codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
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Agenda Item 3 (b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

**Fortieth Session
The Marriot Hotel, Guatemala City, Guatemala**

INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

Prepared by OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) would like to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) for the opportunity to contribute to its standards development process.

The OIE and CAC have been working together since 2001. In 2002, the Director General of the OIE established a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) with the view to improving the coordination and harmonisation of standard setting activities of OIE and CAC.

At the 31st session of CAC Dr Vallat, the Director General of OIE, informed the CAC on the progress of updating the existing inter-agency cooperation agreements with a view to fostering the development of joint standards. Harmonisation of international standards and avoidance of gaps and contradictory elements continues to be an important goal for Members of Codex and OIE. An OIE proposal for amendment of the cooperation agreement between the OIE and the WHO was approved by the 76th General Session of the OIE in May 2008 and is under consideration by WHO.

The OIE will continue to address food safety related issues at the production level as a high priority in its standard setting work and will work closely with CAC and other international bodies in pursuing the goal of safer international trade in animal products.

Restructuring of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

Commencing with the 2008 edition, the *Terrestrial Code* is now a two-volume publication. Volume one contains recommendations that apply to a wide range of species, production sectors and/or diseases (so-called 'horizontal standards') and volume two contains recommendations on specific diseases (so-called 'vertical standards') including recommendations on agent inactivation and on surveillance and risk assessment.

Volume 1 has a new Section entitled 'Veterinary Public Health', which includes chapters on the following topics:
- o   The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety;
- o   Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection;
- o   Hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries; *Salmonella* enteritidis and *Salmonella* typhimurium in poultry;
- o   Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes;

- o   Monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry;
- o   Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine;
- o   Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals;
- o   Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates.

The chapter on the Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety was adopted at the 76th OIE General Session (2008). It provides guidance to OIE Members on the role and responsibilities of national Veterinary Services with respect to food safety. The document also highlights the need for cooperation with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health.

A new chapter on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed is under development and will be included in the Veterinary Public Health section of the *Terrestrial Code* once it has been through the OIE procedures for adoption of new text.

OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability

The OIE is convening an International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability ('From Farm to Fork') on 17-19 March 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the objective of providing technical information on systems for animal identification and traceability (see Appendix 1). A member of the Codex Secretariat participates in the Scientific Committee and the OIE encourages other Codex experts to attend the Conference. Further information may be obtained from the OIE website at http://www.oie.int/eng/traceability-2009/index.html

OIE offers the following comments on the agenda items to be considered at this CCFH meeting.

Agenda Item 6 – Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and Salmonella spp. in Chicken Meat at step 4 (Doc. Ref. CX/FH 08/40/6)

Following a recommendation of the APFSWG, the OIE set up an expert *ad hoc* Group to develop draft Chapters for the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*) that address on farm methods for the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium in laying hens and in broilers.

The *ad hoc* Group developed draft *Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of Salmonella spp. in Poultry* that covers breeding flocks, chickens and other domesticated birds used for the production of eggs and meat for human consumption. The Guidelines are relevant to the control of all non-typhoid *Salmonella* spp. with special attention to *S.* Enteritidis and *S.* Typhimurium. In developing these Guidelines the *ad hoc* Group took into account the risk assessments carried out by JEMRA and other expert groups. They also considered standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, seeking complementarity between OIE recommendations and those of the CAC .

The *ad hoc* Group also revised an existing chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* (Appendix 3.4.1) and renamed it *Hygiene and Disease Security Procedures in Poultry Production*, which includes recommendations applicable to poultry establishments (including hatcheries) and flocks.

These two chapters have been sent to OIE Members for comment and will be reviewed at the next meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission in October 2008.

The OIE supports the work currently undertaken by the Committee on Food Hygiene in the development of draft Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and Salmonella spp. in Chicken Meat and will maintain close collaboration with CAC on this topic

First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability

« From Farm to Fork »

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 17-19 March 2009

INTRODUCTION

The OIE is pleased to announce the First OIE International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability, which will take place in Buenos Aires (Argentina) with the kind agreement of the National Food Safety and Quality Service of Argentina (SENASA) and the Secretary of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Argentina. The purpose of the Conference is to support the implementation of the relevant international standards for identification and traceability in live animals and animal products globally. The Conference will feature presentations from speakers representing international organisations, national Veterinary Services, agencies involved in animal products, the private sector (producers, processors, distributors and industry), consumer organisations and providers of technology and services relevant to animal identification and traceability.

The benefits of identification and traceability for animal health, disease control, food safety and quality including labeling, genetic selection and control over trade will be discussed. The experiences and perspectives of countries and sectors that have implemented animal identification and traceability will be presented and practical examples used to explain how the international standards can be implemented in a cost effective manner in consultation with stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives that the Conference will aim to achieve in the various sequential sessions are as follow:

➢ Raise international awareness of the relevant international standards published by the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

➢ Give practical information and technical advice on how to implement these standards in different industry sectors and national contexts

➢ Review the latest experiences in public and private identification and traceability programmes with reference to the relevant international standards

➢ Provide practical advice and examples to help national Veterinary Services and other agencies to play their appropriate role in regard to animal identification and traceability

➢ Identify the kind of support that can be provided by international organisations and donors to Veterinary Services and interested parties operating in developing countries, as appropriate to their needs, as regards the implementation of the OIE and Codex standards

➢ Launch a discussion on the future needs for international standards

➢ Discuss priorities and propose approaches to research and development relevant to animal identification and traceability.

<div align="center">KEY INFORMATION</div>

Approximately 500 participants are expected to attend, including:

➢ OIE National Delegates and other national government representatives

➢ Representatives of international standard-setting and economic development organisations

➢ Representatives of the private sector (producers, processors, distributors and industry) and agencies that are involved in animal identification and traceability

➢ Multinational food companies

The Conference will take place over 3 days, comprising keynote speakers and Ministerial Statements on day 1, technical presentations on days 1, 2 and 3 and a panel discussion and the Conference Resolutions on day 3.

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish will be provided throughout the conference.

The Conference proceedings will be published and a copy will be provided to each registered participant.

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