Annex 17

Chapter X.X.

Infection with Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus

Article X.X.1.

General provisions

Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) is a viral respiratory infection of humans and dromedary camels (*Camelus dromedarius*) which is caused by a coronavirus called Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV).

Dromedary camels ~~(~~*~~Camelus dromedarius~~*~~)~~~~have been confirmed by several studies to be~~are the natural host and zoonotic source of the MERS-CoV infection in humans. Other species may be susceptible to *infection* with MERS-CoV. However, their epidemiological significance has not been demonstrated.

MERS-CoV has been associated with mild upper respiratory signs in some dromedary camels. While the impact of MERS-CoV on animal health is very low, ~~human infections have a significant public health impact~~it causes severe and sometimes fatal disease in humans.

**Rationale:** WHO MERS-CoV Key Fact, August 2022

[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus-(mers-cov)?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI37b49Pyw-wIVgtrICh13CwD5EAAYASAAEgKgofD\_BwE](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/middle-east-respiratory-syndrome-coronavirus-%28mers-cov%29?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI37b49Pyw-wIVgtrICh13CwD5EAAYASAAEgKgofD_BwE)

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, MERS is defined as an *infection* of dromedary camels with MERS-CoV.

The following defines the occurrence of *infection* with MERS-CoV:

1) MERS-CoV has been isolated and identified as such in a sample from a dromedary camel;~~,~~ or

2) ribonucleic acid specific to MERS-CoV has been ~~identified~~ detected in a sample~~s~~ from a dromedary camel showing clinical signs or pathological lesions suggestive of MERS~~-CoV~~ or epidemiologically linked to a ~~suspected or~~ confirmed or suspected *case* ~~of MERS-CoV~~, or from a dromedary camel giving cause for suspicion of previous association or contact with MERS-CoV.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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