



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

Twentieth Session

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ACTIVITIES OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS
OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE 20TH SESSION OF THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION
AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

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

A joint approach by OIE and CAC to standard-setting on certain key topics, including National Food Control Systems, is strongly recommended to ensure appropriate harmonisation of standards and recommendations while avoiding duplication of effort, overlap and gaps in standard setting work.

Background

The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) are two of the three international standard setting organizations recognised under the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Agreement. In this context, the OIE is responsible for setting standards on animal health (including zoonotic diseases) and the CAC on food safety. For food products of animal origin, hazards to human health may arise at the farm or at any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Since 2001, at the request of its Members, the OIE mandate has included setting standards for animal production food safety, i.e. the management of risks arising from the level of the farm to primary processing.

In 2002, the OIE established a Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety with the view to improving the coordination and harmonisation of standard setting activities of OIE and CAC. The Secretary of Codex and, on an observer basis, the Chair of Codex, regularly attend the annual meeting of the Working Group. Through this mechanism and through participation in each other's standard setting procedures, the OIE and CAC collaborate closely in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps, duplications and contradictions in the SPS standards of these two WTO reference organisations.

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

General information

The OIE standards provide the legal basis for the quality of veterinary services and aquatic animal health services, and these address animal production food safety and related activities, including the legislative framework. OIE Members and donors have strongly supported the OIE PVS Pathway, a global initiative to strengthen veterinary services and aquatic animal health services, based on the use of the OIE *Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services* (OIE PVS Tool).

In connection with the evaluation of national food control systems, in relation to the on-farm part of the food chain, and veterinary services, the OIE PVS Evaluation is the most relevant independent evaluation tool available. The PVS assessment addresses food safety, including veterinary inspection at abattoirs and food processing facilities, and the certification of animal products for trade.

To date, 119 countries have requested a PVS evaluation and 111 missions have been completed. Many Member Countries have also requested follow up activities aimed at strengthening infrastructure, e.g. OIE Gap Analysis (a quantitative evaluation of a country's needs and priorities based on the outcome of the PVS evaluation), modernisation of veterinary legislation, and securing investments for sustainable capacity building.

General information about the OIE *PVS Tool* is available on the OIE internet site at: <http://www.oie.int/en/support-to-oie-members/pvs-evaluations/oie-pvs-tool/>

Draft and Proposed Draft Principles and Guidelines for National Food Control Systems

Given the strong support of OIE Members for the OIE PVS Pathway to strengthen national infrastructures, the OIE has appreciated the positive response of CCFICS in taking account of this initiative in its work and the addition of references to the OIE standards in the draft document.

The OIE also recommends that CCFICS highlight, where relevant, the importance of coordination between authorities responsible for human and animal health. Such coordination is critical to the development and implementation of effective on-farm programmes for food safety, for example on-farm measures for the control of veterinary drug residues and for salmonellosis and trichinellosis.