



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Forty-ninth Session

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INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) for the opportunity to provide this update on relevant OIE activities and to contribute to its standards development process.
2. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission are two of the three international standard setting organizations recognised under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. In this context, the OIE is responsible for setting standards on animal health (including zoonotic diseases) and Codex 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. In order to address these hazards risk management must be tailored to detect and address risks at the appropriate stage(s). Therefore, 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.

Harmonisation of OIE and Codex approaches to standard setting in the food production continuum

3. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (Working Group), established in 2002, held its sixteenth meeting in December 2016. The Safety Working Group has, since its establishment, made a significant contribution to the development of a strong working relationship with Codex and the development of standards that, when implemented, ensure the production of safe food of animal origin. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation between the OIE, the FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, food borne zoonotic diseases and related issues.
4. In 2016 the OIE undertook a review of its permanent working groups and as a result of that review it considered that the work in relation to animal production food safety is now fully integrated into the work of the OIE. Subsequently, the Working Group mandate was not renewed by the World Assembly of Delegates at the OIE General Session in May 2017. However, to preserve the need for ongoing collaboration, it was agreed there is an on-going need for close cooperation and collaboration with representatives from FAO, WHO, OIE and the Codex Secretariat under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite agreement. The purpose of this collaboration is to ensure on-going coordination at the international level between these bodies in regard to international food safety standard setting.
5. Through on-going coordination as well as through participation in each other's standard setting procedures, the OIE and Codex will continue to collaborate closely in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps and contradictions in the SPS standards of these two WTO reference organisations. OIE Members strongly support this collaboration.

National level collaboration

6. Collaboration between OIE and Codex should not occur uniquely at the international level. The OIE actively encourages its national Delegates to collaborate with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach to relevant standards under development by the OIE and Codex.
7. The OIE will continue to address food safety-related issues as a high priority in its standard-setting work and will work closely with Codex and its Committees, and with other international bodies in promoting safe international trade in animals and animal products.

OIE work on animal production food safety

Salmonella in pigs and bovine production systems

8. The OIE has developed recommendations for the pre-harvest management and control of Salmonella in pigs and bovines to complement the Codex Guidelines for the Control of Nontyphoidal Salmonella spp. in Beef and Pork Meat (CAC/GL 87-2016) to ensure a whole food chain approach to Salmonella risk management in these species.

9. After being circulated for several rounds of OIE Member Country comments, new chapters on the 'Prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial bovine production systems' (Chapter 6.12.) and 'Prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial pig production systems (Chapter 6.13.)' were adopted unanimously at the OIE General Session in May 2017. The aim of these chapters is to prevent and control Salmonella in pigs and cattle and thereby reduce the burden of disease in these species, and the risk of human illness through food-borne contamination, as well as from direct or indirect contact with infected animals.

10. These chapters are published in the 2017 edition of the Terrestrial Code available at www.oie.int.

11. The OIE acknowledges the high level of collaboration demonstrated between OIE and Codex during the development of each organisation's respective standards on Salmonella that will ensure an integrated food chain approach to the control of this pathogen in pigs and pork and bovines and beef.

Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex

12. The OIE Assembly adopted the new draft chapter 'Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex' (draft Chapter 8.11.) which provides risk management measures for all relevant species of the complex in bovids, cervids and goats. The inclusion of *M. bovis*, *M. caprae* and *M. tuberculosis* in the chapter was intended to manage the human and animal health risks associated with this pathogenic agent. This chapter replaced chapters on bovine tuberculosis and bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae.

13. The chapter is published in the 2017 edition of the Terrestrial Code available at www.oie.int.

The role of Veterinary Services in food safety (Chapter 6.1.)

14. The Working Group agreed that there has been considerable development in the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians and Veterinary Services in food safety since the adoption of the Terrestrial Code Chapter 6.1. 'The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety' in 2008. Consequently, they undertook to review and revise the chapter to include all the food safety areas that veterinarians are now involved in, as well as incorporating a farm-to-fork approach to ensure food safety and suitability. The revised draft chapter also includes cross-references to relevant Codex standards. The draft chapter has been circulated several times for Member Country comments and will be reviewed by the Code Commission when they meet in September 2017.

15. The report of the September 2017 Code Commission will be available on the OIE website in October 2017.

Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection (Chapter 6.2.)

16. The Code Commission also agreed to review and update Chapter 6.2. Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection given that it has not been reviewed since its adoption in 2006. This work will commence in 2017/2018.

Future standard development in animal production food safety

Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli*

17. The Code Commission agreed to add the control of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) to its work programme noting that this is an important pathogen in bovines and potentially other species for both public health and trade reasons. They also agreed to monitor outcomes of relevant work underway by Codex and the FAO/WHO expert consultation, and to consider undertaking relevant work when Codex undertakes new work.

18. The OIE will continue to address food safety-related issues as a high priority in its standard-setting work and will continue to work closely with Codex and its Committees, and with other international bodies in promoting safe international trade in animals and animal products.