



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

**Nineteenth Session**

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**ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK  
OF CCFICS**

**Report by the OIE**

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

The OIE and the CAC are two of the three international standard setting organisations recognised under the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement. In this context, the OIE is responsible for setting standards in the domain of animal health (including zoonotic diseases) and the CAC in the domain of 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.

In 2002, the OIE established a Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety 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.

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 products.

The OIE sets standards for, *inter alia*, the quality of veterinary services and aquatic animal health services. OIE Member Countries and donors have strongly supported the OIE PVS Pathway, a global initiative to strengthen veterinary services and aquatic animal health services, based on the use of the OIE *PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services*.

The OIE thanks the Committee for adding references to the OIE standards for veterinary services in the draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems document.