



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION
AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-fourth Session

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**INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS**

Information from the World Organisation for Animal Health Contribution

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) for the opportunity to contribute to its standards development process.

A collaborative approach by OIE and Codex to standard-setting on certain key topics is important to ensure harmonisation of standards and recommendations, when relevant, while avoiding duplication of effort, overlap and gaps in standard setting work.

OIE participation in work of CCFICS

The OIE participated in:

- Electronic working group on the development of Codex guidance for paperless electronic certification. This work is closely linked to the STDF project on electronic veterinary certification which the OIE is implementing over three years (see item below) and will take into account existing and ongoing work by Codex and the FAO.
- Electronic and physical working groups on the development of Codex guidance for competent authorities to assess third-party assurance and its potential to inform national food control system planning.
- Electronic and physical working groups on the development of Codex guidance on recognition and maintenance of systems equivalence for national food control systems.

Relevant OIE work

The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems (Chapter 6.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*)

A revised Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems was adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the May 2018 OIE General Session. The chapter was amended to better reflect developments and changes in the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians and Veterinary Services in food safety since it was first adopted in 2008.

This chapter includes cross-references to the relevant Codex texts such as the Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems (CAC/GL 82-2013), General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969), Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005), Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) and Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (CAC/GL 71-2009).

The revised Chapter 6.2. is available on the OIE website at:
http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_role_vet_serv_food.htm

Electronic veterinary certification

The OIE has the responsibility for managing the project “*Development of a framework to facilitate e-veterinary certification for international trade on the basis of a single window system*”, funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)ⁱ. The project is being implemented by the OIE on behalf of the five applicant

countries: Cambodia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

The overall goal of this project is to assist developing countries by facilitating their understanding and potential use of e-veterinary certification to better engage in international trade of animals and animal products.

Sharing experiences, terminologies and concepts of e-veterinary certification could be the basis for facilitating the future development of a versatile e-veterinary certification scheme for use in a single window system with recommendations to Veterinary Authorities, the OIE and donor communities.

On 19 to 20 July 2018, the OIE hosted the first meeting of the Steering Committee for this project. The Steering Committee consists of experts from developed and developing countries as well as experts from relevant international organisations (World Customs Organisation, UN/CEFACT, World Bank, FAO, Codex and IPPC).

The implementation of the project will include the self-assessment of twelve countries of their current situation (6 developing and 6 developed countries) and an analysis of existing work undertaken by other international organisations (including Codex and IPPC) in relation to sanitary and phytosanitary certification.

The country self-assessments will be conducted during 2019. The final report with recommendations is expected to be finalised by March 2020 and will be published and also presented during the OIE 88th General Session in May 2020.

This project contributes to the on-going cooperation between FAO and OIE. The experience and work under way in Codex and IPPC related to e-certification will provide the project with valuable input while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

OIE Observatory project

The World Assembly of OIE Delegates adopted, in May 2018, Resolution No. 36 recommending the establishment of an Observatory on the implementation of OIE Standards by Member Countries.

Monitoring, identifying and analysing difficulties faced by Member Countries will enable the OIE to ensure more effective implementation of its standards. This Observatory will assist the OIE to ensure that its standards are continuously relevant and fit for purpose and to develop a more strategic focus to its capacity building activities.

The project for the establishment of the Observatory follows a phased-approach:

- The first phase (2017-2018) was aimed at understanding the problem and advocate to Member Countries the need for a new mechanism of monitoring and evaluation. This first phase was completed at the 86th General Session through the presentation of the Technical Item "*Implementation of OIE standards by OIE Member countries: state of play and specific capacity building needs*" and the adoption by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates of Resolution N°36.
- The second phase (2018-2019) aims to define the design of the Observatory. To achieve this, the OIE is collaborating with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD who has expertise in international regulatory cooperation will carry out an analysis of the concept of "implementation" of OIE standards and a review of the existing mechanisms supporting the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OIE standards. This analysis will be used by the OIE for the design of the Observatory.
- The third phase of the project (2020 and beyond) will be the development and the deployment of a roadmap to build the Observatory.

The OIE PVS Pathway

As a flagship programme of the OIE, the OIE PVS Pathway has been an unmitigated success over the last decade. A total of 139 Member Countries actively engaged via requesting an OIE PVS Evaluation mission, with 115 of those also requesting the next step, an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission, and 63 requesting a second round through an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission. There has also been strong engagement in the OIE PVS Pathway Targeted Support activities including 69 Veterinary legislation identification missions and 14 PVS Pathway Laboratory missions.

There is growing evidence of the OIE PVS Pathway's major global impact on strengthening national Veterinary Services in areas as diverse as improved government and donor resourcing, clearer governance structures and national coordination, improved inter-sectoral collaboration, and enhanced animal and veterinary public health surveillance, disease control, emergency response, border control, food safety, laboratory, educational, legislative and animal welfare systems.

Following the OIE PVS Think Tank Forum in April 2017, and in consultation with numerous stakeholders, the OIE has further expanded the OIE PVS Pathway activities. Some new elements being developed as part of the OIE PVS Pathway Evolution include PVS Pathway trainings to support country self-evaluation, new specific content on priority topics (e.g. AMR) within PVS Evaluation missions, strategic planning support, and WHO

International Health Regulations (IHR)/PVS National Bridging Workshops bringing together animal and public health sectors to identify areas for improved collaboration under the One Health approach.

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

The OIE is working with OIE Member Countries to ensure they are aware of the critical role Veterinary Services play in the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). Veterinary Services are responsible for overseeing import and export processes (including veterinary health certification) relating to sanitary and zoosanitary controls of imports and exports of animals, animal products and other materials which may introduce animal diseases. In particular, obligations described in the TFA Articles 8: 'Border Agency Cooperation' and 10: 'Formalities and Documentation Requirements' will require closer collaboration between border agencies.

The OIE, along with representatives from Codex and IPPC, will contribute to the TFAF Border Agency Cooperation Workshop for Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, to strengthen collaboration between customs and SPS agencies at the border. The workshop will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 12 to 15 November 2018.

ⁱ This STDF Project is available at: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/PG-609>