



**SA EQUINE**  
**HEALTH & PROTOCOLS**  
EXPORTS SOUTH AFRICA



# **African horse sickness control**

## **Area status declarations**

### **2023**

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**2023**



**Western Cape  
Government**  
**FOR YOU**

## Introduction

This is the second report (the first report, with further details on the background of the system, is available [here](#)) on the use of African horse sickness (AHS) Area Status Declarations (ASD's) in South Africa to assist in the mitigation of the introduction of AHS virus (AHSV) into the AHS controlled area of South Africa. ASD's are the defined AHS risk level by State veterinarians (SV's) and are used when issuing movement permits when the origin of the movement is in the AHS infected part of South Africa. They fulfill movement requirements by ensuring SV's are involved with movement control and provide a foundational risk evaluation for their respective areas for AHS infection.

The definitions of various AHS risk status for areas are shown below – note that an *unknown* classification occurs where an ASD has not been issued – movements from these areas are considered in the same light as high risk ASD status areas:

High Risk	Low risk	Partial Risk
<p>This is where the disease factors or recent history of disease precludes direct movement into the AHS controlled area. In this case movements into the controlled area can only take place using mitigated movement protocols like stop-over quarantine or vector protected quarantine at origin.</p>	<p>The risk of AHS is considered low enough to allow direct movements of horses to the AHS controlled zone. Permits are still required for these movements and all standard movement conditions must be met.</p>	<p>This occurs where, due to the season and/or size of SV areas, there are parts of an area that are considered AHS high risk and parts are low risk. Individual movements are evaluated in these cases to determine the proximity to known cases. AHS partial risk status is also allocated to areas by SV's where they would like to be consulted on each movement from their area irrespective of the AHS risk.</p>

## 2023 area status declarations

Since each ASD issued has a start and end date the status of each of the 126 State vet areas in the country can be defined daily – area days at risk (ADAR).

Table 1: Duration of classifications of ASD's for 2023 with values for 2022 as comparison.

Year	Classified ASDR (of a possible 45990)			
	Total	High risk area days	Low risk area days	Partial risk area days
<b>2023 (this report)</b>	26437 (57%)	19241 (73%)	6194 (23%)	1002 (4%)
<b>2022</b>	23870 (52%)	11958 (50%)	10073 (42%)	1839 (8%)

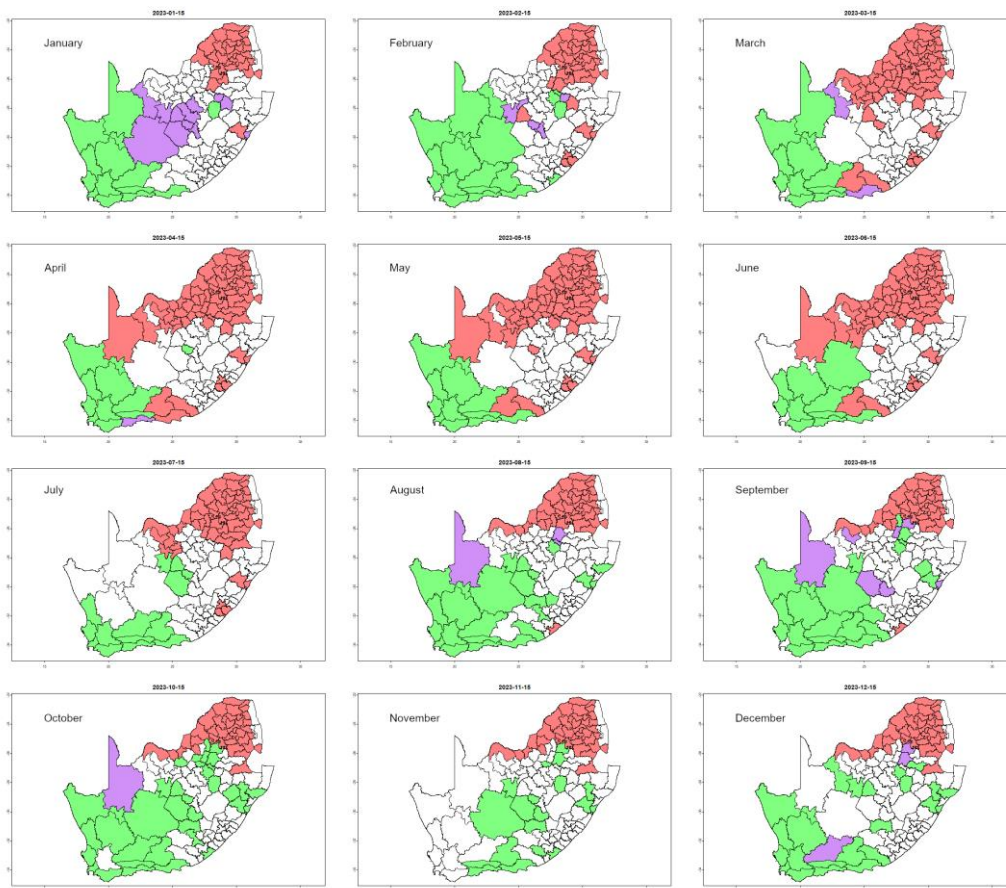


Figure 1: ASD for each SV area on the 15th of each month during 2023. Red indicated high risk, green low risk and purple partial risk. White regions are unknown risk and are effectively high risk for movement purposes when in the AHS infected zone.

Figure 1 above depicts the ASD status on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month during 2023. This is a generalization of the whole year, but, as in 2022, the AHS risk season was prolonged with key movement origins of the country still high risk for movements in June and July. The Western Cape remained generally low risk except for a high and partial risk status in Plettenburg Bay in April and a short Partial risk period in Beaufort West region in December 2023. For a visualization of the full daily ASD status of the country please visit [here](#).

## Acknowledgements

The South African Equine Health and Protocols NPC, under supervision of State Vet Boland, are the authorized permit processing body and as part of this process obtain ASD status information from SV's around the country on behalf of State Veterinary services in the Western Cape. We are grateful to our State Veterinary colleagues across the country for assisting in the controlled movement of equids through the classification of their areas in respect to AHS.