which give reason to suspect the presence of a notifiable disease,
  - b) any cases of increased mortality or morbidity or sudden drop in production which might be attributable to a notifiable disease.
- The Police station shall immediately forward such information to the DAHO/DVO, preferably by telephone. Until the arrival of the DAHO/DVO or his representative, the owner shall keep sick

animals in isolation and shall not permit any animal or animal product or feed to leave the area or premises, nor permit the entry of any animal.

8. The DAHO/DVO or his representative, upon receipt of such notice shall immediately proceed to the place of the occurrence in order to verify the facts. He shall first examine the apparently healthy animals, and then the affected ones. According to his findings, he shall either inform the owner or his representative that the suspicion of a notifiable disease can be discarded, or otherwise initiate the sanitary action and epizootiological enquiry, as indicated below:-

Fact finding and epizootiological enquiry.

9. Unless the suspicion of a notifiable disease can be definitely described, the DAHO/DVO or his representative shall:
- a) take samples for laboratory examination.
  - b) determine the limits of the infected place, taking into account the nature of the disease suspected and all relevant facts; determine the number of susceptible and non-susceptible animals in the infected place and apply suitable signs or mark to such animals; determine the feed resources available in the infected place.
  - c) Investigate, by thorough enquiry about recent movements, the possible origin and possible further spread of infection, in order to facilitate appropriate control action in the places concerned.
10. After leaving the infected place, he shall not enter any other place where livestock is being kept, but shall first return to the Veterinary Institute to deliver the samples and to have vehicle equipment and garments thoroughly disinfected. Following such disinfection, or change of vehicle, garments and equipment he shall proceed to the inspection farms surrounding the infected place.

Sanitary action.

11. Before leaving the infected place, the DAHO/DVO or his representative shall initiate the sanitary action by provisionally declaring the place infected. The provisional declaration of the infected place shall be legally valid and binding for a period of 48 hours, within which time it has to be either confirmed or revoked by the competent civil authority. The sanitary action shall be initiated immediately, and shall be discontinued when

- a) the civil authority refuses to confirm the declaration of infected place within 48 hours, or
  - b) the examination of laboratory samples has permitted to discard the suspicion of a notifiable disease, or
  - c) the sanitary action has been successfully terminated with the extinction of the outbreak, as indicated below.
12. The sanitary action shall include the following measures, as appropriate under the circumstances and in view of the disease concerned, according to the discretion of the DAHO/DVO and, where applicable, in strict conformity with orders given by the Animal Husbandry Department, Ministry of Development;
- a) display of posters in conspicuous places to indicate the infected place and to give pertinent instructions to the public.
  - b) prohibition of access to the infected place.
  - c) prohibition of removal of animals, dung, straw, hay and other objects capable of transmitting the infection from the infected place.
  - d) prohibition of introducing animal to the infected place.
  - e) Inter-current disinfection, cleaning, sterilization of swill, particularly residues of food and feed.
  - f) diagnostic measures, collection of samples for diagnostic purpose and laboratory examination of such samples.
  - g) prophylactic or therapeutic treatment of the animals or prohibition of such treatment; castration of stallions in the case of Duorine
  - h) compulsory slaughter and/or destruction of animals with compensation paid, or encouragement of voluntary slaughter, to abbreviate the quarantine period.
  - i) safe disposal of dung, manure, and litter.
  - j) sterilization of the meat of emergency slaughtered animals. conditionally approved for local consumption in the quarantined farm.
  - k) incineration, deep burial or confiscation for destruction or transformation of the bodies of dead animals.
  - l) authority for the DAHO/DVO to control the management of the infected place by reasonable pertinent orders and prohibitions of all kind.

13. In the case of Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth Disease and Swine Fever, the infected place shall be surrounded by an officially established control area. In the case of Rinderpest and Foot and Mouth Disease, the control area shall be surrounded by an official observation and stand still area. The size and limits of the control area and, where applicable the surrounding observation area shall be decided from time to time by order of the Ministry of Development in agreement with the Dzongkhag Administration concerned, taking into account the probability of spread, feasibility of effective action, availability of vaccines, manpower, financial resources and other relevant factors. The purpose of the sanitary action in the control and observation areas shall be the prevention of spread and expedient detection of infected animals in the area threatened by such spread. The measures concerned shall include, as applied and appropriate;
- a) display of posters in conspicuous places and information by appropriate means to indicate the "control area" and "observation area" and to give pertinent instruction to the public; inspection at Police Road Check points for effective implementation of measures.
  - b) prohibition of movement of animals and products capable of transmitting the disease out of the area concerned.
  - c) prohibition, restriction or limitation of the movement of animals and associated products within the area concerned.
  - d) disinfection of vehicles,
  - e) placing of disinfection mats at entry to premises and other suitable places,
  - f) vaccination.
  - g) compulsory boiling of milk and disinfection measures in milk collecting and cheese making places, or temporary suspension of such places.
  - h) compulsory processing, sterilization or disinfection of products capable of transmitting disease.
14. In the case of Rabies, the provision of By-law No. 2 para 6 shall apply.
- Termination of outbreak.
15. Terminal disinfection under official supervision shall be applied prior to release from restriction, including the incineration of presumably contaminated objects of low value, which cannot be efficiently

disinfected. Subject to such termination disinfection being applied, the infected place shall be released from restriction:

- a) if all infected animals have died or recovered, and if no further disease has occurred among the other susceptible animals following the last case of death or officially confirmed recovery, during a length of time corresponding to the known incubation period and other relevant factors.
  - b) if all susceptible animals have been slaughtered or destroyed and if repopulation has been effected under official observation and no disease has appeared in susceptible animals.
16. Precaution measures, investigation and movement control shall continue in the control and observation area during an adequate length of time, as the Minister of Development will determine from time to time. If no further cases occur, the entire area shall be released from restriction and an official declaration shall be made to that effect. Outbreak of notifiable diseases during transport or migration.
17. If a notifiable disease is detected in animals during transport or migration, the affected group, flock or herd shall be confined in a fenced area, at the place where the detection was made, but at reasonable distance from local livestock and transit roads. The measures applied to the animals and to the area of their confinement shall be the same as indicated above, under para 9-16.

#### Officially controlled diseases.

18. The Minister of Development may make orders from time to time establishing systematic programmes of control against such socio-economically significant diseases which are not notifiable and which can more conveniently be controlled by measures other than those referred to under para 7-17.
19. Such programmes may be applied to the following officially controlled diseases:
- a) Bovine tuberculosis and Johne's disease
  - b) Bovine brucellosis
  - c) Infertility and young animal diseases in all domestic species.
  - d) Intestinal parasites, lung worms, liver fluke, echinococcosis, cysticerocosis, *Coenurus cerebralis* and other internal parasites in all domestic species.
  - e) Pullorosis in poultry
  - f) Diseases of fish, bees and silk worm

- g) Any other disease or group diseases which the Minister of Development may add to this list.

**Collection of dead animals.**

20. The DAHO/DVO shall cooperate with the Dzongkhag Administration in developing organized plans for the collection of dead animals in order to :
- a) prevent their utilization for human consumption which hazard to public health.
  - b) provide for their optimal economic utilization for industrial purposes.
  - c) contribute to intensified animal disease surveillance through necropsy diagnosis in the Veterinary Institutes.

**Reports animal disease statistics**

21. The DAHO/DVO shall periodically report to the Animal Husbandry Department, Ministry of Development, indicating:
- a) Number and place of outbreaks of notifiable diseases
  - b) Diagnosis made in the Veterinary Institute.
  - c) Action performed in Zoonosis control programmes
  - d) Action performed in schemes for officially controlled diseases.
  - e) Action performed in the genetic improvemant scheme
  - f) Meat inspection
  - g) Frontier quarantine
  - h) Other inspection activities
  - i) Clinical work.
22. The Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department shall compile these reports into ;
- a) Annual Veterinary Activity Reports
  - b) By-monthly notifiable disease bulletins
23. Penalty : The penalty for violation of the above By-law shall be a fine of not less than Nu. 500 and upto Nu. 1000/- or prison upto 3 months accroding to the severity of the infraction. A person who fails to report the occurance of a notifiable disease shall be excluded from any indemnity or subsidy. If an animal owner fails to comply with the instructions given by the competent authority in the course of a sanitary action, or removes or conceals posters which indicate an infected place, the animals shall be confiscated without compensation.

24. Indemnisation and subsidies : The Minister of Development make orders from time to time for the payment of indemnities and subsidies, not exceeding the value of the animals concerned, for losses from notifiable diseases and related control measures, under the condition of expedient notification and full cooperation in the sanitary action.
25. Fees: The Minister of Development may make orders from time to time to charge adequate fees for periodic vaccinations against notifiable or officially controlled animal diseases. No fees, however, shall be charged for compulsory vaccination in the frontier belt area or in control areas surrounding an infected place.
- No fee shall be charged for the visit of a farm where a notifiable disease has been reported or suspected and no fee shall be charged for any of the official measures taken in a place infected by a notifiable disease.
- The Minister of Development may make orders from time to time to establish fees which shall be charged for diagnostic, prophylactic or therapeutic measures taken in the framework of systematic schemes against officially controlled diseases.