



# Biosecurity in the Animal Health Law

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# "Animal Health Law" = Regulation on Animal Health

- The **main instrument to implement** the Animal Health Strategy (2007-2013) "**Prevention is better than cure**"
- **A single new legal framework** for animal health replacing approx. 40 existing Directives and Regulations
- More prevention:
  - **Biosecurity**
  - **Surveillance, disease notification and reporting**
  - **Improved knowledge, disease awareness & preparedness** (contingency plans)
  - **Use of vaccines: clearer policy for their use** (in relation to disease prevention and control measures)
  - **Emerging diseases: more tools to control**
- Depart from existing good practices

# In preparation of the **Animal Health Regulation (impact assessment)**: -> how much biosecurity is realistic?



# How much biosecurity is realistic?

- *Some biosecurity measures are accessible, easy to apply and not too costly*
  - **Cleaning, washing, preventing persons to enter premises, buying from trustful sources...**
- *Biosecurity can be expensive and/or complex:*
  - **(Infra)structural changes** (eg. investments), **physical barriers**
  - **Biosecurity plans** (welcome but burdensome!)





## Lessons learned

- *High expectations not (always) meeting reality (costs/burdens)*
  - **Need to balance risks of poor biosecurity with costs of excellent biosecurity**
- *Conclusions:*
  - **Basic biosecurity for all ✓**
  - **Scope for voluntary higher standards ✓**
  - **Incentives to be provided ✓**
  - **Best use of already existing initiatives, i.e. hygiene package, etc. ✓**



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# Animal Health Law (COM proposal): biosecurity elements





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# Biosecurity requirements in AHL

- AHL is a **general legal framework** (no detailed rules)
- Biosecurity recognised as an **essential obligation and responsibility** (at all times):
  - **Biosecurity at farms, in laboratories, in transport, assembly, at borders, etc.**
  - **Responsibilities:**
    - Operators = farmers, laboratories, others i.e. transporters, assembly
    - Farmers associations and other providing support
    - Veterinarians & aquatic animal health professionals (play an active role!)
    - Competent Authority
- **Detailed biosecurity rules:**
  - **to be complemented in delegated and/or implementing acts**

# Biosecurity in different contexts

- Biosecurity as a general preventative measure (*prevention of introduction of disease, spread within and outside establishments, zones, at borders,...*)
- Biosecurity within "trade"
  - **basic requirements (eg. maintain health status) and**
  - **higher level (eg. Compartments)**
- Biosecurity as one of the crucial elements of disease control measures in establishments (farms) and restricted zones







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# Biosecurity at farm Level

- *Operators responsible for the health of animals and products*
- *Take appropriate biosecurity measures, depending on the:*
  - **Species or categories of animals**
  - **Type of production and**
  - **Risks involved**
- *Biosecurity:*
  - **Management measures**
  - **Measures of physical protection** (infrastructure)
- *Biosecurity measures:*
  - **Formalised** (legal requirements, guides)
  - **Non-formalised** (best practices, training)



# Biosecurity and movements

- *General requirements:*
  - **Biosecurity in movements (standstill, residency periods, quarantine, cleaning, same health status, etc.)**
  - **In transport (cleaning and disinfection, single health status)**
  - **Special requirements for assembly operations**
- *High level biosecurity (voluntary concepts):*
  - **Compartments**
  - **Confined establishments (ex- bodies, centres, institutes)**

Recognition of compartments and confined establishments for trade purposes



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# Incentives for biosecurity

- *Incentives for operators and MSs:*
  - **Economic gains: Better disease situation, higher productivity, fewer costs for treatments**
  - **Fewer / smaller crises**
- *Benefits for operators and traders:*
  - **Increased disease awareness**
  - **Better / higher health status**
  - **High level biosecurity for movement between MS** (and in international trade), **eg. compartments, confined establishments**
  - **Other incentives (financial, promotion of vaccination...)**
- *Official recognition of standards for operators:*
  - **High level biosecurity & surveillance to replace individual certification of each consignment...?**

***Thank you for your  
attention***



**To learn more about the Animal Health Law:**  
*[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animal-health-proposal-2013\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/animal-health-proposal-2013_en.htm)*