

codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



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Agenda Item 3(b)

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Forty-third Session

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INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

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

A. General information

1. In 2011, the OIE continued to work on a text addressing hygiene and biosecurity practices in poultry farms to prevent food borne illness in humans. The revised Chapter 6.4. Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry was adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 79th General Session in May, 2011 (http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.6.4.htm). The OIE noted that the Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in Chicken Meat were adopted at the 34th Session of CAC, and wishes to acknowledge the effective collaboration, which has resulted in harmonised OIE and Codex standards on salmonellosis in poultry.
2. With respect to the prioritisation of future standard setting for bacterial diseases, the OIE is reviewing the scientific literature on *Salmonella* spp. in food producing animals other than poultry (i.e. pigs, cattle, small ruminants) and on verotoxigenic *E.coli* (VTEC) in food-producing animals. The objective is to determine the usefulness and feasibility of developing OIE advice on the control of these pathogens in the production phase to reduce foodborne illness. The OIE, through its working group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFS Working Group) will examine these reviews at its meeting in November 2011 and make recommendations on next steps.

B. Agenda Item 6. Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis* (CX/FH 11/43/6)

3. The OIE convened an expert *ad hoc* Group on Zoonotic Parasites, which included participation from the WHO, FAO and Codex. At its first meeting, in October 2010, the Group updated the current *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.13. on Trichinellosis with the goal of putting more emphasis on control measures at the on-farm level to help prevent food borne illness in humans. The revised text included recommendations for the safe importation of fresh meat or meat products of domestic and wild pigs, domestic and wild equines. The revised draft *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 8.13 Trichinellosis was reviewed by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (TAHSC) and circulated to OIE Members for comment in the report of the February 2011 meeting.
4. The *ad hoc* Group held its second meeting in September 2011 and modified the text in light of the comments of OIE Member Countries. The revised draft chapter was reviewed by the TAHSC and sent

to OIE Members for a further round of comment at Annex XXXV of the Commission's September 2011 report.

5. Future work of the Group includes drafting a new *Terrestrial Code* chapter on porcine cysticercosis.
6. The OIE appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Codex Physical Working Group (PWG) on 'Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat: *Trichinella spiralis* and *Cysticercus bovis*, in July 2011.
7. A joint approach by OIE and CAC to standard-setting on certain key topics, including on trichinellosis and other zoonotic parasitic diseases, is strongly recommended with the objective of ensuring appropriate harmonisation of standards and recommendations while avoiding duplication of effort, overlap and gaps in standard setting work.

Background

8. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) are two of the three international standard setting organizations recognised under the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement. In this context, the OIE is responsible for setting standards on animal health (including zoonotic diseases) and the CAC on food safety. For food products of animal origin, hazards to human health may arise at the farm or at any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Since 2001, at the request of its Members, the OIE mandate has included setting standards for animal production food safety, i.e. the management of risks arising at the level of the farm to primary processing.
9. In 2002, the OIE established a 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. The Secretary of Codex and, on an observer basis, the Chair of Codex, regularly attends the annual meeting of the Working Group. Through this mechanism and through participation in each other's standard setting procedures, the OIE and CAC collaborate closely in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps, duplications and contradictions in the SPS standards of these two WTO reference organisations.
10. The OIE will continue to address food safety-related issues as a high priority in its standard-setting work and will work closely with CAC and its Committees, and with other international bodies in promoting safe international trade in animal and their products.