



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### 40<sup>th</sup> Session

CICG, Geneva, Switzerland, 17 - 22 July 2017

#### COMMUNICATION FROM OIE<sup>1</sup>

#### OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE 40TH SESSION (2017) OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) wishes to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission for the opportunity to provide this update on relevant OIE activities.

The relationship between the OIE and the Codex is particularly important because risks to human health and food safety may arise at the farm and any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Therefore, risk management must be tailored to detect and address risks at the appropriate stage(s). The OIE is responsible for setting standards in the domains of animal health and veterinary public health, including animal production food safety, to manage risks arising from the farm level through to primary processing, and the Codex from primary processing through to consumption. The OIE and Codex must therefore continue to collaborate closely in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps, duplications and contradictions.

The OIE appreciated the opportunity to participate in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Codex Committees and expert groups during the past year and to contribute to its standard development process. Since the 39<sup>th</sup> CAC Session, OIE representatives have contributed to, or attended the following Codex meetings:

- 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (October 2016)
- 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (November 2016);
- Physical Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (December 2016)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (May 2017);
- CCFICS electronic working group and workshop on Development of Codex guidance for paperless electronic certification (2017);

The OIE also appreciated the participation of representatives from the Codex in relevant OIE expert meetings and the OIE General Session.

Regular participation in each other's standard setting work improves the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum in the standards and guidelines of the two organisations. This is particularly evident in the recent standards developed by both organisations on *Salmonella* in pigs and pork, and bovines and beef, which are aligned and address all recognised risks to animal health, human health and food safety in the farm to fork food production continuum.

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

The OIE Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) Working Group, established in 2002, has functioned as a steering committee for the OIE's work programme on standards to reduce foodborne risks to human health due to hazards arising during the animal production phase of the food chain and to strengthen the coordination of standard setting activities between the OIE and Codex. Membership has included high level experts from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and Codex, and internationally recognised experts in animal production food safety from around the globe. The Working Group held its 16<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 2016. The report of this meeting is available on the OIE website at: <http://www.oie.int/en/food-safety/achievements-to-date/meetings-reports/>

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<sup>1</sup> Document prepared by and under the responsibility of the OIE.

Since its establishment, the APFS Working Group has provided significant advice to the OIE Director General and to the Code Commission, in particular, through the development and updating of relevant chapters in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code).

The commitment of its' members and the work of this group has contributed to the development of a strong working relationship with Codex and the development of standards by the two organisations' that, when implemented, ensure the production of safe food of animal origin.

The OIE Council, as part of the work to ensure that the organisation's roadmap is in line with the 6<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, reviewed the mandate of the APFS Working Group along with the other two OIE permanent Working Groups.

The Council considered that the OIE's work in animal production food safety was now well integrated into the work of the OIE and therefore proposed that the mandate for this Working Group not be renewed.

This decision in no way indicates a lesser commitment by the OIE to this important area of work which the OIE will continue to address in other OIE fora, for example as part of the annual Tripartite meeting where strategic issues relevant to animal production food safety would be addressed by the WHO, FAO and OIE, through the ongoing work of the Code Commission, and the OIE continuing to actively engage in Codex fora in relation to the development of standards related to animal production food safety.

The OIE wished to offer sincere thanks to all members of the Working Group, both past and present, for their significant contributions that have ensured that the role of veterinarians and Veterinary Services along the food production continuum is well understood.

At the 85th OIE General Session in May 2017, the World Assembly of Delegates (Assembly) unanimously adopted Resolution No. 32 to disband the APFS Working Group: <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/key-texts/resolutions-and-recommendations/resolutions-adopted-by-the-oie-international-committee/>

The OIE encourages its Delegates to coordinate their positions with their delegations to Codex to ensure, at the national level, alignment of their approach to standards developed by the OIE and Codex.

## **Collaboration**

In addition to collaboration at the international level the OIE is taking steps to support collaboration at the national level, consistent with discussions within the SPS Committee. To this end, the OIE invites the participation of Codex representatives in seminars for OIE National Animal Production Food Safety Focal Points. Coordination at the regional and sub-regional level is also encouraged.

The list of OIE Permanent Delegates is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/our-members/delegates/>. Contact details of OIE National Focal Points for animal production food safety and veterinary products are available on the Regional Representatives websites at: <http://www.oie.int/en/about-us/wo/regional-representations/>

Another example of further strengthening of cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation at national and global levels was the recommendation from the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite annual meeting that the OIE encourage its Delegates to designate the national OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety as a INFOSAN Focal Point or, depending on national administrative arrangements, as an INFOSAN Emergency Contact Point. In response to this request the INFOSAN membership now includes OIE Focal Points for animal production food safety in more than 50 countries.

## **OIE work on animal production food safety**

### Salmonella in pigs and bovine production systems

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.

After being circulated for several rounds of OIE Member Country comments, draft chapters on the 'Prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial pig production systems (Chapter 6.Y.)' and 'Prevention and control of Salmonella in commercial bovine production systems' (Chapter 6.X.), were adopted unanimously by the Assembly 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.

These chapters will be published in the 2017 edition of the Terrestrial Code, which will be available on the OIE website ([www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)) in August 2017.

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

The Assembly adopted the new draft chapter 'Infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex' (draft Chapter 8.X.) which provides risk management measures for all relevant species of the complex in bovines, 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 will replace the current chapters on bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 11.5.) and bovine tuberculosis of farmed cervidae (Chapter 11.6.).

This chapter will be published in the 2017 edition of the *Terrestrial Code*.

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

The APFS Working Group, during its November 2015 meeting, 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 revised draft chapter was circulated for Member Country comments as part of the Code Commissions September 2016 meeting report. The APFS Working Group considered the extensive number of comments received and made a significant number of amendments to improve readability and refocus the text on the role of Veterinary Services, as opposed to the function of a food safety system.

The revised draft Chapter 6.1. circulated for Member Country comments is available at:

[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International\\_Standard\\_Setting/docs/pdf/A\\_TAHSC\\_Feb\\_2017\\_Part\\_B.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TAHSC_Feb_2017_Part_B.pdf) (Annex 25).

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

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.

#### New Chapter on criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities (Chapter 2.X.)

A new chapter on Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities (Chapter 2.X.) was adopted by the World at the OIE General Session in May 2017 for inclusion in the 2017 edition of the Terrestrial Code. This chapter provides criteria, to be used by OIE experts, to assess safety of commodities for listing in relevant disease-specific chapters of the Terrestrial Code.

### **Future standard development in animal production food safety**

#### Shiga-like toxin producing *E. coli*

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 the CAC and the FAO/WHO expert consultation, and to consider undertaking relevant work when Codex undertakes new work.

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 animals and animal products.

### **Electronic certification**

The OIE continues to follow the work of CCFICS, in particular the discussions on the use of electronic certificates by competent authorities and migration to paperless certification as well as the development of guidance on the use of systems equivalence and regulatory approaches to third party certification assurance schemes.

The OIE is presently undertaking preliminary work to collate activities currently being undertaken by relevant international organisations and some Member Countries on the use of electronic certificates by competent authorities and migration to paperless certification.

### **OIE work on antimicrobial resistance**

The OIE Resolution No. 26: Combating Antimicrobial Resistance and Promoting the Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Animals was adopted by the OIE Assembly during the 83rd General Session in May 2015<sup>2</sup>. Since adoption of this Resolution, the OIE launched the annual collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals in OIE Member Countries. The aim of this data collection is to publish an annual report on the worldwide distribution and use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

The first phase of this new OIE activity has been completed in line with the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) developed by WHO with strong contribution from FAO and OIE. From mid-December 2015 to mid-May 2016, 72% (130/180) of OIE Member Countries submitted a completed template with 90 of these Member Countries providing detailed quantitative data. The report and analysis of this first year of data collection presented the overall findings on the global use of antimicrobial agents in animals and was published at the end of 2016. It is available in English, French and Spanish at the OIE website <sup>3</sup>. For the second year of data collection, a refined template was sent to OIE Member Countries at the end of September 2016.

AMR is also one of the priority topics selected for Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) activities and has now reached attention at the highest political level. The Tripartite was instrumental in the organisation of a High-Level Dialogue on AMR in April 2016 at the United Nations (UN) in New York and the High-Level meeting at the UN General Assembly meeting in September 2016.

WHO, FAO and OIE also developed a Manual and a check-list for developing national action plans on AMR based on the Global Action Plan taking a 'One Health' approach. Resolution No. 26 encourages OIE Member Countries to follow the guidance of the Global Action Plan on AMR and to implement national action plans.

The OIE participated in many events, conferences and meetings on AMR at a global and regional level, often in collaboration with WHO and FAO.

During the 84th General Session in May 2016, the Assembly adopted Resolution No. 36: Combating Antimicrobial Resistance through a 'One Health' Approach: Actions and OIE Strategy. The OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials, published in November 2016, recognises the importance of a "One Health" approach involving human and animal health, agricultural and environmental needs. It outlines the goals and tactics the OIE has in place to support Member Countries in their fight against AMR, and to encourage the national ownership and implementation of international Standards, in line with the Global Action Plan on AMR.

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance who has met on three occasions since January 2016, will further support the development of the OIE collection of data on the use of antimicrobial agents in animals worldwide and support the update of OIE standards, recommendations and the List of Antimicrobial Agents of Veterinary Importance. The Code Commission, at their February 2017 meeting, reviewed Member Countries comments on Chapter 6.7. of the Terrestrial Code on 'Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes' and circulated a revised chapter for further Member Country comments (available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/code-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>).

The Code Commission also circulated for Member Country comments the following definitions for inclusion in Chapter 6.8. 'Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobials agents used in food producing animals':

Therapeutic use: Administration of an antimicrobial agent to animals to prevent, control or treat infection or disease. The Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) containing antimicrobial agents should only be used on the prescription of a veterinarian or other suitably trained person authorised to prescribe VMP containing antimicrobial agents in accordance with national legislation and under the supervision of a veterinarian.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/About\\_us/docs/pdf/Session/A\\_RESO\\_2015\\_public.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/About_us/docs/pdf/Session/A_RESO_2015_public.pdf)  
[http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/Survey\\_on\\_monitoring\\_antimicrobial\\_agents\\_Dec2016.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/Survey_on_monitoring_antimicrobial_agents_Dec2016.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our\\_scientific\\_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/Survey\\_on\\_monitoring\\_antimicrobial\\_agents\\_Dec2016.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/AMR/Survey_on_monitoring_antimicrobial_agents_Dec2016.pdf)

Preventative use: Administration of an antimicrobial agent targeted to animals at risk for a specific infection(s) or in a specific situation where disease is likely to occur if the drug is not administered, with an appropriate dose and for a limited duration. The Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) containing antimicrobial agents should only be used on the prescription of a veterinarian or other suitably trained person authorised to prescribe VMP containing antimicrobial agents in accordance with national legislation and under the supervision of a veterinarian.

Growth promotion: Use of antimicrobial substances to increase the rate of weight gain and/or the efficiency of feed utilization in animals by other than purely nutritional means. The term does NOT apply to the use of antimicrobial agents for the specific purpose of treating, controlling, or preventing infectious diseases, even when an incidental growth response may be obtained. This definition is in line with the definition developed by Codex Alimentarius in CAC/RCP 61-2005.

The OIE continues to be active in assisting Member Countries to build and implement effective legislation to assure the quality, safety and efficacy of veterinary medicinal products, particularly antimicrobial agents. The OIE, as an associate Member of the VICH (the International Co-operation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products) provides support and encourages its Member Countries to take the VICH guidelines into consideration. The OIE considers that the international harmonisation of technical requirements for the pre- and post-marketing authorisation of veterinary medicines is a necessity for animal health, public health and the facilitation of international trade, and that VICH is one of the necessary tools to achieving these aims.

## **SPS Capacity Building for OIE Members**

### **The OIE PVS Pathway**

The OIE PVS Pathway is exactly 10 years old... and still going strong! As a flagship programme of the OIE, the PVS Pathway has been an unmitigated success over the last decade. Over 130 Member Countries actively engaged via requesting an OIE PVS Evaluation mission, with over 100 of those also requesting the next step of an OIE PVS Gap Analysis mission, and nearly 50 requesting a second round through a PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission. There has also been strong engagement in PVS Pathway Treatment missions including over 60 veterinary legislation identification missions and 13 PVS Pathway Laboratory missions.

There is growing evidence of PVS Pathway's major global impact on strengthening national Veterinary Services in areas as diverse as improved government and donor resourcing, clearer governance structures and national coordination, improved inter-sectoral collaboration, and enhanced animal and veterinary public health surveillance, disease control, emergency response, border control, food safety, laboratory, educational, legislative and animal welfare systems.

Contrary to a prevailing myth that the PVS Pathway was only suitable for developing countries, recent years have seen full, active engagement from highly developed nations including Australia, Japan and Canada. This is all firmly aligned with OIE's core mission of improving animal health and welfare around the world.

This 10 year birthday milestone provided the OIE with a symbolic opportunity to pause and reflect on this landmark program, but more importantly, to set the direction for an even brighter PVS Pathway future.

In April 2017, the OIE PVS Pathway 'Think Tank' Forum was held in Paris, involving over 60 participants, who gathered with the purpose of working together, in their respective roles as OIE Member Country representatives, staff, partners, and PVS Pathway experts, to review and plan for the strategic evolution of the OIE PVS Pathway in improving animal health and welfare globally.

The outcomes of this forum will inform our work to evolve the PVS Pathway so it is adapted to shifting contexts and priorities, and so it can be re-invented to engender renewed enthusiasm and support to have its future assured, in continuing to deliver real value to global animal health and welfare.

Relevant information may be found at: <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/pvs-evaluations/status-of-missions/>

### **OIE National focal points**

The OIE encourages all Member Countries to nominate National Focal Points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate, in a range of subjects including Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) and Veterinary Products. Currently the OIE has 177 nominated Focal Points for APFS and 179 for Veterinary Products. The purpose of creating these OIE National Focal Points is to improve communication between the OIE, Delegates and all agencies responsible for food safety, veterinary products, and SPS matters at the national level. A series of training seminars for OIE Focal Points continues to be conducted worldwide, on a region-by-region basis.

Meetings of the 4th cycle of training seminars for Focal Points for Veterinary Products have been held in the Americas, Africa, Asia-Pacific and in Europe, reaching about 450 participants. In line with the 'One Health' concept, the FAO and WHO were invited to participate in these activities. The 4<sup>th</sup> cycle covered key issues such as: 1) antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including the Global Action Plan developed by WHO with the support of the OIE and FAO and other Tripartite activities, the OIE database on the use of antimicrobial agents in terrestrial and aquatic animals; 2) the quality of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs), including the issue of counterfeit medicines, the registration/authorisation system in the region, and implementation of VICH guidelines; and 3) antiparasitic drugs and challenges.

Furthermore, substantial time was provided for updates on good governance of veterinary products, the VICH, and its VICH Outreach Forum, and a discussion about possible support at the technical level from the OIE and its Collaborating Centers

The programme for the 5th Cycle seminars for Focal Points for Veterinary Products is under development and trainings will be organised in all OIE regions in 2017-2018.

### **WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement**

The OIE welcomed the landmark World Trade Organisation, Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which entered into force on 22 February 2017, following its ratification by two-thirds of the WTO membership. The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods and measures for effective cooperation between Customs and other appropriate authorities, such as Veterinary Services and Food Safety Authorities.

The OIE is working with OIE Member Countries to ensure they are aware of the critical role Veterinary Services play in the implementation of the TFA. Veterinary Services are responsible for overseeing import and export processes (including veterinary health certification) relating to sanitary and zoosanitary controls of imports and exports of animals, animal products and other materials which may introduce animal diseases. In particular obligations described in the TFA Articles 8: 'Border Agency Cooperation' and 10: 'Formalities and Documentation Requirements' will require closer collaboration between border agencies.

The OIE signed a cooperative agreement with the World Customs Organisation in 2015 and since that time we have been a regular participant in the World Customs Organisation Working Group on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFAWG), a forum where Members, Observers and the private sector can engage in a dialogue on best practices and future activities in order to facilitate implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement by WCO Member Countries. In addition, the OIE and WCO, with the support of donor funding, are convening a pilot Joint OIE/WCO Regional Workshop on the TFA in 2018 to enhance cooperation between Veterinary Services and Customs in the context of the TFA.

The OIE will be seeking its Members support to become an observer in the WTO Trade Facilitation Committee, the body responsible for overseeing implementation of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement which met for the first time in May 2017.