



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

Fiftieth Session

Panama, 12 - 16 November 2018

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.

Collaboration

3. At the 2017 OIE General Session, the World Assembly of Delegates agreed that the mandate for the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group not be renewed considering that the OIE's work in animal production food safety was now well integrated into the work of the OIE. The World Assembly agreed that this work would continue to be addressed in other OIE forums including the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meetings.

4. In preparation for the 24th FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite Annual Executive Coordination Meeting (held at OIE Headquarters, Paris, 21-22 February 2018), representatives from FAO, OIE, WHO and the Codex Secretariat met in Rome in January 2018 to discuss Tripartite coordination and collaboration in food safety. Starting from lessons learned through past collaboration on food safety between OIE, FAO and WHO (including Codex), the participants discussed upcoming activities to identify where collaboration could be useful, and also discussed the appropriateness of the current practices for collaboration and if other mechanisms should be proposed for future collaborative work.

5. The Tripartite Executive endorsed the recommendations arising from this meeting, namely current mechanisms for Tripartite collaboration on standard setting and related scientific advice are adequate. The Tripartite Executive also endorsed the recommendations related to capacity development in particular that will facilitate the use of each other's networks, identify contact points in each of the three organizations' on issues of agreed mutual interest related to animal production food safety as well as exploring the use of existing fora such as the STDF for opportunities for strategic alignment on capacity development issues. The Tripartite agreed to refer to this group as the Tripartite Food Safety Coordination Group and acknowledged that it should hold periodic meetings on a demand driven basis to deal with food safety issues as they arise.

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

The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems (Chapter 6.2. of the Terrestrial Code)

8. A revised Chapter 6.2. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety systems was adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the May 2018 OIE General Session. The chapter was amended to better reflect developments and changes in the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians and Veterinary Services in food safety since it was first adopted in 2008.

9. This chapter includes cross-references to the relevant Codex texts such as the *Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems* (CXG 82-2013), *General Principles of Food Hygiene* (CXC 1-1969), *Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat* (CXC 58-2005), *Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding* (CXC 54-2004) and *Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals* (CXG 71-2009).

10. The revised Chapter 6.2. is available on the OIE website at: http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_role_vet_serv_food.htm

Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli*

11. The OIE will continue to follow the Codex's work on Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) and will consider undertaking relevant work to ensure harmonisation of standards and recommendations that address STEC in the food production continuum.