

Nonessential Movement Protocol

Version:	9 (2023-MAR-31) - DRAFT
Prepared by:	Animal Health Emergency Management (AHEM) Project
Protocol Implemented by:	Appropriate Livestock Organization
Intended audience:	Livestock Producers and Stakeholders
Accompanying Document(s):	Animals in Transit Protocol

1. Summary

- This protocol has been developed to provide clarity and consistency with respect to livestock and livestock-related product movements during a foreign animal disease outbreak.
- This protocol may be used as a guide for an industry-led initiative to suspend nonessential livestock movements while waiting for laboratory confirmation of a serious animal disease outbreak.
- Immediate implementation of the protocol may be critical in reducing the spread of the disease agent and thereby preventing a widespread outbreak.
- Preparation of the protocol, including assessment and categorization of risks associated with livestock industry movements should be completed in advance of an outbreak to support the critical decision points which will occur within the first 24 hours of suspicion of a serious animal disease.
- It is expected that this protocol would be initiated in advance of, and be aligned with, any provincially or federally legislated movement controls.
- Producers should be prepared to maintain the protocol for at least 72 hours.

2. Scope

- This protocol is intended to be used by livestock organizations to ensure a consistent approach when livestock and/or livestock-related product movement restrictions are deemed prudent prior to the implementation of movement control zones by government.
- Prior to declaring a Primary Control Zone, CFIA can establish small zones with limited scope for controlling movements on and off premises which are suspected or confirmed to be infected.
 - A 'declaration of infected place' and/or quarantines can be applied to individual premises or animals/products to control movements on, off and within each implicated premises.
- The protocol should not be confused with the provisions of a Primary Control Zone, or any other zone defined by the CFIA following the confirmation of a serious animal disease.
- When the **protocol is implemented**, the movement of livestock within the area defined by the protocol is discouraged unless defined under exceptions as being **essential for the period defined**.
- Any animals that are already in transit at the time of protocol implementation are addressed under the Animals in Transit Protocol.

3. Application

- This protocol is an informed strategy that is based on an assessment of the potential harm an outbreak might do to the industry prior to the implementation of a CFIA control zone. Implementation of this protocol is **not a routine response to animal disease events**.
- This industry-led initiative would be replaced in due course by federal movement controls or rescinded if the disease was found not to be present.

- When industry leaders are initiating the protocol, it is to achieve extensive movement controls within their sector necessary to control an outbreak of a serious animal disease that has the potential to be spread rapidly through livestock movements.
- When an affected livestock association implements the Nonessential Movement Protocol, they are responsible for communicating it to its respective producers.
- Although contingency plans should be defined in advance, there may be circumstances when the plans may need to be modified to address an evolving situation.

4. Protocol Trigger

- When a serious animal disease is suspected:
 - The producer (or their veterinarian) immediately notifies the closest CFIA Animal Health District Office
 - o The CFIA investigates the premises, collects, and submits samples for diagnostic testing.
 - o The CFIA applies movement restrictions on the individual premises if a serious animal disease such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF) or African swine fever (ASF) is suspected.
 - The producer's veterinarian notifies the provincial chief veterinary officer.
 - o The CVO may take steps to implement the appropriate provincial regulatory movement control actions on suspicion of a serious animal disease.
 - The producer notifies the affected livestock industry association.
 - o If the CFIA has determined there is a high risk that the disease is present on the premises the affected livestock industry leaders will take immediate steps for the implementation of the Nonessential Movement Protocol.
 - o The Nonessential Movement Protocol will remain in effect until a CFIA control zone is established.

NOTE: The livestock association lead and the provincial chief veterinary officer may work together to implement a movement standstill at the earliest possible time.

5. Pre-Outbreak Considerations: Preparedness Activities

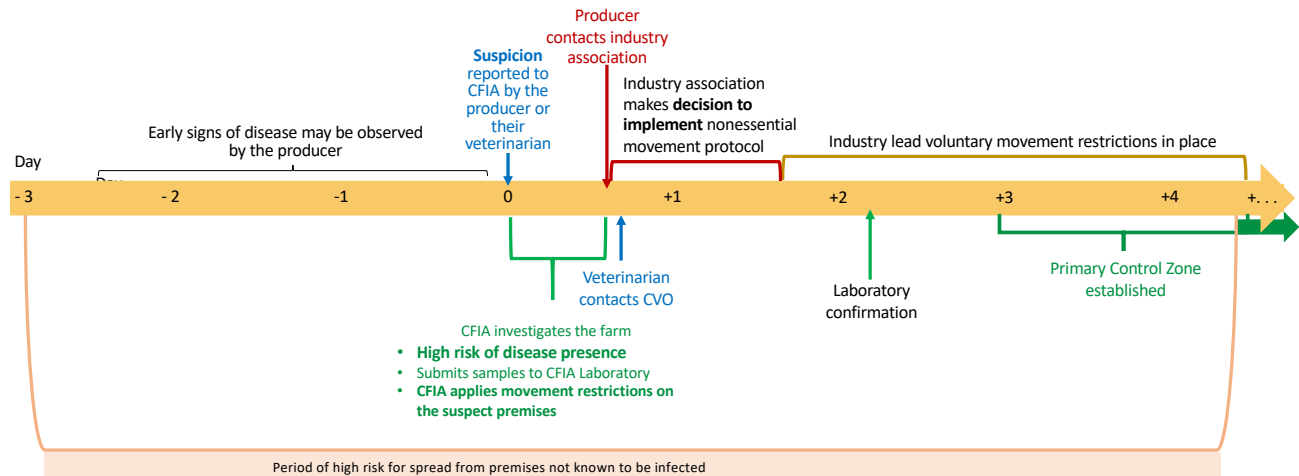
- The 'risk assessment' for the potential of various animal movements to spread the disease agent should be done prior to an outbreak. In the face of an outbreak, there will not be time to complete these detailed risk assessments. See [Appendix 1 – Estimating the impact of disease spread via movements of livestock, livestock products and by-products](#)
- A method for estimating the risk posed by various movements based on the risk assessments should be developed for use at the time the suspicion is reported.
 - An estimation of the risk posed by each category of animal movement must be conducted by the lead(s) of an industry association prior to giving any guidance/direction to allow further movement of livestock and/or livestock items.
- The key factors to consider are:
 - Risk of the animals being moved infected with a serious animal disease. For example, there is a higher risk of previous exposure if the animals and/or products to be moved are in an area where a serious animal disease is suspected or confirmed).
 - The likelihood of disease spread because of the movement. For example, highly contagious diseases are easily transmitted from one animal to another.
 - Consequences of the spreading the serious animal disease. For example, high economic and/or epidemiological impact outcomes should be avoided, such as movements to areas, premises, property situations where there is a high livestock density or congregations of susceptible species (e.g., finishing lots or aggregation sites).
 - Actual capacity for recommended risk mitigation measures (e.g., isolation facilities, quarantine and surveillance, adequate biosecurity) to prevent disease spread.
 - Welfare implications (e.g., transport times and class of stock).
 - Regulatory implications beyond agriculture (e.g., road transport legislation, driver's hours).

- Procedures should be in place for communication with applicable regulatory authorities when the movement originated from or is destined for another jurisdiction. These authorities will need to be consulted in the risk estimation.

NOTE: if the movement involves international borders, the CFIA is the lead agency.

6. Description of Activities

Timeline for implementation of the Nonessential Movement Protocol for the first suspect case of a serious animal disease



- Assess the situation associated with each movement type for the potential for spreading disease agents and categorize¹ the level of risk e.g., high risk, moderate risk, low risk, and negligible risk.
- If a significant risk is determined, then a recommendation for protocol implementation is put forward. This process would involve a formal 'request for decision' attached in [Appendix 2 – Nonessential Movement Protocol Request for Decision](#).
- If the direction is to implement the **Nonessential Movement Protocol**, then the respective provincial livestock association lead will formally notify industry stakeholders of the protocol activation.
 - Notification would follow the respective livestock association's established communication process.
 - Communications should include an explanation of the reasons to implement a nonessential movement protocol.
- Once this action to implement the Nonessential Movement Protocol has been formalized, the governing body should have a procedure for handling potential exceptions.
- The management of exceptions or movements that are deemed '**essential**' should be communicated at the same time as the information about the protocol is shared with the industry. Refer to [Appendix 3 - Considerations for 'Essential' Livestock Movements](#) for more information.
 - The process for application and granting of any exceptions that would allow livestock and/or livestock material movement that has been deemed 'essential' should be included in communications.
 - Livestock and livestock-related products that are in transit when a **Nonessential Movement Protocol** has been implemented should refer to the **Animals in Transit Protocol**. Livestock transport is regulated under the Health of Animal Regulations Part XII Transport of Animals and must be followed.
- The protocol will be in place until CFIA declares a control zone or determines there is no need for movement controls.

¹ **High** – spreading the virus is likely if it is present; **Moderate** – spreading the virus is likely; **Low** – spreading the virus is very unlikely; **Negligible** - the likelihood of spreading the virus is virtually zero

Appendix 1 – Estimating the impact of disease spread via movements of livestock, livestock products and by-products

The consequences of spreading a virus through movements of livestock, livestock products and by-products must be thoroughly considered by the industry association lead, provincial CVO, and relevant provincial and national government agencies prior to implementation of a Nonessential Movement Protocol and in providing exemptions for some movements.

In every situation, the impact that disease spread may have on the health and safety of people and animals, the environment, the economic stability of the industry, and societal views should be considered, and a score assigned. Tally the score to determine what course of action is required. The following information may be used to assess the broader risk to the industry as well as the risk to the producers, operators, processors, and other partners.

CATEGORY	IMPACT			Overall Score
	High = 5 Significant, widespread industry impact	Moderate = 3 Limited, local industry impact	Minor = 1 Negligible or low industry impact	
HEALTH and SAFETY (potential hazards and factors that may cause harm to people and animals)				
Potential for hazards, physical injuries, and infection for both animals and their handlers				
Adverse health and increased animal deaths due to crowding and/or inadequate management infrastructure				
Adverse impacts on the livestock due to possible exposure to extreme heat or cold				
Any other potential serious health and safety risks				
ENVIRONMENTAL (impacts associated with livestock and by-product storage and disposal, contamination, and possible pollutants)				
Potential for environmental damage requiring clean-up and land remediation				
Herd management or habitat impacts associated with prolonged animal holding at a density beyond the site's capacity				
Issues relating to product storage and possible pollutant disposal /contamination				
Issues relating to providing adequate feed and water				
FINANCIAL and LEGAL (operational funding/revenue losses, trade interruption, associated costs, as well as insurance and potential litigation)				
Significant and widespread operational costs and potential contract losses				
Potential for litigation and payment of damages (negligence/inappropriate compliance				
Loss of business, revenues, and other third-party funding				
Insurance claims and need for emergency support				
Financial support through provincial and federal insurance programs				
SOCIAL (damage to reputation, including market position which would consider both domestic markets and potential impacts on international trade)				
Significant and widespread damage to reputation, industry brand and trade relationships				
Change in consumer preferences/behaviour/consumption				
Significant and long-term damage to external stakeholder relationships				
Industry image and reputation				

LOW (4 – 7) May be accepted with monitoring measures as necessary

MEDIUM (8 – 11) Must be addressed through risk mitigation, transfer, or avoidance

HIGH (12 – 25) Indicates a need to escalate to the producer and key decision makers for consideration and action.

Appendix 2 – Nonessential Movement Protocol Request for Decision

DATE: _____

The General Manager/ Director of _____ requests that _____ implement:

Nonessential Movement Protocol

This action is intended to formally request that industry stakeholders cease the movement of all animals and animal products unless deemed essential as defined by the risk assessment.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT ANALYSIS (Rationale for decision)

Description of the impact with respect to the health and safety, environmental, financial and legal and social components. Specify how widespread the risk is (regional, provincial, federal) as well as the estimated number of affected premises and animals if known.

TIMING

Suggested implementation date: year/month/date: _____

LOCATION

Geographic specifics for protocol implementation: _____

OTHER DETAILS

Appendix 3 - Considerations for 'Essential' Livestock Movements

Individual livestock groups/ associations in conjunction with the provincial CVO and/or CFIA veterinarians must establish a consistent process of *essential movements* and be clear about specific conditions under which the protocol would be applicable within specific commodity supply chains.

These parameters should be aligned nationally, but also reviewed across commodities at the provincial level, so that field application of exceptions in one sector does not impose undue risk in other sectors within the province. This may include but is not limited to:

Animal welfare considerations (feed, water, containment etc.)

- Need for animal movement within a system: There may be production systems in which holding livestock at any point (up to 72 hours) is not feasible without causing animal welfare issues. When these issues can be anticipated in advance, supply chains should have contingency plans such as pre-established mutual aid agreements for animal care, feed, and water management.
- Need for feed provision and/or resupply: While technically this is not an animal movement, it is a movement onto and off a premises. As such, production systems must have a contingency plan to ensure that feed can be received in a way that minimizes disease transfer risk. This would typically involve heightened biosecurity and should be clearly defined in advance.

Environmental concerns (manure management etc.)

- In some production systems, a standstill of operational components may not be feasible. It is difficult to define how the risks associated with such movement can be mitigated to prevent disease spread.
- When movement is deemed essential for these reasons, individual premises will use a process that clearly identifies routing and load limits while ensuring that any risks are minimized via biosecurity protocols.

Operational capacity concerns (storage of animal products e.g., breeder eggs, weaners, milk, etc.)

- Some operations may have a limited ability to safely store perishable animal products. In this case, the ability to implement heightened biosecurity should be assessed and if feasible then movement of products can be allowed with specific permissions. In situations where the risk is deemed too substantial, animal products must be disposed of appropriately.

Other key factors in granting movement exceptions:

- **Transmission potential (how easily the agent is spread and the number of pathways through which it can be spread):** The possibility of disease spread that could occur as a direct result of the essential movement exception. Each exception should be assessed to determine if it will present a significant and unacceptable risk to the broader community.
- **Exposure risk:** Generally, there is a higher risk associated with direct contact with infected livestock and/or products followed by indirect contact with infected animals via contaminated items such as pens, manure, milk, semen etc. from the area where the serious animal disease is suspected or confirmed to exist.
- **Risk mitigation:** The potential or actual capacity to implement isolation facilities, adequate biosecurity, quarantine measures and surveillance that can decrease or eliminate the potential for disease spread.

Summary Considerations

In all cases where the movement of livestock and/or livestock-related items are deemed 'essential', all actions must comply with the highest level of biosecurity standards available.

Risk estimation for determination of exemptions

Exemptions should only be given to movements where the overall likelihood is negligible or low however if the consequences of not moving the commodity would be severe and a decision is made to move the commodity appropriate risk mitigation measure must be applied during the movement.

<p>Movement type: Example - animals direct to slaughter</p> <p>Assumptions are based on existing risk assessments, knowledge of the disease, and previous experience with disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foot and mouth disease viruses can be aerosolized and spread via air - the closer the animals are to the suspect premises the greater the likelihood that they may have been exposed to airborne virus Pigs shed more virus via the respiratory tract than cattle Inhalation is a major route of infection in cattle Ingestion is a major route of infection in pigs Animals that are part of an integrated system are more likely to have had direct or indirect contact with a suspect premises which is within the system Animals are slaughtered within a few hours of arriving at the slaughter plant and are not co-mingled with other animals 					
Estimation of risk			Impact		Management Considerations
<p>1) What is the likelihood that animals have the disease or have been exposed to the disease</p> <p>Negligible, very low, low, moderate, high</p> <p>Example (FMD in cattle)</p> <p>The likelihood of the animals having been exposed to the virus is moderate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The animals to be moved are located 8 km from the suspect premises The premises has no 'relationship' with the suspect premises Cattle do not excrete as much virus via the respiratory tract as pigs 	<p>2) What is the likelihood of exposing susceptible species to the disease agent while animals are in transit</p> <p>Negligible, very low, low, moderate, high</p> <p>Example</p> <p>The likelihood of spreading the disease while being transported is very low</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of virus shed by cattle via the respiratory tract is relatively low (compared to pigs) Bedding is used in the trailer to prevent leakage of feces and urine 	<p>3) what is the likelihood of transmission of the disease agent to other susceptible animals at destination</p> <p>Negligible, very low, low, moderate, high</p> <p>Example</p> <p>The likelihood of spread at slaughter plant is moderate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Animals may be co-mingled with animals from other sources No live animals leave the facility The conveyances are cleaned before leaving the premises 	<p>Overall Estimated Likelihood of infection (A) + likelihood of exposure (B) + likelihood of transmission (C)</p> <p>Negligible, very low, low, moderate, high</p> <p>Consider the three likelihoods – the overall likelihood of spread via a movement is equal to the lowest estimated risk assigned</p> <p>In this example the overall estimated risk is very low</p>	<p>What is the potential impact on the animal, local, regional, national industry if the commodity if it is not moved</p> <p>Indiscernible, minor, significant, severe</p> <p>Example:</p> <p>Minor</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Animals can remain on the site for a few weeks – rations may need to be adjusted to limit weight gain. Animals can be sourced from other parts of the province/ country to meet market demand 	<p>Can appropriate actions be taken to reduce the risk for disease spread during transport and lessen the impacts?</p> <p>If yes list the required actions</p> <p>Example</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To further reduce the risk of spreading animals can be transported via routes that do not come within 2 km of premises with susceptible animals Trucks will undergo enhanced cleaning and disinfection between loads

LIKELIHOOD	DESCRIPTIVE DEFINITION
Negligible	The likelihood of the event is virtually zero
Very low	The event is very unlikely
Low	The event is unlikely
Moderate	The event is likely
High	The event is highly likely

IMPACT	DESCRIPTIVE DEFINITION
Indiscernible	Not usually distinguishable from normal day-to-day variation
Minor	Recognizable, but insignificant and/or reversible
Significant	Serious, but can be reversible and lower likelihood to have permanent economic effects
Severe	Serious and substantive, irreversible and highly likely to have permanent economic effects