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codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARD PROGRAMME CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION*

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) would like to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for the renewed invitation to participate in its Commission and Committee meetings. OIE Members continue to express very positive views on this collaboration.
2. The OIE has been involved in consultations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including the CAC, and the World Health Organization (WHO) since 2001 with the intent of improving the coordination of standard setting activities. The OIE considers that it is now appropriate to formalise the relationship with the CAC, to further strengthen the legal basis for the production of international standards, including the development of joint OIE-Codex standards, where appropriate.
3. **The OIE asks CAC Delegates to recommend that the FAO and the WHO update their existing Agreements with the OIE, to facilitate the establishment of a formal agreement between the OIE and the CAC.**
4. I would like to draw to your attention a paper on the evolution of the OIE-CAC collaboration at [Annex I](#).
5. The OIE international standards can be used by its 169 Members to prevent the introduction of diseases and pests arising from trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers. These standards are prepared by elected Specialist Commissions and Working Groups bringing together internationally renowned scientists, many of whom are experts within the network of 193 OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories. OIE standards normally follow a 2-year cycle before being adopted by the International Committee, comprising the 169 OIE Delegates. The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) contains the OIE international standards for terrestrial animals and their products.
6. Of course, collaboration cannot occur uniquely at the international level. The OIE continues to encourage its national Delegates to collaborate with national Delegates to the CAC. This should be facilitated by the fact that most of the OIE Members are also CAC Members. The OIE would like to remind the publication: "Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain" that is available on the OIE website. A copy of this paper was distributed to CAC Delegates last year. A current list of the OIE Delegates is provided at [Annex II](#).

* Document prepared by and under the responsibility of OIE

7. Another avenue for collaboration is offered by the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (the Working Group), whose primary role is to act as a steering committee in the OIE's work programme on the development of standards to protect consumers from food-borne hazards arising at the production level of the food chain. Current and former high level officials of the FAO (including the CAC) and the WHO are members of the Working Group.

8. The Working Group held its 6th meeting in November 2006 and a summary report is provided at [Annex III](#). The following topics may be of particular interest to the CAC:

- a) The further development of a standard on General Principles relevant to the "Identification and Traceability of Live Animals". The Appendix was adopted in May 2006 and amended at the General Session in May of this year. A copy of the amended text is at [Annex IV](#). An *ad hoc* Group is developing draft implementation guidelines on this topic.
- b) The OIE plans to hold an international conference with the theme: "Identification and Traceability of Livestock and their Products" in 2009. The objective of the conference will be to raise awareness of identification and traceability as an essential tool to assist in controlling animal disease hazards and to provide relevant information, including examples of best practice in this field, to assist countries wishing to implement such systems. This multi-disciplinary conference will convene veterinarians and other experts applying identification and traceability in livestock production systems to meet objectives relating to animal health. We are exploring the possibility of direct collaboration with the CAC on this conference.
- c) The OIE has been working on the topic of biotechnology and animal production since 1996 at the request of its International Committee. The OIE participated in several sessions of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (TFBT). More details on OIE activities are provided at [Annex V](#).
- d) In the process of updating its model Veterinary certificates, the OIE continues to collaborate with the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CCFICS) and the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk (CCMMP). An OIE *ad hoc* Group has been convened to begin the revision of the OIE model certificates. A summary of relevant activities is provided at [Annex VI](#).
- e) In the field of antimicrobial resistance, the OIE is participating actively in discussions within the CAC and the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food (CCRVDF). The OIE has finalised, and officially adopted by resolution, a list of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance, as requested by the FAO/OIE/WHO workshop on non human antimicrobial usage. Additional details are provided in [Annex VII](#).
- f) The OIE is developing a text on the "Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption", to complement the ongoing work of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH). The OIE draft standard addresses methods for the detection of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* in flocks and appropriate risk mitigation measures (see [Annex VIII](#)).
- g) The OIE is developing a standard on "Animal Feeding", which will take account of the Codex "Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding and provide complementary guidance relating to the on-farm phase of the foodchain (see [Annex IX](#)).

9. The OIE held its 75th General Session in May 2007. At the General Session, the International Committee, which is the OIE's decision-making body composed by all Member Delegates, adopts OIE Standards and provides guidance on the work of the OIE. This year the International Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXVI on Animal Production Food Safety, which describes the work priorities of the OIE in this field (see [Annex X](#)).

Annex I**The OIE - Codex Alimentarius Commission Partnership****'Going from strength to strength'****Introduction**

1. In 2005, the 55th session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) recommended that the OIE become more closely involved in the CAC standard-setting process. The Executive Committee also recommended that the effectiveness of cooperative arrangements between the two organisations be reviewed by the 30th Session of the CAC in 2007 with a view to reconsidering appropriate approaches. This paper provides an overview of the evolution of the collaboration between the OIE and the CAC. It notes the good progress made to date and recommends strengthening the partnership by entering into a Cooperation Agreement.

The context of international standard-setting activities

2. The establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on 1 January 1995 saw the entry into effect of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement). The SPS Agreement establishes a multilateral framework of rules to guide the development and implementation of sanitary and measures and establishes the CAC and the OIE to elaborate relevant standards.

3. Recognising the continuous nature of the food chain and the fact that human health risks may arise at any point between 'the stable and the table', the CAC and the OIE have taken pains to build a strong collaboration in setting international standards for food safety all along the food chain continuum.

The evolution of OIE policy on collaboration with CAC

4. The 3rd OIE Strategic Plan (2001-2005) recommended that OIE be more active in public health and consumer protection at production level, noting that this should include guidelines on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases including those transmissible to humans through food (regardless of whether the disease affects animals) with the objective of improving food safety globally. These actions need to be taken in collaboration with other relevant intergovernmental organisations.

5. The President of the CAC, addressing the 69th OIE General Session, urged the OIE with the support of the CAC to explore future collaboration in their standard-setting activities. In response, OIE Delegates recommended harmonisation of the horizontal chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Code with comparable CAC texts.

6. An OIE *Ad hoc* Group on Food Safety convened in 2002 pointed to the need for a clear definition of the OIE's role in food safety and better coordination of the food safety activities of the OIE and the CAC. The Group felt that this would enhance the scope and scientific quality of international standards and related texts, and address the 'production-to-consumption' exposure pathway for food-borne hazards.

7. In May 2002 the OIE established a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to act as a steering committee in relation to this area of work. The Working Group includes representatives of the CAC and the WHO, as well as experts from all five OIE regions. In 2002, the OIE International Committee adopted Resolution XV, which highlights the importance of OIE-CAC co-ordination. Members also continued strengthening institutional structures and regulatory frameworks to enable 'sharing of responsibility' for food safety within national borders. In 2002 the OIE effectively adopted, as part of its mission, the goal of reducing food-borne risks to human health due to hazards (biological, chemical or physical agents in, or conditions of, food) arising from animals during production stages. Thus, the OIE now addresses diseases transmissible to humans, regardless of whether these affect the health of the animal.

8. An important part of the Working Group's mission is to help the OIE define approaches to the development of standards relating to food-borne hazards arising from animals at the on-farm level. The Working Group has held six meetings since 2002 and has addressed many important issues, including the relationship and coordination between the OIE and the CAC; OIE standards for animal diseases of public health significance; the role and functionality of veterinary services in food safety; control of public health hazards through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection; the identification and traceability of live animals and their products; good farming practices; antimicrobial resistance; good practices in animal feeding; international veterinary certification; and some implications of animal biotechnology.

9. The 4th OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010) retains an emphasis on the 'development and implementation of scientifically-based standards', with a recommendation that the OIE continue to build upon its work in animal production food safety and that the Working Group further strengthen linkages with relevant organisations, especially the CAC, in reducing food-borne risks to human health due to hazards arising from animals.

The evolution of CAC policy on collaboration with OIE

10. The CAC Strategic Framework for 2003-2007 acknowledges that the CAC does not operate in isolation and that it needs to work closely with other relevant international standard-setting bodies to promote close cooperation and dialogue on matters of common interest. It also states that the CAC should take due account of international regulatory initiatives and developments thereby promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

11. At its 24th session in 2001, the CAC addressed the topic of relations between the CAC and other international intergovernmental organizations. The OIE Director General highlighted that greater coordination and integration between Codex and the OIE was needed to completely fulfill the objectives of the SPS Agreement. The Statutes of the CAC provide a framework for cooperation with other international standard-setting organizations. Moreover, the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts provides for the allocation of work items to bodies other than CAC subsidiary bodies. To assist this process, the CAC requested the Committee on General Principles (CCGP) to develop guidance on 'Cooperation with other International Intergovernmental Organisations in the elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts'.

12. The CAC Procedure Manual states that one of the objectives of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme is "... promoting coordination of all food standards work undertaken by international governmental and non governmental organizations". In other words, the CAC Elaboration Procedures allow work to be undertaken by a body other than a subsidiary body while maintaining the CAC's authority to consider draft texts at the Steps 5 and 8 of the Elaboration Procedure. To date, the CAC has entrusted the elaboration of standards to bodies other than CAC subsidiary bodies infrequently (e.g. for quick-frozen foods and fruit juices). In the case of dairy products and cheese standards, the CAC invites the International Dairy Federation to elaborate text for consideration at Step 3 of the Uniform Elaboration Procedure.

13. In 2002, at the 17th session Delegates to the CCGP addressed the issue of cooperation between the CAC and other international intergovernmental organizations. The Committee noted that the CAC could not enter into formal agreements with other international organizations as relationships between the CAC and other international organizations were managed by the Directors-General of FAO and WHO and subject to relevant rules. The CCGP requested that the Secretariat develop guidance on the modalities for cooperation between the CAC and other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

14. Subsequently, the CCGP has discussed several proposals made by the Secretariat. The first proposed text identified three types of cooperation: a) the elaboration of a joint standard or related text with a cooperating organization; b) the elaboration of a Codex standard or related text by a cooperating organization on behalf of the CAC; and c) substantial cooperation at the initial drafting stages of a Codex standard or related text.

15. In 2004, at its 20th session the CCGP asked the Secretariat to prepare Draft Guidelines on point c) above, having regard to WTO-SPS reference organisations. In 2005, the CAC adopted new Guidelines on Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations in the Elaboration of Standards and Related Texts.

Joint FAO/WHO evaluation of the CAC and other FAO and WHO work on food standards

16. In July 2003 the CAC endorsed the recommendation of the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of the CAC and other FAO and WHO work on Food Standards regarding the need for intensified collaboration between Codex and OIE to minimize overlaps and avoid gaps in standard setting.

17. In 2005, the CAC expressed its appreciation for the OIE's active participation in the work of Codex and reiterated its interest for strengthening this cooperation. The CAC endorsed the recommendations proposed by the 55th Session of the Executive Committee related to the collaboration between the CAC and the OIE. These recommendations encourage the OIE to continue to participate actively in the standard-setting work of the CAC, namely through the work of relevant subsidiary bodies. They invite the OIE to regularly submit reports on its activities, and that CAC subsidiary bodies continue to seek ways to improve cooperation with OIE in their respective areas of work.

18. The Executive Committee also recommended that the effectiveness of OIE-CAC cooperative be reviewed at the 30th Session of the CAC in 2007 with a view to considering what further arrangements may be necessary or desirable. This review should give particular consideration to the provisions in paragraph 13 of the Procedural Manual Guidelines on Cooperation between the CAC and other Intergovernmental Organisations i.e. the need for FAO and WHO to make appropriate agreements with cooperating organisations.

Conclusions and Next Steps

19. The cooperation between the OIE and the CAC is well established and has matured over several years of practical experience. Good results in the exchange of information and cross referencing between the respective international standards are evident. Good examples of collaboration in the development of standards include the texts produced by the two organisations regarding meat inspection and animal/product identification and traceability.

20. In the process of updating its Model Veterinary Certificates, the OIE has collaborated with the CCFICS and the CCMMP. Similarly, the Codex draft Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Certificates and the Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products take into account the work done by the two sister organisations.

21. Antimicrobial resistance is an important area of OIE-CAC cooperation. Following recommendations of the WHO and the CAC, global expert consultations took place in Geneva (2003), Oslo (2004), Korea (2006) and Copenhagen (2007). Under this framework the WHO, FAO and OIE meet to gather scientific data and prepare a common Action Plan. The OIE initially offered to work with the CAC on joint standards addressing antimicrobial resistance. At its 29th session, the CAC considered this possibility but instead decided to establish an *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, which the OIE may attend as an observer organisation. It is of concern to the OIE that the lack of a legal basis for creating joint CAC/OIE standards was an obstacle to collaboration in this important area of work. Nonetheless, the OIE will participate as an observer organisation at the meeting scheduled for October 2007 in Korea to ensure consistency between the two lists of antimicrobials and to present the scientific justification for the list adopted at the 75th General Assembly of the OIE in May 2007. The OIE, WHO and FAO will also meet later on this year to discuss the OIE list of critically important antimicrobials in relation to the list already compiled by the WHO.

22. The OIE and the CAC gain from working together as this helps to reduce the risk of contradictions, gaps and duplications in the standards referenced by the WTO. Simply put, collaboration allows both organisations to work 'smarter, not harder'. Additionally, both organisations, in collaboration with the WTO, are working to help developing country Members improve technical and policy capabilities and their ability to contribute towards the process of setting international standards. OIE and CAC international standards are a valuable source of information to developing countries. However, it is important to strengthen the involvement of these countries in the process, so that the standards address the realities of all members, not just those of highly developed economies.

23. In 2004 the OIE ratified new Agreements for cooperation with the FAO and the WHO (separately). Within this framework and at the request of the Codex Executive Committee, the OIE has continued to seek new ways to foster the relationship between OIE and the CAC.

24. The OIE sees considerable merit in establishing a formal basis for collaboration with the CAC to enable the development of joint international standards as appropriate.

25. The OIE asks CAC Delegates to recommend that the FAO and the WHO update their existing Agreements with the OIE, to facilitate the establishment of a formal agreement between the OIE and the CAC.

Annex II**List of Official 169 OIE Delegates**

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Annex III**Summary Report of the Sixth Meeting of the OIE Working Group on
Animal Production Food Safety**

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety was established in 2002, following a request from OIE's International Committee to strengthen OIE's activities in the food safety area and further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the sixth time at the OIE Headquarters on 7-9 November 2006. The following is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting: the full report is included in the March 2007 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code Commission) report which has been distributed to all OIE Delegates and has been published on the OIE website (www.oie.int). The Working Group received an update on OIE, Codex, FAO and WHO activities relevant to its work and then addressed the following main topics.

Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection

The Working Group expressed its satisfaction with the adoption of Appendix 3.10.1 (Guidelines for the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection) of the *Terrestrial Code* in May 2006 and emphasised that this work was an excellent example of complementarity between the OIE and the Codex texts. It agreed with the comments from New Zealand and the European Community during the 74th General Session, notably the suggestion to involve other stakeholders to share responsibility throughout the food chain. It considered it useful to involve the agri-food private sector, but clarified that the final responsibility should lie under the relevant competent authorities and should be linked to the Veterinary Services. The Working Group would welcome suggestions from the European Community to insert this concept in Appendix 3.10.1.

Role and functions of Veterinary Services in food safety throughout the food chain

The Director General expressed the view that the development of guidelines on the role and functions of Veterinary Services in relation to the safety of the food chain was necessary to provide guidance to Members on how to address the continuum of the food chain from the farm to the final consumer. The Working Group noted the ongoing work by the Terrestrial Code Commission on the revision of the current definitions of Veterinary Services, and competent authority and their use throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. It considered that this clarification work would need to be reflected in the development of the guidelines on the role and functions of Veterinary Services in relation to the food chain. The Working Group also considered that it would be useful to start by defining the regulatory functions necessary to reach the objectives in animal production food safety at the national level and then provide guidance on how the Veterinary Services should contribute to reaching these objectives.

The Working Group recommended the development of a paper to clarify how the Veterinary Services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health, without providing details on organisation of national administrations; this paper should be developed in the framework of *Terrestrial Code* chapters on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The Working Group recommended that an appropriate document be developed under the auspices of an *ad hoc* Group.

Guide to Good Farming Practices

The Working Group was informed of the ongoing discussions between the OIE and FAO on this matter to coordinate their work to further develop the document 'Guide to good farming practices' originally drafted by the Working Group. To perform this task, an *ad hoc* Group will be convened in 2007.

Animal Identification and Traceability

Taking into account Members' comments, the Working Group made a number of recommendations on the preliminary "Guidelines for Animal Identification and Traceability" being developed by an *ad hoc* Group. It felt that they should not be too prescriptive, since they had to be relevant to all Members. At the same time, it was felt that in the absence of guidelines on this topic individual Members might develop their own guidelines without consulting trading partners and thus give rise to trade issues. In order to provide Members with sufficient detailed information on good animal identification and traceability systems, the OIE should provide (outside the OIE international standards, e.g. on the OIE webpage) examples of how such systems have been implemented. The Working Group agreed with the Terrestrial Code Commission opinion that the guidelines were intended as an Appendix to the Code and that the guidelines would indeed set out principles and general approaches, rather than prescribing specific standards.

Animal Feed

The Working Group reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding and recommended that the Group should address all animal health issues, including zoonoses, related to feed and also include chemical hazards in its scope, but should not deal with animal welfare, religious concerns or growth promoters. The guidelines should address all elements relevant to prevention and detection of contamination (early detection, rapid notification, control systems) which are essential in dealing with natural, accidental and intentional contamination events, in a holistic manner. The Working Group recommended that the text on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles be strengthened as these principles are widely used in commercial feed production. The Working Group made minor modifications to the principles proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and recommended that the amended text be submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission with a view to circulating it to Members for comments. The Working Group recommended that an *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding be convened to continue this work after receiving a feedback from Members.

Revision of OIE model certificates

The Working Group addressed the report of the electronic meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates, the comments made by the Terrestrial Code Commission and the proposed terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group. The Working Group welcomed the approach taken and requested the *ad hoc* Group to consider if a "sanitary certificate" (rather than a veterinary certificate) would be appropriate for pasteurized milk and dairy products. The Working Group emphasised the importance of taking into account the ongoing work in the CAC on certification. It also proposed a revised version of the terms of reference for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

Salmonellosis

In its last meeting the Working Group had recommended that the Director-General appoint an *ad hoc* Group to draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. The Working Group discussed the draft terms of reference proposed by the secretariat for the Group and agreed that animal health issues related to *Salmonella gallinarum* and *Salmonella pullorum* should not be treated by this *ad hoc* Group. The draft terms of reference focus on on-farm methods for detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis* in laying hens. The Working Group agreed that this should encompass both hens laying eggs for human consumption (including egg products used in the food industry) as well for their breeding stock to cover the entire egg production pyramid. The Working Group discussed if eradication measures should be included in the terms of reference, but considered that it would be premature to do so at this initial stage. In the opinion of the Working Group, the work on salmonella in laying hens should be followed by work on salmonella in broilers and perhaps on other pathogens, such as *Campylobacter spp.* The Working Group recommended that the terms of reference should also require that the risk assessments already performed by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment and other expert groups be taken into account when possible.

Tuberculosis

In discussing the work done by the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis, the Working Group had a lengthy discussion about the potential to use an international sanitary certificate instead of a veterinary certificate for dairy products subjected to pasteurization or other equivalent treatments. It decided to ask the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates to address this point in its work on the certification of milk and milk products. The Working Group recommended that the approach used for revision of the brucellosis Chapter should be consistent with the approach used for the revised tuberculosis Chapter in regard to the certification of products for human consumption.

Use of the term “risk based”

The Working Group addressed a discussion paper from New Zealand on the use of the term “risk based”, aimed at clarifying the difference between a “risk-based” and “hazard-based” approach to standard setting. The paper indicated that many countries focused on eliminating hazards, rather than focusing on risks and, with increasing levels of sensitivity of diagnostic techniques, this approach can create unnecessary problems in trade. The Working Group recognised that the Terrestrial Code used a risk based approach and the Chapter on BSE was given as an example. The Working Group noted that some Members applied more stringent sanitary measures than the OIE risk-based standards thereby creating trade problems. The Working Group agreed that OIE should continue to base its standards on risk rather than on hazards when the scientific information allowed this, and agreed to follow the discussions held in the Codex Committee on General Principles on the same topic.

OIE activities on the application of biotechnology for animal health

The Working Group noted the progress made by the *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology. During its first meeting, the *ad hoc* Group discussed animal biotechnologies related to reproduction; nanotechnology and the use of recombinant DNA vaccines for protecting animal health. The agenda for the second meeting made provision for the *ad hoc* Group to develop guidelines on the animal health risks arising from somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning of production animals; to develop guidelines for new vaccine technologies for protecting animal health; to monitor developments in nanotechnology and to advise the OIE on suitable procedures for the identification and tracing of animals and animal products resulting from biotechnology interventions.

Work Programme for 2007

The Working Group amended its work programme for 2007, which includes horizontal issues (animal identification and traceability, certification, antimicrobial resistance, alternative approaches to risk management of zoonoses, good farming practices, guidelines for animal feeding), disease-specific OIE texts (brucellosis, salmonellosis), strengthening the relationship between OIE and Codex, and development of new texts (role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety).

Next meeting

The Working Group plans to hold its next meeting on 6-8 November 2007.

Annex IVOIE Terrestrial Code Appendix on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals

APPENDIX 3.5.1.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Article 3.5.1.1.

1. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses) and food safety issues. These tools may significantly improve the effectiveness of activities such as: the management of *disease outbreaks* and food safety incidents, vaccination programmes, herd/flock husbandry, zoning/compartimentalisation, surveillance, early response and notification systems, animal movement controls, inspection, certification, fair practices in trade and the utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level.
2. There is a strong relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and products of animal origin.
3. *Animal traceability* and traceability of products of animal origin should have the capability to be linked to achieve traceability throughout the animal production and food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.
4. The objective(s) of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular country, *zone* or *compartment* and the approach used should be clearly defined following an assessment of the risks to be addressed and a consideration of the factors listed below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sectors/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.
5. There are various factors which may determine the system chosen for *animal identification* and *animal traceability*. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal and public health situation (including zoonoses) and related programmes, animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic, geographical and environmental considerations, and cultural aspects, should be taken into account when designing the system.
6. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*. It is recognised that other Authorities may have jurisdiction over other aspects of the food chain, including the traceability of food.
7. The *Veterinary Administration*, with relevant governmental agencies and in consultation with the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in the country. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and *registration*, obligations of all the parties involved including third parties implementing traceability systems, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.

8. Whatever the specific objectives of the chosen *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*, there is a series of common basic factors, and these must be considered before implementation, such as the legal framework, procedures, the *Competent Authority*, identification of *establishments/owners*, *animal identification* and animal movements.
 9. The equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria rather than identical systems based on design criteria should be the basis for comparison of *animal identification systems* and *animal traceability*.
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Annex V**OIE Activities on biotechnology**

The OIE has been considering issues related to biotechnology since 1996 at the request of its International Committee. At the 73rd OIE General Session in May 2005, the OIE took an important step with the presentation of a technical item on Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products and the adoption of Resolution XXVIII on the "Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products" by the OIE International Committee.

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology met in Paris in April and again in October 2006. At the first meeting, three subgroups discussed Reproductive Animal Biotechnologies, Vaccines and Nanotechnology. The *ad hoc* Group also revised the draft chapter of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals on Principles of Veterinary Vaccine Production.

At the second meeting, following revised objectives, the *ad hoc* Group commenced the development of guidelines in two areas of work, ie animal health risks arising from somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) cloning of livestock and horses; and new vaccine technologies. The *ad hoc* Group also undertook to monitor developments on nanotechnology and to advise the OIE on suitable procedures for the identification and tracing of biotechnology-derived animals and their products.

In 2006 the OIE published a special edition of the Scientific and Technical Review Vol. 24(1) on Biotechnology Applications in Animal Health and Production. This Scientific Review identifies national, regional and international policies, institutions and regulatory frameworks, and discusses the role of international standard-setting bodies. The Review can be accessed on-line at:
http://www.oie.int/eng/publicat/RT/A_RT24_1.htm.

CAC Members may be interested in the international symposium on Animal Genomics for Animal Health which will take place at OIE headquarters in Paris from 23–25 October 2007.

Annex VI**OIE Review of Model Veterinary Certificates**

To better address its Members' needs, the OIE is updating its standards on Veterinary Certification. The OIE has taken steps to ensure collaboration with CAC in this work and will try, where possible, to develop combined certificates in order to promote harmonisation and avoid contradictory standards for both Codex and OIE Members.

The OIE *Terrestrial Code* includes several appendices with model veterinary certificates for international trade in animals and their products and the procedures related to certification.

The OIE is concerned by the increasing administrative burden on trading partners, especially developing countries. Therefore, the OIE is taking steps to avoid redundancies in certification. The OIE started the revision of its model veterinary certificates, by establishing an *ad hoc* Group, which took into account the work done by the CCFICS. The *ad hoc* Group's recommendations are consistent with the Codex approach, including in the use of the structure proposed by the United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documentation; the use of ISO country codes and the identification of commodities using the World Customs Organization Harmonized System.

The report of the *ad hoc* Group has been circulated for Members' comments.

The OIE provided an input to the ongoing work of the CCFICS, through participation in the working group on the revision of the Codex Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates. The OIE also contributed to the 15th CCFICS meeting (November 2006), where it was agreed to advance the abovementioned Guidelines to Steps 5/8 for adoption by the 30th Session of the CAC.

The OIE agrees with the CCFICS on the need for harmonized attestations, as appropriate, and to develop specific examples of attestations for common types of certification.

Annex VII**OIE Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance**

Antimicrobial resistance is a priority topic for the OIE in formulating international standards that take into account the needs of Members and the impact of the use of antimicrobials on animal and human health.

In 1998 the OIE started to address this issue through the formation of an *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. An international conference on the topic was held in Paris in October 2001 and four standards on antimicrobial usage were adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2003. A further standard on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance was adopted in May 2004.

The standards currently contained in the *Terrestrial Code* are:

- Appendix 3.9.1.: Guidelines for the harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.
- Appendix 3.9.2.: Guidelines for monitoring the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry.
- Appendix 3.9.3.: Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.
- Appendix 3.9.4.: Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals.

Relevant text is also found in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* (Chapter I.1.10: Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing).

The OIE is actively cooperating in this area through joint activities in addition to participation in the activities of the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH).

The OIE has established a list of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance, which was presented to the OIE International Committee in May 2006. The *ad hoc* Group took note of the FAO/WHO/OIE expert consultation meetings on antimicrobial use in both terrestrial and aquatic animals, as well as WHO proposals for a list of critically important antimicrobials in humans. The International Committee asked the *ad hoc* Group to consider Member's comments and further refine and develop the list. The refined OIE list only covers the use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. Three different categories of veterinary antimicrobials have been defined, ie: critically important, highly important, and important. The animal species in which each antimicrobial is used is also listed.

The OIE International Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXVIII on the List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance at the 75th General Session in May 2007.

The OIE will continue to work on this issue through its *ad hoc* Group and the OIE Specialist Commissions. A tripartite meeting with WHO and FAO is scheduled later this year to discuss the list of critically important antimicrobials and the OIE will participate in the Codex *Ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance meeting in October 2007.

Annex VIII**OIE Activities on Salmonellosis**

The development of guidelines on salmonellosis has been on the OIE's work programme for several years. At its meeting in November 2006, the OIE's Permanent Animal Production Food Safety Working Group agreed that in the first instance, the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis should concentrate on measures to be applied at the farm level in laying hens.

The *ad hoc* Group met in February 2007 and drafted guidelines on Methods for On-Farm Detection, Control and Prevention of *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption. The guidelines complement the Codex Alimentarius draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products (ALINORM 07/28/13, appendix II). They cover the pre-harvest part of the production chain, including all parts of the production pyramid (from elite flock to commercial layer). The objective is to control *Salmonella* in poultry with the goal of producing *Salmonella*-free eggs.

The OIE submitted the draft guidelines to Members in March 2007.

The Working Group will address Members' comments at its meeting in November 2007 and if required the OIE will reconvene the *ad hoc* Group to revise the document.

The draft guidelines are available on the OIE website at Appendix XXVIII of the Terrestrial Code Commission report (http://www.oie.int/downld/SC/2007/A_TAHSC_MARCH2007_PARTA.pdf). The OIE welcomes comments from the CAC Delegates on this issue.

Annex IX**OIE work in Animal Feeding**

The need to cover the whole food chain, from the farm to the consumer, within a global context, is acknowledged by all Members of the OIE and CAC. As a result the OIE's work in food safety focuses on the animal production phase of the food chain for animals and animal products, to complement the CAC's work on the post-harvest phase.

Animal feeding is an important part of the food production continuum and it is important that appropriate safeguards for animal health and food safety are put into effect. Mindful of the need to harmonise approaches, the OIE participated in the work of the Codex *ad hoc* Task Force on Animal Feeding, which developed a Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding that was adopted in 2004. This Code of Practice aims to ensure the safety and quality of foods of animal origin by addressing public health issues linked with animal feeding.

The OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group recognised the need for the OIE to establish complementary guidelines on animal feeding to address the associated animal health as well as the public health risks. The OIE established an *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding that met in October 2006 and prepared draft Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed. These draft guidelines were circulated to Members for comment and further work will be undertaken to address Member's comments and to develop specific recommendations pertaining to commercial feed production and on farm feed production in 2008.

The draft guidelines are available on the OIE website at Appendix XLVIII of the Terrestrial Code Commission report (http://www.oie.int/download/SC/2007/A_TAHSC_MARCH2007_PARTB.pdf). The OIE welcomes comments from the CAC Delegates on this issue.

Annex XRESOLUTION N° XXVI**Animal Production Food Safety**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its sixth meeting in November 2006 and drafted a work programme for 2007.
2. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a “Guide on Good Farming Practices” which will be further developed in cooperation with FAO, WHO and Codex.
3. The Working Group reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding, which produced draft Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed.
4. The Working Group reviewed the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, which produced draft Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *S. Typhimurium* in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption.
5. The Working Group prepared an appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* on Guidelines for the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through Ante- and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection, to provide guidance to Veterinary Services.
6. The Working Group supported the development of an appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* on General Principles for Identification and Traceability of Live Animals.
7. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by either party are consistent and complementary and take a ‘whole food chain’ approach to food safety.
8. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO which provide additional expert advice and expertise in food safety, zoonoses and related issues.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.
2. The participation of FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.
3. The 2007 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE’s activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with resources needed to address the identified priorities.

4. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group give special attention to its work on the development of texts on animal identification and traceability, animal feeding and salmonellosis for consideration by the International Committee.
 5. The OIE develop a document to clarify how the Veterinary Services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health.
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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 22 May 2007)