



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



### **Our vision:**

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

### **Our mission:**

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

## **Implementation Reporting: Emerging Issues**

**National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council**

**Forum 2013**

**December 3, 2013**



**Canada**



# Background

- Management of emerging issues in the past relied on an ad hoc approach due to jurisdictional limitations and policy decisions.
- The National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council (NFAHWC) had identified a need for an established system to deal with emerging issues.
- In May 2013, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) was first reported in the U.S.
- In response, the CFIA had facilitated two teleconference calls with various stakeholders but these calls were stopped due to CFIA's limited role in the management of the disease.
- Canadian Swine Health Board (CSHB) and others had identified a gap in coordination and communication of this emerging issue.
- NFAHWC Emerging Issues Working Group (WG) was established to assist with the PED coordination activities and the evaluation and development of an emerging issues system framework.

# An Emerging Issues Framework

## Requirements:

- Emerging issues identification and evaluation.
- Determination of stakeholder participation and the response required.
- A cohesive method for responding to emerging issues.
- Coordination of conference calls and response activities.
- Disengagement (know when to stand down or institute a more permanent program).
- Post mortem of the effectiveness of actions taken.

***The requirement for an emerging issues process is being brought on due to accelerating change, increasing complexity of issues, a need to integrate policies and resources and overlapping jurisdictions. No one stakeholder, including government, can achieve a lasting solution on its own.***





# Commitment of the CVO for Canada

- Agreed to take on the role of leading, enabling, facilitating and coordinating the emerging issues process and teleconferences.
- While the CFIA will convene and facilitate the conference calls, the responsibility may sit with any stakeholder for providing leadership during the event.
- Provide support from existing processes and infra-structure, such as the secretariat functions provided for the CCVO.
- The CVO for Canada (Deputy CVO) will chair the calls and provide the lead until leadership (lead, **collaboration**, and observer status) on the emerging event has been determined.
- Committed to facilitating/leading the emerging issues system from the point of engagement to demobilization and evaluation.
- Emerging issues need not be limited to disease events, could be AMR, bioterrorism, chemical or other environmental hazards or trade driven issues affecting animal health and welfare.

# What Have We Learned From PED?

- A national lead is essential to coordinate the calls between stakeholder groups and to manage activities regardless of where the ultimate responsibility may lie.
- Demands broad stakeholder participation engaged early in and throughout the event.
- Policy coordination between provinces can be difficult due to differing legislative capabilities and the demographics of an industry in each province.
- Capacity of each province and industry to participate and respond does vary.
- Industry has the capacity to provide the necessary leadership for emerging issues as demonstrated during the ongoing PED situation in the US – doesn't have to be government.

# Improvements Under Consideration

1. Agreement that the Emerging Issues WG serve as the single intake point and initial triage of information for emerging issues.
2. Develop a Terms of Reference for the Emerging Issues WG.
3. Define the protocol and criteria for identifying emerging issues.
4. Identify the trigger mechanism for a response.
5. Work with stakeholders to determine leadership on issues once initially facilitated by the CVO for Canada.
6. Support continued development of a collaborative approach in responding to emerging and re-emerging issues.
7. Back the development of CFIA's – Centre for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases – Integrated Intelligence and Response (CEZD-IIR) project as a mechanism for gather and analyzing intelligence information.

**All have to fit into the bigger scheme of things.**

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