

Request for comments

RFC20091028NH: No zero-size units

1st draft: N. Harvey, October 28, 2009

Applies to: Model description v1.2.0

Type of change: Clarification

Summary: This RFC clarifies that units cannot be of zero size.

Justification: A unit with no animals would not be able to participate in contacts, contract disease, etc. Allowing a unit with no animals might make sense if the unit could grow by the addition of animals; however, the model makes a simplifying assumption that a unit's size will not change (much) during a simulation, and therefore units cannot grow in NAADSM.

The PC version of NAADSM already enforces the requirement that all units consist of at least one animal. The change to the specification codifies this requirement.

Change: This change applies to Section A2 (Basics). New text is highlighted:

A collection of **one or more** animals, called a “unit,” is the basis of the simulation.

End of changes