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codex alimentarius commission E

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Thirty-first Session

International Conference Centre, Geneva (Switzerland), 30 June - 4 July 2008

OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE 31ST SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION*

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) would like to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for the renewed invitation to participate in its Commission and Committee meetings. OIE Members continue to express very positive views on this collaboration.

2. At the 30th session of the CAC the OIE announced that it sought to formalise the relationship with the CAC, to further strengthen the legal basis for the production of international standards, including the development of joint OIE-Codex standards, where appropriate.

3. The CAC at its 30th session recommended that FAO and WHO study the possibility of reviewing or updating FAO and WHO agreements with OIE, as might be required. It also requested the Codex Secretariat to identify, in cooperation with the Legal Offices of FAO and WHO, any practical problems affecting the cooperation between the CAC and OIE that might need to be addressed in a pragmatic manner, and taking into account all relevant circumstances.

4. In reviewing the text of the current agreement between the OIE and the FAO, it was noted that there is specific provision for the joint development of international standards relating to those aspects of animal production that impact on food safety, in collaboration with other relevant international agencies. The current OIE/WHO agreement does not contain similar text.

5. Therefore the OIE proposed to the WHO to add a new article to the existing agreement, to the effect that OIE and the CAC may develop standards jointly as appropriate to the subject under consideration and the respective mandates of OIE and the CAC.

6. The WHO has subsequently advised that it would support to amend the current agreement to make provision for closer collaboration between the OIE and CAC on food safety.

7. After the update of the agreement with WHO, OIE will seek to formalise more the relationship with the CAC to further strengthen the legal basis for the production of international standards.

8. Collaboration between CAC and OIE should not occur uniquely at the international level. The OIE encourages its national Delegates to collaborate with national Delegates to the CAC. This should be facilitated by the fact that most of the OIE Members are also CAC Members. A current list of the OIE delegates is provided in Annex 1.

9. The OIE held its 76th General Session in May 2008. At the General Session, the International Committee, which is the OIE's decision-making body comprising all 172 National Delegates, adopts OIE Standards and provides guidance on the work of the OIE.

10. This year the International Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXV on Animal Production Food Safety, which describes the work priorities of the OIE in this field (see Annex XI).

* Document prepared by and under the responsibility of OIE.

11. For the first time the so issue of commercial ('private') standards was discussed, with OIE Members expressing concern at the potential for some private standards to undermine the scientific basis and the democratic adoption of the official standards of the OIE in the field of animal health, including zoonoses. The International Committee unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXXII on Implication of private standards in international trade of animal and animal products, this describes the OIE Members position (see Annex XII).

12. Another important forum for coordination is presented by the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group), whose primary role is to act as a steering committee in the OIE's work programme on the development of standards to protect consumers from food-borne hazards arising at the production level of the food chain. Current and former high level officials of the FAO (including the CAC) and the WHO are members of the Working Group. The Working Group held its 7th meeting in November 2007 and a summary report is provided at Annex II. The following topics may be of particular interest to the CAC:

a) The OIE has developed a document on the *Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety*, which is to be included in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*). This document provides guidance to OIE Members on the role and responsibilities of national Veterinary Services. The document also highlights the need for cooperation with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health. In May 2008 the 76th General Session adopted this text for inclusion in the Terrestrial Code. This document is presented in Annex III.

b) In 2006 the OIE International Committee adopted General Principles on identification and traceability of live animals, which were updated in 2007. In May 2008 at the 76th General Session the OIE completed its work on animal identification and traceability when the International Committee adopted Guidelines on the design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability. Bearing in mind potential future standard-setting work of Codex on product traceability, and the need to have a bridge on traceability between animals and products, the OIE and Codex will maintain close collaboration on this topic. The guidelines are presented in Annex IV.

c) With adoption at the 76th General Session the OIE has updated its guidance on international certification, in relation to.

   a. Model international veterinary certificates

   b. Notes for guidance on veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin

   c. General obligations

   d. Certification procedures

   The OIE will take steps to encourage the use of electronic certification, where possible, and other systems helpful in preventing fraud, which is a key consideration for safe international trade. A copy of the adopted texts is in Annex V.

d) On 17-19 March 2009 the OIE will convene an International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability ('From Farm to Fork') in Buenos Aires (Argentina), as a mechanism to provide countries with technical information on systems for identification and traceability. OIE has included a Codex expert on the Scientific Programme Committee and encourages experts with knowledge and expertise on Codex standards to participate in this Conference.

e) The OIE is working with FAO to produce a 'Guide to Good Farming Practices'. This Guide will address farming systems in developed and developing countries, including the varying socio-economic and cultural contexts and the issue of cost-effectiveness. Additional details are provided in Annex VI.

f) The OIE noted the status of work in Codex regarding biotechnology, with particular reference to the Codex Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals. It is understood that the assessment of animal health status falls under the OIE mandate and is not covered by the Codex Guideline. The OIE is undertaking an assessment of the issues related to food safety, animal health and animal welfare in the situation of animals treated with non-heritable DNA constructs (including recombinant vaccines). More details on relevant OIE activities are provided in Annex VII.

g) The OIE has finalised a list of Critically Important Antimicrobials, which is now available on the OIE website. The fourth joint FAO/WHO/OIE Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials, held in November 2007, was an important forum to discuss the appropriate balance between animal health, food security and food safety needs and public health concerns in the use of antimicrobial products. There was also an associated stakeholders meeting. For more detailed information see Annex VIII.

h) The OIE is in the process of developing standards on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in Poultry on production step to complement the ongoing work of Codex in regard to salmonellosis. More details are provided in Annex IX.

i) The OIE is establishing a new Code text on "*Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed*". The OIE has taken care to ensure that this text will be consistent with the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. The OIE will also address the food safety issues associated with feeding aquatic animals. Additional information is provided in Annex X.

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Annex II

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

1. Introduction

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) was established in 2002, following a request from OIE's International Committee to strengthen OIE's activities in the food safety area and further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to advise the Director General and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues in this area. The Working Group met for the seventh time at the OIE Headquarters on 6-8 November 2007. The following is a summary of the main discussions and results from the meeting: the full report is included in the March 2008 Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code Commission) report, which has been distributed to all OIE Delegates and has been published on the OIE website (www.oie.int). The Working Group received an update on OIE, Codex, FAO and WHO activities relevant to its work and then addressed the following main topics.

2. Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety

The Working Group reviewed a draft document on the *Role of Veterinary Services in Food Safety*, which is to be included in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (*hereinafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*), in the context of providing guidance to OIE Member Countries and Territories. The text had been reviewed and endorsed by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its meeting in September 2007. Some members of the Working Group queried whether the term 'uniquely equipped' in the background section of the paper was too exclusive in relation to the role of other professionals in food safety. Concerns were raised that the paper may send a message that only veterinarians are qualified to work in food safety. Several members made comments in support of the original text in relation to the uniqueness of the veterinary qualification. The Members agreed to modify this section to clarify the role of other professionals and to make some minor changes to improve the clarity of the text. The text has been placed on the OIE website.

3. Guide to Good Farming Practices (GGFP)

The Working Group reviewed the document prepared by the *ad hoc* Group on the Guide to Good Farming Practices. The Working Group agreed that the Guide should address the issue of cost-effectiveness, and consideration to the socio-economic and cultural contexts of the farming systems in developing countries and to the particular health situation in the section on Implementation. The Working Group agreed to amend the section on Hazards to recognise that some of the listed hazards had impacts on food safety only indirectly. It also recommended that radionuclides be grouped together with chemical hazards. It agreed that there was some redundancy and duplication in the document and recommended how it be restructured. The Working Group noted that risks associated with animal manure and other wastes had not been adequately addressed and proposed an additional text for consideration. The Working Group recommended that the OIE and FAO support developing countries in their efforts to raise awareness and provide training to farmers and other stakeholders to assist them in complying with the Guide. In particular, resources should be made available through international projects directed to developing countries with the goal of improving the infrastructure of the food production sectors and the performance of the Veterinary Services. The Working Group also proposed a number of other changes and recommended that the OIE/FAO *ad hoc* Group revisit this document electronically, taking into account the Working Group's recommendations. The Working Group noted that the GGFP will serve as a generic guide for Members and as such it does not contain detailed technical recommendations. More specific guidelines will be developed, in particular for developing countries. These will be prepared by technical agencies such as FAO with the objective of making applicable the implementation of good farming practices in these socio-economic and cultural contexts.

4. Animal Identification and Traceability

The Working Group noted the work completed by the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Identification and Traceability and did not propose any additional amendments to the proposed text. Bearing in mind potential future standard-setting work of Codex on product traceability, the Working Group recommended that OIE and Codex maintain close collaboration on this topic. The Working Group was informed about the OIE's

intention to hold an International Conference on Animal Identification and Traceability in early 2009, in technical collaboration with Codex, as a mechanism to provide countries with technical information on systems for identification and traceability and recommended that the Director General of the OIE should accept collaboration with the FAO.

5. **Terrestrial Animal Feed**

The Working Group reviewed the revised draft document entitled "*Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed*", which contained the comments of OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission meeting held in September 2007. The Working Group addressed the revised Guidelines from a food safety perspective, bearing in mind the need to maintain consistency with the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. The Working Group noted the Terrestrial Code Commission's proposed modification of the scope and suggested that the intention be clarified as the new text could generate some confusion as to whether terrestrial animals other than livestock (e.g. pet animals) were covered. In addition, the reference to 'food' in the sentence 'These guidelines deal with food or feed for terrestrial animals (i.e. livestock and poultry)' was felt to be confusing and the Working Group recommended to delete the word food. The Working Group proposed a number of modifications to the Definitions section. Under the section on General Principles, the Working Group recommended changing the placement of the text on contingency plans and the addition of text to clarify the intent. The Working Group reviewed the revised text on labelling, in light of Codex recommendations on this point. In relation to contamination, the Working Group recommended that attention should be focused on contamination in general with reference to cross contamination only where necessary. The Working Group also made some other minor amendments to the text.

6. **Aquatic Animal Feed**

The Working Group discussed this item in light of its discussion on terrestrial animal feed. Members considered that the food safety issues associated with feeding aquatic animals should be addressed and agreed that it would review any further text covering food safety that might be produced through the OIE procedure. The Working Group recommended that the guidelines on terrestrial and aquatic animal feed should be as closely aligned as possible. The Working Group recommended that OIE expert(s) further review the Guidelines on Feeding Terrestrial Animals, in addition to Codex guidance on animal feeding and FAO publications on aquaculture, with a view to developing text on the food safety implications of aquatic animal feed. In addition to the Codex and FAO publications referenced in the draft Guidelines for the Control of Aquatic Animal Health Hazards in Aquatic Animal Feed, the expert(s) should examine recommendations relevant to feed in texts recently developed by the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods and the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (section on aquaculture feed). The Working Group recommended the OIE should continue to closely monitor developments on aquatic animal feed in Codex.

7. **Revision of OIE Model Veterinary Certificates**

The Working Group discussed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificates, the comments of OIE Members and the text modifications proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its meeting held in September 2007. The Working Group recommended that the amendment of Article 1.2.1.1 proposed by the Terrestrial Code Commission be modified to read: 'Safe *international trade*…', which seemed to be the normal OIE usage. The Working Group recommended that the OIE ensure that their recommendations on international veterinary certification are as closely aligned as possible with relevant recommendations of Codex (specifically those developed by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems). The Working Group also recommended that the OIE take steps to encourage the use of electronic certification, where possible, and other systems helpful in preventing fraud which is a key consideration for safe international trade. With this in mind, the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificates should, at its February 2008 meeting, review the Codex Guidelines for Design, Production, Issuance and Use of Generic Official Certificates (CAC/GL 38-2001), as revised in 2007. The Working Group noted the good collaboration between OIE and Codex on matters relating to international health certification and encouraged both organisations to continue their efforts to harmonise approaches.

8. **Salmonellosis**

The Working Group discussed the draft Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella*

Enteritidis and *S.* Typhimurium in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption, which had been prepared by the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis, and the comments of OIE Members on this draft document. The Working Group noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis will meet again in February 2008 and recommended that the Group should review Codex recommendations on this topic, as revised in 2007. It also noted that the OIE recommendations provided specific advice on measures to be taken on farm which complement the Codex recommendations that address the entire food chain including the measures to be taken post-farm. Therefore, the Working Group urged the OIE and Codex to ensure that recommendations are consistent wherever possible and that any unnecessary duplication is eliminated. The Working Group recommended that the *ad hoc* Group clarify what is meant by environmental sampling in Article 3.10.2.7 and review Article 3.10.2.8. to make the recommendations more operational and clearly differentiate between what is common practice and what are clear recommendations, in particular the section on Vaccination. The Working Group recommended that the OIE develop a definition for 'pest' – either for use in this Appendix or for use generally in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Working Group provided comment on some of the general food safety related issues raised by Members and made a number of recommendations to modify the text, including the addition of certain definitions from the Codex Code of Practice. The Working Group reviewed the terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group that will be convened to develop recommendations on *Salmonella* detection, prevention and control in broiler chickens and made several recommendations.

9. **Tuberculosis and Brucellosis**

The Working Group discussed the report of the Terrestrial Code Commission on tuberculosis and noted the amendments proposed by the Commission, most of which were not directly relevant to food safety. The Working Group also noted the status report on brucellosis.

10. **Antimicrobial Resistance**

The Working Group was informed about progress in the area of antimicrobial resistance over the last year and that the OIE has finalised its list of Critically Important Antimicrobials, which is now available on the OIE website. The fourth joint FAO/WHO/OIE Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials, to be held on 26 November 2007, was an important forum to discuss the appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health concerns in the use of antimicrobial products. There was also an associated stakeholders meeting. The Working Group also noted that, in addition to the work being undertaken by FAO/WHO/OIE and FAO/OIE meetings, the Codex Task Force has started work in 3 areas: risk assessment policy, risk management measures and risk profiling. The new Codex work would have due regard to the existing work by the OIE/FAO/WHO.

11. **Biotechnology**

The Working Group noted the status of work in Codex regarding biotechnology. As mentioned in the report of the 7th Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (ALINORM 08/31/34), the Codex Draft Guideline for the Conduct of Food Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Recombinant-DNA Animals is at Step 5/8 of the Codex procedure. This guideline identifies the health status of the recombinant animal as one of the factors that is relevant to the safety assessment of recombinant-DNA animals. It was understood that the assessment of animal health status fell within the OIE mandate and was not covered by the Codex guideline. The Working Group noted the report of the 12-14 June 2007 meeting of the OIE Biotechnology *ad hoc* Group and noted that this Group will next meet on 26-29 November 2007. In response to the recommendations of an FAO/WHO expert group, the status of food derived from animals treated with recombinant DNA vaccines will be addressed. The Working Group accepted the invitation for its Chair to be present at this meeting and he will report back to the next Working Group meeting.

12. **Revised version of WHO publication 'Terrorist Threats to Food'**

Dr Schlundt (WHO) briefly summarised the amendments made to the publication *Terrorist Threats to Food* and indicated that WHO's intention is to publish the revised publication as soon as possible.

13. **Work Programme for 2008 and next meeting**

The Working Group reviewed the work programme for 2007 and updated it, based on the progression of relevant texts in the past 12 months and the discussion at this meeting. Priorities for 2008 include: a) identification and tracing of animals and animal products that have resulted from biotechnological

intervention; b) food safety implications of the use in food producing animals of vaccines derived from recombinant biotechnology; c) food safety implications of feed for aquatic animals; d) OIE International Conference on the Identification and Traceability of Animals and Animal Products to be held in technical collaboration with Codex in Buenos Aires in early 2009; e) Salmonellosis in broilers; f) Campylobacteriosis in broilers (on work programme for 2009 pending progress in Codex) and, g) Cysticercosis. The Working Group plans to hold its next meeting in November 2008.

Annex III

THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES IN FOOD SAFETY

The purpose of this paper is to provide guidance to OIE Members in regard to the role and responsibilities of *Veterinary Services* in food safety, to assist them in meeting the food safety objectives laid down in national legislation and the requirements of importing countries.

Definitions

The following definitions, from the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) (1), are relevant to this paper. Throughout the paper, terms that are defined in the *Terrestrial Code* appear in italics.

Veterinarian means a person registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Services means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* and OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (*Aquatic Code*) in the country. The *Veterinary Services* are under the overall control and direction of the *Veterinary Authority*. Private veterinary organisations are normally accredited or approved to deliver functions by the *veterinary authority*.

Veterinary Authority means the governmental authority of a Member Country, comprising *veterinarians*, other professionals and paraprofessionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* in the whole country.

The *Veterinary Statutory Body* is an autonomous authority regulating *veterinarians* and veterinary para-professionals.

Zoonosis means any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from animals to man.

Background

Historically, the *Veterinary Services* were set up to control livestock diseases at the farm level. There was an emphasis on prevention and control of the major epizootic diseases of livestock and of diseases that could affect man (zoonotic diseases). As countries begin to bring the serious diseases under control, the scope of official animal health services normally increases to address production diseases of livestock, where control leads to more efficient production and/or better quality animal products.

The role of the *Veterinary Services* has traditionally extended from the farm to the slaughterhouse, where *veterinarians* have a dual responsibility – epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases and ensuring the safety and suitability of meat. The education and training of *veterinarians*, which includes both animal health (including zoonoses) and food hygiene components, makes them uniquely equipped to play a central role in ensuring food safety, especially the safety of foods of animal origin. As described below, in addition to *veterinarians*, several other professional groups are involved in supporting integrated food safety approaches throughout the food chain. In many countries the role of the *Veterinary Services* has been extended to include subsequent stages of the food chain in the “farm to fork” continuum (2, 3).

Approaches to food safety

The concept of the food production continuum

Food safety and quality are best assured by an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, considering the whole of the food chain. Eliminating or controlling food hazards at source, i.e. a preventive approach, is more effective in reducing or eliminating the risk of unwanted health effects than relying on control of the final product, traditionally applied via a final 'quality check' approach. Approaches to food safety have evolved in recent decades, from traditional controls based on good practices (Good Agricultural Practice, Good Hygienic Practice, etc), via more targeted food safety systems based on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) to risk-based approaches using food safety risk analysis (4).

Risk-based management systems

The development of risk-based systems has been heavily influenced by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures ("SPS Agreement"). This Agreement stipulates that signatories shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment of the risks to human, animal or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by relevant international organizations. Risk assessment, the scientific component of risk analysis, should be functionally separated from risk management to avoid interference from economic, political or other interests. The SPS Agreement specifically recognises as the international benchmarks the standards developed by the OIE for animal health and zoonoses and by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for food safety. In recent decades there has also been a trend towards a redefinition of responsibilities. The traditional approach, whereby food operators were primarily held responsible for food quality while regulatory agencies were charged with assuring food safety, has been replaced by more sophisticated systems that give food operators primary responsibility for both the quality and the safety of the foods they place on the market. The role of the supervisory authorities is to analyse scientific information as a basis to develop appropriate food safety standards (both processing and end product standards) and monitoring to ensure that the control systems used by food operators are appropriate, validated and operated in such a way that the standards are met. In the event of non-compliance, regulatory agencies are responsible to ensure that appropriate sanctions are applied.

The *Veterinary Services* play an essential role in the application of the risk analysis process and the implementation of risk based recommendations for regulatory systems, including the extent and nature of veterinary involvement in food safety activities throughout the food chain, as outlined below. Each country should establish its health protection objectives, for animal health and public health, through consultation with stakeholders (especially livestock producers, processors and consumers) in accordance with the social, economic, cultural, religious and political contexts of the country. These objectives should be put into effect through national legislation and steps taken to raise awareness of them both within the country and to trading partners.

Functions of Veterinary Services

The *Veterinary Services* contribute to the achievement of these objectives through the direct performance of some veterinary tasks and through the auditing of animal and public health activities conducted by other government agencies, private sector *veterinarians* and other stakeholders. In addition to *veterinarians*, several other professional groups are involved in ensuring food safety throughout the food chain, including analysts, epidemiologists, food technologists, human and environmental health professionals, microbiologists and toxicologists. Irrespective of the roles assigned to the different professional groups and stakeholders by the administrative system in the country, close cooperation and effective communication between all involved is imperative to achieve the best results from the combined resources. Where veterinary or other professional tasks are delegated to individuals or enterprises outside the *Veterinary Authority*, clear information on regulatory requirements and a system of checks should be established to monitor and verify performance of the delegated activities. The *Veterinary Authority* retains the final responsibility for satisfactory performance of delegated activities.

At the farm level

Through their presence on farms and appropriate collaboration with farmers, the *Veterinary Services* play a key role in ensuring that animals are kept under hygienic conditions and in the early detection, surveillance and treatment of animal diseases, including conditions of public health significance. The *Veterinary Services* may also provide livestock producers with information, advice and training on how to avoid, eliminate or control food safety hazards (e.g. drug and pesticide residues, mycotoxins and environmental contaminants) in primary production, including through animal feed. Producers' organisations, particularly those with veterinary advisors, are in a good position to provide awareness and training as they are regularly in contact with farmers and are well placed to understand their priorities. Technical support from the *Veterinary Services* is important and both private *veterinarians* and employees of the *Veterinary Authority* can assist. The *Veterinary Services* play a central role in

ensuring the responsible and prudent use of biological products and veterinary drugs, including antimicrobials, in animal husbandry. This helps to minimise the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance and unsafe levels of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin. Section 3.9. of the *Terrestrial Code* contains guidelines on the use of antimicrobials.

Meat inspection

Slaughterhouse inspection of live animals (*ante-mortem*) and the carcase (*post-mortem*) plays a key role in both the surveillance network for animal diseases and zoonoses and ensuring the safety and suitability of meat and by-products for their intended uses. Control and/or reduction of biological hazards of animal and public health importance by *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection is a core responsibility of the *Veterinary Services* and they should have primary responsibility for the development of relevant inspection programmes.

Wherever practicable, inspection procedures should be risk-based. Management systems should reflect international norms and address the significant hazards to both human and animal health in the livestock being slaughtered. The Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CHPM) (5) constitutes the primary international standard for meat hygiene and incorporates a risk-based approach to application of sanitary measures throughout the meat production chain. Section 3.10 of the *Terrestrial Code* contains guidelines for the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection, which complement the CHPM.

Traditionally, the primary focus of the OIE Codes was on global animal health protection and transparency. Under its current mandate, the OIE also addresses animal production food safety risks. The Code includes several standards and guidelines aimed at protecting public health (such as Appendix 3.10.1 on the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through Ante- and Post- Mortem Meat Inspection) and work is underway developing new standards to prevent the contamination of animal products by Salmonella spp. and Campylobacter spp. The OIE and Codex collaborate closely in the development of standards to ensure seamless coverage of the entire food production continuum. The recommendations of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the production and safety of animal commodities should be read in conjunction.

The *Veterinary Authority* should provide for flexibility in the delivery of meat inspection service. Countries may adopt different administrative models, involving degrees of delegation to officially recognised competent bodies operating under the supervision and control of the *Veterinary Authority*. If personnel from the private sector are used to carry out *ante-* and *post-mortem* inspection activities under the overall supervision and responsibility of the *Veterinary Authority*, the *Veterinary Authority* should specify the competency requirements for all such persons and verify their performance. To ensure the effective implementation of *ante-* and *post-mortem* inspection procedures, the *Veterinary Authority* should have in place systems for the monitoring of these procedures and the exchange of information gained. Animal identification and animal traceability systems should be integrated in order to be able to trace slaughtered animals back to their place of origin, and products derived from them forward in the meat production chain.

Certification of animal products for international trade

Another important role of the *Veterinary Services* is to provide health certification to international trading partners attesting that exported products meet both animal health and food safety standards. Certification in relation to animal diseases, including zoonoses, and meat hygiene should be the responsibility of the *Veterinary Authority*. Certification may be provided by other professions (a sanitary certificate) in connection with food processing and hygiene (e.g. pasteurisation of dairy products) and conformance with product quality standards.

Other roles of the *Veterinary Services*

Most reported outbreaks of foodborne disease are due to contamination of foods with zoonotic agents, often during primary production. The *Veterinary Services* play a key role in the investigation of such outbreaks all the way back to the farm and in formulating and implementing remedial measures once the source of the outbreak has been identified. This work should be carried out in close collaboration with human and environmental health professionals, analysts, epidemiologists, food producers, processors and traders and others involved.

In addition to the roles mentioned above, *veterinarians* are well equipped to assume important roles in ensuring food safety in other parts of the food chain, for example through the application of HACCP-based controls and other quality assurance systems during food processing and distribution. The *Veterinary Services* also play an important role in raising the awareness of food producers, processors and other stakeholders of the measures required to assure food safety.

Optimising the contribution of the *Veterinary Services* to food safety

In order for *Veterinary Services* to make the best possible contribution to food safety, it is important that the education and training of *veterinarians* in the roles outlined in this paper meets high standards and that there are national programmes for ongoing professional development. The *Veterinary Services* should comply with the OIE fundamental principles of quality given in Chapter 1.3.3 of the *Terrestrial Code.* Guidelines for the evaluation of *Veterinary Services* are provided in Chapter 1.3.4 of the *Terrestrial Code* and in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of *Veterinary Services* (the OIE PVS Tool).

There should be a clear and well documented assignment of responsibilities and chain of command within the *Veterinary Services*. The national *Competent Authority* should provide an appropriate institutional environment to allow the *Veterinary Services* to develop and implement the necessary policies and standards and adequate resources for them to carry out their tasks in a sustainable manner. In developing and implementing policies and programmes for food safety the *Veterinary Authority* should collaborate with other responsible agencies to ensure that food safety risks are addressed in a coordinated manner.

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Annex IV

GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

Article 1

Introduction and objectives

These guidelines are based on the general principles presented in Article 3.5.1.1. The Guidelines outline for Members the basic elements that need to be taken into account in the design and implementation of an *animal identification system* to achieve *animal traceability*. Whatever *animal identification system* the country adopts, it should comply with relevant OIE standards, including Part 4 for animals and animal products intended for export. Each country should design a program in accordance with the scope and relevant performance criteria to ensure that the desired *animal traceability* outcomes can be achieved.

Article 2

Glossary

For the purpose of this Appendix.

*Desired outcomes***:** describe the overall goals of a programme and are usually expressed in qualitative terms, e.g. 'to help ensure that animals and/or animal products are safe and suitable for use'. Safety and suitability for use could be defined in terms such as animal health, food safety, trade and aspects of animal husbandry.

Performance criteria: are specifications for performance of a programme and are usually expressed in quantitative terms, such as 'all animals can be traced to the *establishment* of birth within 48 hours of an enquiry'.

Reporting means advising the *Veterinary Authority* in accordance with the procedures listed in the programme.

Scope: specifies the targeted species, population and/or production/trade sector within a defined area (country, zone) or compartment that is the subject of the identification and traceability programme.

Transhumance: periodic/seasonal movements of *animals* between different pastures within or between countries.

Article 3

Key elements of the animal identification system

1. Desired outcomes

Desired outcomes should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Authority* and other parties, which should include (depending on scope) animal producers and food processors, private sector veterinarians, scientific research organisations and other government agencies. Desired outcomes may be defined in terms of any or all of the following:

a) animal health (e.g. *disease* surveillance and notification; detection and control of *disease*; vaccination programmes);

b) public health (e.g. surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases and food safety);

c) management of emergencies e.g. natural catastrophies or man-made events;

d) trade (support for inspection and certification activities of *Veterinary Services*, as described in Part 4 which reproduces model international veterinary certificates);

e) aspects of animal husbandry such as animal performance, and genetic data).

2. Scope

Scope should also be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Authority* and other parties, as discussed above. The scope of *animal identification systems* is often based on the definition of a species and sector, to take account of particular characteristics of the farming systems e.g. pigs in pork export production; poultry in a defined compartment; cattle within a defined FMD free *zone*. Different systems will be appropriate according to the production systems used in countries and the nature of their industries and trade.

3. Performance criteria

Performance criteria are also designed in consultation with other parties, as discussed above. The performance criteria depend on the desired outcomes and scope of the program. They are usually described in quantitative terms according to the epidemiology of the disease. For example, some countries consider it necessary to trace susceptible animals within 24-48 hours when dealing with highly contagious *diseases* such as FMD and avian influenza. For food safety, animal tracing to support investigation of incidents may also be urgent. For chronic animal *diseases* that are not zoonoses, it may be considered appropriate that animals can be traced over a longer period.

4. Preliminary studies

In designing *animal identification systems* it is useful to conduct preliminary studies, which should take into account:

a) animal populations, species, distribution, herd management,

b) farming and industry structures, production and location,

c) animal health,

d) public health,

e) trade issues,

f) aspects of animal husbandry,

g) zoning and compartmentalisation,

h) animal movement patterns (including transhumance),

i) information management and communication,

j) availability of resources (human and financial),

k) social and cultural aspects,

l) stakeholder knowledge of the issues and expectations,

m) gaps between current enabling legislation and what is needed long term,

n) international experience,

o) national experience,

p) available technology options,

q) existing identification system(s),

r) expected benefits from the *animal identification systems* and *animal traceability* and to whom they accrue.

Pilot projects may form part of the preliminary study to test the *animal identification system* and *animal traceability* and to gather information for the design and the implementation of the programme.

Economic analysis may consider costs, benefits, funding mechanisms and sustainability.

5. Design of the programme

a) General provisions

The programme should be designed in consultation with the stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*. It should take into account the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes as well as the results of any preliminary study.

All the specified documentation should be standardised as to format, content and context.

To protect and enhance the integrity of the system, procedures should be incorporated into the design of the programme to prevent, detect and correct errors e.g. use of algorithms to prevent duplication of identification numbers and to ensure plausibility of data.

b) Means of animal identification

The choice of a physical animal identifier should consider elements such as the durability, human resources, species and age of the animals to be identified, required period of identification, cultural aspects, animal welfare, technology, compatibility and relevant standards, farming practices, production systems, animal population, climatic conditions, resistance to tampering, trade considerations, cost, and retention and readability of the identification method.

The *Veterinary Authority* is responsible for approving the materials and equipment chosen, to ensure that these means of animal identification comply with technical and field performance specifications, and for the supervision of their distribution. The *Veterinary Authority* is also responsible for ensuring that identifiers are unique and are used in accordance with the requirements of the *animal identification system*.

The *Veterinary Authority* should establish procedures for *animal identification* and *animal traceability* including:

i) the time period within which an animal born on an *establishment* should be identified;

ii) when animals are introduced into an *establishment*;

iii) when an animal loses its identification or the identifier becomes unusable;

iv) arrangements and rules for the destruction and/or reuse of identifiers;

v) penalties for the tampering and/or removal of official animal identification devices.

Where group identification without a physical identifier is adequate, documentation should be created specifying at least the number of animals in the group, the species, the date of identification, the person legally responsible for the animals and/or establishment. This documentation constitutes a unique group identifier and it should be updated to be traceable if there are any changes.

Where all animals in the group are physically identified with a group identifier, documentation should also specify the unique group identifier.

c) Registration

Procedures need to be incorporated into the design of the programme in order to ensure that relevant events and information are registered in a timely and accurate manner.

Depending on the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes, records as described below should specify, at least, the species, the unique animal or group identifier, the date of the event, the identifier of the *establishment* where the event took place, and the code for the event itself.

i) Establishments/owners or responsible keeper

Establishments where animals are kept should be identified and registered, including at least their physical location (such as geographical coordinates or street address), the type of *establishment* and the species kept. The register should include the name of the person legally responsible for the animals at the *establishment*.

The types of *establishments* that may need to be registered include holdings (farms), assembly centres (e.g. agriculture shows and fairs, sporting events, transit centres, breeding centres), *markets*, *abattoirs*, rendering plants, dead stock collection points, transhumance areas, centres for necropsy and diagnosis, research centres, zoos, *border posts*, *quarantine stations*.

In cases where the registration of *establishments* is not applicable e.g. some transhumance systems, the animal owner, the owner's place of residence and the species kept should be recorded.

ii) Animals

Animal identification and species should be registered for each *establishment*/owner. Other relevant information about the animals at each *establishment*/owner may also be recorded e.g. date of birth, production category, sex, breed, *animal identification* of the parents.

iii) Movements

The *registration* of animal movements is necessary to achieve *animal traceability*. When an animal is introduced into or leaves an *establishment*, these events constitute a movement.

Some countries classify birth, *slaughter* and *death* of the animal as movements.

The information registered should include the date of the movement, the *establishment* from which the animal or group of animals was dispatched, the number of animals moved, the destination *establishment*, and any *establishment* used in transit.

When *establishments* are not registered as part of the *animal identification system*, ownership and location changes constitute a movement record. Movement recording may also include means of *transport* and the *vehicle* identifier.

Procedures should be in place to maintain *animal traceability* during *transport* and when animals arrive at and leave an *establishment*.

iv) Events other than movements

The following events may also be *registered*:

- birth, *slaughter* and *death* of the animal (when not classified as a movement),
- attachment of the unique identifier to an animal,
- change of ownership regardless of change of *establishment*,
- observation of an animal on an *establishment* (testing, health investigation, health certification, etc.),
- animal imported: a record of the *animal identification* from the *exporting country* should be kept and linked with the *animal identification* assigned in the *importing country*,
- animal exported: a record of the *animal identification* from the *exporting country* should be provided to the *Veterinary Authority* in the *importing country*,
- animal identifier lost or replaced,
- animal missing (lost, stolen, etc.),
- animal identifier retired (at *slaughter*, following loss of the identifier or death of the animal on a farm, at diagnostic laboratories, etc.).

d) Documentation

Documentation requirements should be clearly defined and standardised, according to the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes and supported by the legal framework.

e) Reporting

Depending on the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes, relevant information (such as *animal identification*, movement, events, changes in numbers of livestock, *establishments*) should be reported to the *Veterinary Authority* by the person responsible for the animals.

f) Information system

An information system should be designed according to the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes. This may be paper based or electronic. The system should provide for the collection, compilation, storage and retrieval of information on matters relevant to *registration*. The following considerations are important:

- have the potential for linkage to traceability in the other parts of the food chain;
- minimisze duplication;
- relevant components, including databases, should be compatible;
- confidentiality of data;
- appropriate safeguards to prevent the loss of data, including a system for backing up the data.

The Veterinary *Authority* should have access to this information system as appropriate to meet the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes.

g) Laboratories

The results of diagnostic tests should record the animal identifier or the group identifier and the *establishment* where the sample was collected.

h) *Abattoirs*, rendering plants, dead stock collection points, markets, assembly centres

Abattoirs, rendering plants, dead stock collection points, *markets* and assembly centres should document arrangements for the maintenance of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* in compliance with the legal framework.

These *establishments* are critical points for control of animal health and food safety.

Animal identification should be recorded on documents accompanying samples collected for analysis.

The components of the *animal identification system* operating within *abattoirs* should complement and be compatible with arrangements for tracking animal products throughout the food chain. At an *abattoir*, *animal identification* should be maintained during the processing of the animal's carcass until the carcass is deemed fit for human consumption.

The *animal identification* and the *establishment* from which the animal was dispatched should be registered by the *abattoir*, rendering plant and dead stock collection points.

Abattoirs, rendering plants and dead stock collection points should ensure that identifiers are collected and disposed of according to the procedures established and regulated within the legal framework. These procedures should minimize the risk of unauthorized reuse and, if appropriate, should establish arrangements and rules for the reuse of identifiers.

Reporting of movement by *abattoirs*, rendering plants and dead stock collection points should occur according to the scope, performance criteria and desired outcomes and the legal framework.

i) Penalties

Different levels and types of penalties should be defined in the programme and supported by the legal framework .

6. Legal framework

The *Veterinary Authority*, with other relevant governmental agencies and in consultation with stakeholders, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of *animal identification system* and *animal traceability* in the country. The structure of this framework will vary from country to country.

Animal identification, *animal traceability* and animal movement should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Authority*.

This legal framework should address:

i) desired outcomes and scope;

ii) obligations of the *Veterinary Authority* and other parties;

iii) organisational arrangements, including the choice of technologies and methods used for the *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*;

iv) management of animal movement;

v) confidentiality of data;

vi) data access / accessibility;

vii) checking, verification, inspection and penalties;

viii) where relevant, funding mechanisms;

ix) where relevant, arrangements to support a pilot project.

7. Implementation

a) Action plan

For implementing the *animal identification system*, an action plan should be prepared specifying the timetable and including the milestones and performance indicators, the human and financial resources, and checking, enforcement and verification arrangements.

The following activities should be addressed in the action plan:

i) Communication

The scope, performance criteria, desired outcomes, responsibilities, movement and registration requirements and sanctions need to be communicated to all parties.

Communication strategies need to be targeted to the audience, taking into account elements such as the level of literacy (including technology literacy) and spoken languages.

ii) Training programmes

It is desirable to implement training programmes to assist the *Veterinary Services* and other parties.

iii) Technical support

Technical support should be provided to address practical problems.

b) Checking and verification

Checking activities should start at the beginning of the implementation to detect, prevent and correct errors and to provide feedback on programme design.

Verification should begin after a preliminary period as determined by the *Veterinary Authority* in order to determine compliance with the legal framework and operational requirements.

c) Auditing

Auditing should be carried out under the authority of the *Veterinary Authority* to detect any problems with the *animal identification system* and *animal traceability* and to identify *possible* improvements.

d) Review

The programme should be subject to periodic review, taking into account the results of *checking*, verification and auditing activities.

Annex V

Model Veterinary Certificate for International Trade in Products of Animal Origin

COUNTRY:

Part I: Details of dispatched consignment

I.1. Consignor
Name

Address

I.2. Certificate reference number

I.3. Veterinary Authority

I.4. Consignee
Name

Address

I.5.Country of origin ISO code* I.6. Zone or compartment of origin**

I.7. Country of destination ISO code* I.8. Zone or compartment of destination**

I.9. Place of origin

Name

Address

I.10. Place of shipment

I.11. Date of departure

I.12. Means of transport
Aeroplane Ship Railway wagon
Road vehicle Other
Identification:

I.13. Expected border post

I.14. CITES permit No(s).**

I.15. Description of commodity

I.16. Commodity code (HS code)

I.17.Total quantity

I.18. Temperature of product
Ambient Chilled Frozen

I.19. Total number of packages

I.20. Identification of container/seal number

I.21.Type of packaging

I.22. Commodities intended for use as:
Human consumption Animal feed Further processing Technical use
Other

I.23.

I.24. Identification of the commodities

Species (Scientific name)	Nature of commodity	Treatment type	Approval number of establishments	Number of packages	Net weight	Lot ID/date code

*: optional
**: if referenced in Part II

COUNTRY:

Part II: Zoosanitary information

II.a. Certificate reference number

II. The undersigned Official Veterinarian certifies that the product(s) of animal origin described above satisfy(ies) the following requirements:

Official Veterinarian

Name and address (in capital letters):

Official position

Date:

Signature:

Stamp

APPENDIX X.X.X

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE ON THE VETERINARY CERTIFICATES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN LIVE ANIMALS, HATCHING EGGS AND PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

General: Please complete the certificate in capitals. To confirm an option, mark the box with a cross (X). Ensure that no portion of certificate is left blank in a manner that would allow it to be amended. Non-applicable fields may be crossed out.

PART I. DETAILS OF DISPATCHED CONSIGNMENT

Country: Name of the country that issues the certificate.

Box I.1. Name and full address of the natural or legal person dispatching the consignment. Information on telephone and fax numbers or e-mail address is recommended.

Box I.2. The certificate reference number is the number used by the Veterinary Authority of the country to identify the certificate.

Box I.3. Name of the *Veterinary Authority*.

Box I.4. Name and full address of the natural or legal person to whom the consignment is destined at the time the certificate is issued.

Box I.5. Name of the country from which the *animals*, *hatching eggs*, embryos, semen, ova or brood combs are being exported. For products, name the country(ies) where the finished products were produced, manufactured or packed.

"ISO code" refers to the international standard two-letter code (ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2 Code) for a country produced by the International Organization for Standardization.

Box I.6. Name of the zone or compartment of origin, if relevant, in part II of the certificate.

Box I.7. Name of the country of destination.

"ISO code" refers to the international standard two-letter code (ISO 3166-1 Alpha-2 Code) for a country produced by the International Organization for Standardization.

Box I.8. Name of the zone or compartment of destination, if relevant, in part II of the certificate.

Box I.9. Name and full address of the place(s) from which the *animals* or products are being exported; and official approval or registration number when required.

For *animals* and *hatching eggs*: the *establishment(s)*, wildlife or hunting reserves.

For semen: the *artificial insemination centre*.

For embryos and ova: the name, address and official approval number of the collection team (not the premises of storage).

For products of animal origin: the premises from which the products are to be dispatched.

Box I.10. Name of the place from which the *animals* or products are being shipped (this will be a land, sea or airport).

Box I.11. Date of departure. For *animals* include the expected time of departure.

Box I.12. Details of the means of transport.

Identification of the means of transport at the time the certificate is issued: for air transport, the flight number; for maritime transport, the name of the vessel; for rail transport, the number of the train and the wagon and for road transport, the registration number of the road vehicle and the number of the trailer where used.

Box I.13. Name of expected *border post* and, if available, its UN/LOCODE (refer to the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations).

Box I.14. CITES permit number(s) if the *commodity* concerns species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Box I.15. Describe the *commodity* or use the titles as they appear in the Harmonised System of the World Customs Organization.

Box I.16. Heading or HS Code of the Harmonized System set up by the World Customs Organization.

Box I.17. Total quantity of the *commodity*.

For *animals*, *hatching eggs* and animal products (semen, ova, embryos) give the total count of *animals*, eggs or straws.

For products give the gross weight and the net weight in kg of the whole consignment.

Box I.18. Temperature of products for transport and storage.

Box I.19. Total number of boxes, cages or stalls in which the *animals* or *hatching eggs* are being transported. Total number of cryogenic containers for semen, ova, embryos. Total number of packages for products.

Box I.20. Identify the containers/seal numbers where required.

Box I.21. Identify the type of packaging of products as defined in Recommendation No. 21 – Code of Passengers, Type of Cargo, Package and Packaging Materials of UN/CEFACT (United Nation Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business).

Box I.22. Intended use of the imported *animals* or products.

Breeding/rearing: applies to *animal for breeding or rearing* and *hatching eggs*.

Slaughter: applies to *animal for slaughter*.

Game restocking: applies to game for the purpose of rebuilding stocks.

Pet: applies to *animals* kept for companionship or enjoyment. This excludes livestock species.

Circus/exhibition: applies to *animals* used in a circus, show or exhibition.

Human consumption: applies to products intended for human consumption.

Animal feed: means any product of animal origin (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed to *animals*.

Further processing: applies to products of animal origin which have to be further processed before being suitable for end use.

Technical use: applies to products not intended for human or animal consumption. These include animal products that are intended for use in the pharmaceutical, medical, cosmetic and other industries. Such products may be subjected to extensive further processing.

Other: intended for purposes not listed elsewhere in this classification.

Box I.23. Mark, if appropriate.

Box I.24. Details on the nature of the *commodity* sufficient to identify it.

For *animals* and *hatching eggs*: Species (scientific name); Identification system; Identification number or other identification details; Quantity and if required, Breed / Category (e.g. heifer, steer, layer, broiler); Age; Sex. For animals holding an official passport, the international animal passport number should be provided, and a copy of the details on the passport attached to the certificate.

For embryos, ova and semen: Species (Scientific name); Identification mark according to the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) or the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR); Collection date; Approval number of the centre/team; Identification of the donor animal; Quantity. If required, Breed.

For bees and brood combs: Category means hive with bees, swarm, consignment of bees (worker bees, drones), queen bees, brood-combs, royal cells, etc. Identification details include peculiarities (e.g. Marks or age or weight or surface). Breed / Variety if required.

For products of animal origin: Species (Scientific name); Nature of commodity; Treatment type; approval number of establishment(s) (abattoir; cutting plant; processing plant; cold store); Lot

identification / date code; Quantity; Number of packages; Net weight.

PART II. ZOOSANITARY INFORMATION

Box II. Complete this part in accordance with the requirements agreed between the *Veterinary ~~s~~ Authorities* of the importing and exporting countries in accordance with the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Box II.a. Reference number: see box I.2.

Official veterinarian: Name, address, official position, date of signature and official stamp of the *Veterinary Services.*

CHAPTER 1.2.1.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 1.2.1.1.

Safety of ~~I~~*international trade* in *animals* and animal products depends on a combination of factors which should be taken into account to ensure unimpeded trade, without incurring unacceptable risks to human and animal health.

Because of differences between countries in their animal health situations, various options are offered by the *Terrestrial Code*. The animal health situation in the *exporting country*, in the *transit country* or *countries* and in the *importing country* should be considered before determining the requirements for trade. To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of *international trade*, *Veterinary Authorities* of Members should base their import requirements on the OIE standards~~,~~ and guidelines.

These requirements should be included in the model certificates approved by the OIE which ~~form~~ are included in Part 4 of the *Terrestrial Code.*

Certification requirements should be exact and concise, and should clearly convey the wishes of the *importing country*. For this purpose, prior consultation between *Veterinary Authorities* of *importing* and *exporting countries* may be necessary. It enables the setting out of the exact requirements so that the signing *veterinarian* can, if necessary, be given a note of guidance explaining the understanding between the *Veterinary Authorities* involved.

When officials of a *Veterinary Authority* wish to visit another country for matters of professional interest to the *Veterinary Authority* of the other country, the latter should be informed.

Article 1.2.1.2.

Responsibilities of the importing country

1. The import requirements included in the *international veterinary certificate* should assure that *commodities* introduced into the *importing country* comply. *Importing countries* should restrict their requirements to those necessary to achieve the national appropriate level of protection. If these are stricter than the OIE standards, they should be based on an import *risk analysis.*
2. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include requirements for the exclusion of pathogens or animal *diseases* which are present in the *importing country* and are not subject to any *official control programme*. The measures imposed on imports to manage the *risks* posed by a specific pathogen or *disease* should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by measures applied as part of the *official control programme* operating within the *importing country*.
3. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include measures against pathogens or *diseases* which are not OIE listed, unless the *importing country* demonstrated through import *risk analysis*, carried out in accordance with Section 1.3., that the pathogen or *disease* poses a significant *risk* to the *importing country*.
4. The transmission by the *Veterinary Authority* of certificates or the communication of import requirements to persons other than the *Veterinary Authority* of another country, necessitates that copies of these documents are also sent to the *Veterinary Authority*. This important procedure avoids delays and difficulties which may arise between traders and *Veterinary Authorities* when the authenticity of the certificates or permits is not established.

This information is the responsibility of *Veterinary Authorities*. However, it can be issued by private sector *veterinarians* at the place of origin of the *commodities* when this practice is the subject of appropriate approval and authentication by the *Veterinary Authority*.

5. Situations may arise which result in changes to the consignee, identification of the means of transportation, or *border post* after a certificate is issued. Because these do not change the animal or public health status of the consignment, they should not prevent the acceptance of the certificate.

Article 1.2.1.3.

Responsibilities of the exporting country

1. An *exporting country* should, on request, supply the following to *importing countries*:
   a) information on the animal health situation and national animal health information systems to determine whether that country is free or has *free zones* of *listed diseases*, including the regulations and procedures in force to maintain its free status;
   b) regular and prompt information on the occurrence of notifiable *diseases*;
   c) details of the country's ability to apply measures to control and prevent the relevant *listed diseases*;
   d) information on the structure of the *Veterinary Services* and the authority which they exercise according to Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.;
   e) technical information, particularly on biological tests and vaccines applied in all or part of the national territory.
2. *Veterinary Authorities* of *exporting countries* should:
   a) have official procedures for authorisation of certifying *veterinarians*, defining their functions and duties as well as conditions covering possible suspension and termination of the appointment;
   b) ensure that the relevant instructions and training are provided to certifying *veterinarians*;
   c) monitor the activities of the certifying *veterinarians* to verify their integrity and impartiality.
3. The Head of the *Veterinary Service* of the *exporting country* is ultimately accountable for veterinary certification used in *international trade*.

Article 1.2.1.4.

Responsibilities in case of an incident related to importation

1. *International trade* involves a continuing ethical responsibility. Therefore, if within the recognised *incubation periods* of the various *diseases* subsequent to an export taking place, the *Veterinary Authority* becomes aware of the appearance or reappearance of a *disease* which has been specifically included in the *international veterinary certificate*, there is an obligation for the to notify the *importing country*, so that the imported *commodities* may be inspected or tested and appropriate action be taken to limit the spread of the *disease* should it have been inadvertently introduced.
2. Equally, if a *disease* condition appears in imported *commodities* within a time period after importation consistent with the recognised *incubation period* of the *disease*, the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* should be informed so as to enable an investigation to be made, since this may be the first available information on the occurrence of the *disease* in a previously free herd. The *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country* should be informed of the result of the investigation since the source of *infection* may not be in the *exporting country*.
3. In case of suspicion, on reasonable grounds, that an official certificate may be fraudulent, the *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country* and *exporting country* should conduct an investigation. Consideration should also be given to notifying any third country(ies) that may have been implicated. All associated consignments should be kept under official control, pending the outcome of the investigation. The *Veterinary Authorities* of all countries involved should fully cooperate with the investigation. If the certificate is found to be fraudulent, every effort should be made to identify those responsible so that appropriate action can be taken according to the relevant legislation.

CHAPTER 1.2.2.

CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Article 1.2.2.1.

Protection of the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian

Certification should be based on the highest possible ethical standards, the most important of which is that the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian must be respected and safeguarded according to Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4.

It is essential not to include in the requirements additional specific matters which cannot be accurately and honestly signed by a veterinarian. For example, these requirements should not include certification of an area as being free from non-notifiable diseases the occurrence of which the signing veterinarian is not necessarily informed about. Equally, to ask certification for events which will take place after the document is signed is unacceptable when these events are not under the direct control and supervision of the signing veterinarian.

Certification of freedom from diseases based on purely clinical freedom and herd history is of limited value. This is also true of diseases for which there is no specific diagnostic test, or the value of the test as a diagnostic aid is limited.

The note of guidance referred to in Article 1.2.1.1. is not only to inform the signing veterinarian but also to safeguard professional integrity.

Article 1.2.2.2.

Certifying veterinarians

Certifying veterinarians should:

1. be authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* to sign *international veterinary certificates*;
2. only certify matters that are within their own knowledge at the time of signing the certificate, or that have been separately attested by another competent party authorized by the *Veterinary Authority*;
3. sign only at the appropriate time certificates that have been completed fully and correctly; where a certificate is signed on the basis of supporting documentation, the certifying veterinarian should be in possession of that documentation before signing;
4. have no conflict of interest in the commercial aspects of the *animals* or animal products being certified and be independent from the commercial parties.

Article 1.2.2.3.

Preparation of international veterinary certificates

Certificates should be drawn up in accordance with the following principles:

1. Certificates should be designed so as to minimize the potential for fraud including use of a unique identification number, or other appropriate means to ensure security. Paper certificates should bear the official identifier of the issuing *Veterinary Authority.* Each page of a multiple page certificate should bear the unique certificate number and a number indicating the number of the page out of the total number of pages. Electronic certification procedures should include equivalent safeguards.
2. They should be written in terms that are as simple, unambiguous and easy to understand as possible, without losing their legal meaning.
3. If so required, they should be written in the language of the *importing country*. In such circumstances, they should also be written in a language understood by the certifying veterinarian.
4. They should require appropriate identification of *animals* and animal products except where this is impractical (e.g. *day-old birds*).
5. They should not require a veterinarian to certify matters that are outside his/her knowledge or which he/she cannot ascertain and verify.
6. Where appropriate, they should be accompanied, when presented to the certifying veterinarian, by notes of guidance indicating the extent of enquiries, tests or examinations expected to be carried out before the certificate is signed.

7. Their text should not be amended except by deletions which must be signed and stamped by the certifying veterinarian. The signature and stamp must be in a colour different to that of the printing of the certificate.
8. Replacement certificates may be issued by a *Veterinary Authority* to replace certificates that have been, for example, lost, damaged, contain errors, or where the original information is no longer correct. These must be clearly marked to indicate that they are replacing the original certificate. A replacement certificate should reference the number and the issue date of the certificate that it supersedes. The superseded certificate should be cancelled and where possible, returned to the issuing authority.
9. Only original certificates are acceptable.

Article 1.2.2.4.

Electronic certification

1. Certification may be provided by electronic documentation sent directly from the *Veterinary Authority* of the *exporting country* to the *Veterinary Authority* of the *importing country*. Such systems also normally provide an interface with the commercial organisation marketing the *commodity* for provision of information to the certifying authority. The certifying veterinarian must have access to all information such as laboratory results and animal identification data.
2. Electronic certificates should carry the same information as conventional paper certificates.
3. The *Veterinary Authority* must have in place systems for the security of electronic certificates against access by unauthorised persons or organisations.
4. The certifying veterinarian must be officially responsible for the secure use of his/her electronic signature.

Annex VI

OIE Activities on Good Farming Practice

OIE and FAO agreed to further develop the document “Guide to good farming practices” originally drafted by the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group. To perform this task an *ad hoc* Group met at OIE Headquarters in July 2007. The collaboration with FAO with respect to good farming practices provides for a seamless coordination between OIE and Codex standards to address risks of food-borne illness, taking account of hazards arising ‘from the stable to the table’. In addition to micro-organisms, the Guide will address risks due to contaminants of animal feed/pasture, such as heavy metals, pesticides, and veterinary medicines.

While not forming part of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code the Guide will nonetheless be recognised as an important source of advice for the purposes of international trade. The GGFP will serve as a guide for Members and as such it does not contain detailed technical recommendations. More specific guidelines will be developed, in particular for developing countries. These will be prepared by technical agencies such as FAO with the objective of making applicable the implementation of good farming practices in these socio-economic and cultural contexts.

It is intended that the Guide be presented in booklet format.

Annex VII

OIE Activities on biotechnology

The OIE has been considering issues related to biotechnology since 1996 at the request of its International Committee. At the 73rd OIE General Session in May 2005, the OIE took an important step with the presentation of a technical item on Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products and the adoption of Resolution XXVIII on the "Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products" by the OIE International Committee.

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology met in Paris in April and again in October 2006. At the first meeting, three subgroups discussed Reproductive Animal Biotechnologies, Vaccines and Nanotechnology. The *ad hoc* Group also revised the draft chapter of the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals on Principles of Veterinary Vaccine Production.

At the second meeting, following revised objectives, the *ad hoc* Group commenced the development of guidelines in two areas of work, ie animal health risks arising from somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) cloning of livestock and horses; and new vaccine technologies. The *ad hoc* Group also undertook to monitor developments on nanotechnology and to advise the OIE on suitable procedures for the identification and tracing of biotechnology-derived animals and their products.

In 2007 the *ad hoc* Group met in November 2007 in Paris and recommended that OIE should consider whether there are any issues related to food safety, animal health or welfare, in the case of animals treated with non-heritable DNA constructs (including recombinant vaccines).

Annex VIII

OIE Activities on Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial resistance is a priority topic for the OIE in formulating international standards that take into account the needs of Members and the impact of the use of antimicrobials on animal and human health.

In 1998 the OIE started to address this issue through the formation of an *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. An international conference on the topic was held in Paris in October 2001 and four standards on antimicrobial usage were adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2003. A further standard on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance was adopted in May 2004.

The standards currently contained in the *Terrestrial Code* are:

- Appendix 3.9.1.: Guidelines for the harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.
- Appendix 3.9.2.: Guidelines for monitoring the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry.
- Appendix 3.9.3.: Guidelines for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.
- Appendix 3.9.4.: Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobials in animals.

Relevant text is also found in the OIE *Terrestrial Manual* (Chapter I.1.10: Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing).

The OIE is actively cooperating in this area through joint activities in addition to participation in the activities of the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH).

The OIE has established a list of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance, which was unanimously adopted by the OIE International Committee at the 75th General Session in May 2007.

A tripartite meeting with WHO and FAO met in November 2007 in Rome to consider this OIE list of veterinary important antimicrobials and the revised WHO list of critically important antimicrobials, to find an appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health considerations, to identify the priority combinations for risk-benefit assessment, to review current management strategies, and to provide recommendations on future FAO, WHO and OIE activities.

Important recommendations were:

- both lists of CIA should be revised on a regular basis (e.g. every second year) in a collaborative and coordinated approach by the OIE, WHO and FAO
- the OIE and WHO, when revising the lists of CIA, should specifically consider and harmonise classification of cephalosporin and tetracycline. For the OIE, it is suggested to refine further the categorization of CIA with respect to specific animal diseases
- risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance arising from use in animals should follow the structured approach as described in the OIE guidelines

- individual country efforts on risk assessment and surveillance should be supported by international organisations
- the FAO/OIE/WHO are invited to strengthen the current collaboration to provide scientific advice in the field of antimicrobial resistance thorough JEMRA in collaboration with the OIE

Annex IX

OIE Activities on Salmonellosis

The development of guidelines on salmonellosis has been on the OIE's work programme for several years. At its meeting in November 2006, the Working Group agreed that in the first instance, the *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis should concentrate on measures to be applied at the farm level in laying hens.

The *ad hoc* Group met in February 2007 and drafted guidelines on Methods for On-Farm Detection, Control and Prevention of *S.* enteritidis and *S.* typhimurium in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption. The guidelines complement the Codex Alimentarius draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products (ALINORM 07/28/13, appendix II). They cover the pre-harvest part of the production chain, including all parts of the production pyramid (from elite flock to commercial layer).

The *ad hoc* Group met again in February 2008, reviewed the reports of the 75th OIE General Session, the Terrestrial Code Commission and the Working Group. The *ad hoc* Group addressed Member's comments.

Then the *ad hoc* Group drafted guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of *Salmonella* spp. in broilers and reviewed the Code Appendix 3.4.1. Hygiene and Disease Security Procedures in Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries.

To avoid duplication the *ad hoc* Group reviewed the text in the draft Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption, the current Appendix 3.4.1. and the new draft text on broilers and produced two texts:

1. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production.
2. Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of Salmonella spp. in Poultry.

The Terrestrial Code Commission met in March 2008, reviewed these two new texts and presented these texts to Members for comment.

The draft texts are available on the OIE website at Annex XXXIV of the report of the March 2008 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission (www.oie.int). The OIE welcomes comments from the CAC Delegates on this issue.

Annex X

OIE work in Animal Feeding

Terrestrial animal feeds

The need to cover the whole food chain, from the farm to the consumer, within a global context, is acknowledged by all Members of the OIE and CAC. As a result the OIE's work in food safety focuses on the animal production phase of the food chain for animals and animal products, to complement the CAC's work on the post-harvest phase.

The Working Group recognised the need for the OIE to establish complementary guidelines on animal feeding to address the associated animal health as well as the public health risks. The OIE established an *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding that met in October 2006 and prepared draft Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed. These draft guidelines were circulated to Members for comment and further work will be undertaken to address Member's comments and to develop specific recommendations pertaining to commercial feed production and on farm feed production.

Aquatic Animal Feeds

An *ad hoc* Group met for the second time in August 2007. The Group addressed Members comments on Draft Guidelines for the Control of Aquatic Animal Health Hazards in Aquatic Animal Feeds. The Aquatic Code Commission reviewed the draft guidelines and the 76th General Session adopted the guidelines in May 2008. (*These guidelines are not included in this paper, because they are only Animal Health oriented).*

Because the food safety issue within the guidelines was not addressed, the Working Group reviewed the draft guidelines to advice on the most appropriate way to address food safety. Because Members considered that the food safety issues associated with feeding aquatic animals should be addressed, the Working Group agreed that it would review any further text covering food safety that might be produced through the OIE procedure.

The Working Group recommended that the guidelines on terrestrial and aquatic animal feed should be as closely aligned as possible. The Working Group recommended that OIE expert(s) further review the Guidelines on Feeding Terrestrial Animals. OIE will continue to closely monitor developments on aquatic animal feed in Codex.

Annex XI

RESOLUTION No. XXV

Animal Production Food Safety

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, established by the Director General in 2002, held its seventh meeting in November 2007 and drafted a work programme for 2008.
2. The Working Group has developed a document on *The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety*, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to OIE Members in regard to the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Services in food safety, to assist them in meeting food safety objectives laid down in national legislation and the requirements of importing countries.
3. The Working Group has developed various texts aimed at minimizing food safety risks associated with hazards in animal production, including a *Guide to Good Farming Practices*. A draft of the Guide, prepared by an *ad hoc* Group, was reviewed by the Working Group and will be finalised and published in cooperation with FAO.
4. The Working Group reviewed a revised draft document *Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed,* in light of comments from OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission. The Working Group also made recommendations on the development of OIE guidelines relating to feed for aquatic animals.
5. The Working Group discussed the report of an *ad hoc* Group on OIE Model Veterinary Certificates, in light of the comments of OIE Members and the Terrestrial Code Commission, and made a number of recommendations on the further development of this document.
6. The Working Group reviewed the draft *Guidelines on the Detection, Control and Prevention of Salmonella Enteritidis and S. Typhimurium in Poultry Producing Eggs for Human Consumption* produced by an *ad hoc* Group in light of OIE Member comments on this draft. The Working Group also reviewed the terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group that will be convened to develop recommendations on the detection, prevention and control of salmonella in broiler chickens.
7. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission continued to work together to ensure that standards relevant to animal production food safety developed by either party are consistent and take a 'whole food chain' approach to food safety,
8. The work on animal production food safety benefits from cooperation with FAO and WHO, which provide additional expert advice and expertise in regard to food safety, zoonotic diseases and related issues.

THE COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General retain the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him and the relevant Specialist Commissions on issues relevant to animal production food safety.
2. The participation of FAO and WHO high level experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex.
3. The 2008 work programme prepared by the Working Group guide the OIE's activities on animal production food safety during the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with resources needed to address the identified priorities.
4. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group give special attention to its work on the development of texts on animal identification and traceability; animal feed, including feed for aquatic animals; and salmonellosis in poultry; for consideration by the International Committee.

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Annex XII

RESOLUTION No. XXXII

Implications of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products

CONSIDERING

That the World Trade Organization, under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, formally recognises the OIE as the reference organisation responsible for establishing international standards relating to animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases

That the OIEs current 172 Members and the international community at large recognise the OIE as the organisation responsible for setting standards for animal disease surveillance and animal health and welfare, with the objective of providing a scientific basis for safe international trade in animals and animal products and improving animal health and welfare worldwide,

That the OIE International Committee has adopted international standards for animal welfare during transport, slaughter and killing for sanitary purposes, and the OIE is developing new standards in the animal welfare domain, and

NOTING

That commercial standards, established by private companies without direct involvement of governments, are increasingly coming into play in international trade, and are of great concern for a majority of OIE Members

THE COMMITTEE

DECIDES

1. To reaffirm the standards published by the OIE in the field of animal health including zoonoses, as the global official sanitary guarantees for preventing the risks associated with international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade, and promoting the prevention and control of animal diseases worldwide.
2. To reaffirm the standards published by the OIE in the field of animal welfare as the global reference standard for OIE Members.
3. To ask the Director General to work with relevant public and private international organisations with the objective that concerns of Members are taken into consideration and that private standards, where used, are consistent with and do not conflict with those of the OIE.
4. To ask the Director General to support Members in taking whatever steps are available to them to

ensure that private animal health and animal welfare standards, where used, are consistent with and do not conflict with those of the OIE.

5. To ask the Director General to continue with the relevant activities to further strengthen the OIE's work in standard setting for animal health, including zoonotic diseases, and animal welfare and to continue to implement and reinforce capacity building programmes to assist Members in implementing OIE standards. Capacity building includes communication for Veterinary Services in order to convince consumers on the efficiency of OIE standards to protect health and animal welfare.

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