

## Chapter 2.1.8 – Rift Valley Fever

### General Comments

Article 2.1.8.1, fourth sentence – Webster dictionary uses “sub-Saharan” rather than “sub-Saharan.”

### **Current OIE proposed text:**

Article 2.1.8.2.

#### **RVF infection free country or zone**

A country or a zone may be considered free from RVF infection when the disease is notifiable in [humans and] animals throughout the country and either:

- 1) the country or zone lies outside the historically infected regions, [or countries or zones] and not adjacent to historically infected regions, or
- 2) a surveillance and monitoring programme as described in Article 2.1.8.1. has demonstrated no evidence of RVF infection in humans, animals or mosquitoes in the country or zone during the past [10 years] 2 years following a RVF epidemic.

### **Suggested text:**

Article 2.1.8.2.

#### **RVF infection free country or zone**

A country or a zone may be considered free from RVF infection when the disease is notifiable in [humans and] animals throughout the country and either:

- 1) the country or zone lies outside the historically infected regions, [or countries or zones] and not adjacent to historically infected regions, or
- 2) a surveillance and monitoring programme as described in Article 2.1.8.1. has demonstrated no evidence of RVF infection in humans, animals or mosquitoes in the country or zone during the past [10 years] [2] 5 years following a RVF epidemic.

**Rationale:** The reduction in time frame from 10 years to 2 years is significant. Is there evidence to indicate that reducing the time frame of freedom from infection to 2 years is sufficient for freedom recognition? Climatic changes may temporarily favour disease freedom for a few years. Five years would be a more reasonable approach.