

OIE standards and recommended procedures for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)*

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Preventing the spread of disease through international trade is one of the primary objectives of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). This is accomplished by establishing international standards and guidelines that facilitate trade while minimising the risk of introducing diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The OIE Standards are contained in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*).

Since 1995 the standards developed by the OIE were formalised as international standards by the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

For this purpose the OIE has developed international standards to minimise the risk of the spread of FMD through international trade. These standards include: procedures for surveillance and prompt reporting of FMD outbreaks; requirements that should be met for a country or zone to be defined as free from FMD with vaccination or without vaccination; recommendations for the safe importation of animals, products, semen, and embryos into an FMD free country or zone; guidelines for surveillance for FMD, and the general provisions that countries should meet to reduce the risk of spread of FMD through trade. The *Terrestrial Manual* describes in detail the various tests and vaccines for FMD diagnosis and control. It provides a list of prescribed tests; these are tests that are required by the OIE *Terrestrial Code* for the international movement of animals and animal products and are considered optimal for determining the health status of animals.

During the OIE 71st and 72nd General Session, the International Committee approved a new criteria for OIE listed diseases (international spread, significant spread within native populations, zoonotic potential, emerging disease), notification and epidemiological information, a resolution for the adoption of a new procedure for Validation and Certification of Diagnostic assays (Re. XXIX/71st Gen. Ses.), introduction of the concept of freedom from FMD virus circulation, new standards for FMD vaccines (potency, purity) and FMD diagnostic laboratories, and important advances in the validation of the NSP index test for bovines. Finally the OIE participated in the June meeting of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the transport of Dangerous Goods (UNSCETDG) in Geneva and presented a document with the amendments to be incorporated in the 2005-2006 ICAO Technical Instructions.