



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

## AD-HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

## Seventh Session

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## REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO, WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

## OIE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MEETING OF THE AD-HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the *ad-hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding for the opportunity to submit this paper to this Task Force. On-going close collaboration between our two organisations in this area of standard setting work will ensure that gaps and duplication in regard to OIE and Codex standards are avoided.

1. Background information

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 at the level of the farm to primary processing.

In 2002, the OIE established a Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (APFSWG) 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 attends 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 their products.

2. Relevant OIE standards

The OIE has adopted standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) and in the Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code) on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed and on the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents.

## a) Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed

Terrestrial Code Chapter 6.3. The control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed was adopted in 2009. The objective of this chapter is to provide guidance on animal feeding in relation to animal health and to complement the guidance provided by the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) and other relevant Codex texts. Chapter 6.3. includes cross references to relevant Codex standards. The chapter aims at ensuring the control of animal and public health hazards through adherence to recommended practices during the production (growing, procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution) and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients for terrestrial animals. The chapter may be viewed at: [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htfile=chapitre\\_1.6.3.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htfile=chapitre_1.6.3.htm)

*Aquatic Code* Chapter 6.1. Control of hazards in aquatic animal feeds was adopted in 2008. This text complements and makes a cross reference to CAC/RCP 54-2004. The recommendations in this chapter address hazards to aquatic animal health in aquatic animal feed. The chapter may be viewed at:

[http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=171&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_1.6.1.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=171&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_1.6.1.htm)

b) Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in terrestrial and aquatic animals

Revised *Terrestrial Code* Chapters 6.7. *Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes* and 6.8. *Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food producing animals* were adopted at the General Session in May 2012 and may be viewed at:

<http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>

Chapters 6.9. *Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine* and 6.10. *Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals* are currently being revised.

Two new *Aquatic Code* Chapters 6.4. *Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in aquatic animals* 6.5. *Development and harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes for aquatic animals* were adopted in May 2012.

The relevant chapters may be viewed at:

<http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/aquatic-code/access-online/>

3. Draft Guidelines on Application of Risk Assessment for Feed (REP12/AF Appendix II) and Proposed Draft Guidance for use by Governments in Prioritizing the National Feed Hazards (CX/AF 13/7/5)

The OIE notes that the scope of both of these documents clearly states that the guidelines are only for hazards which may adversely affect human health, and that agents which may adversely affect animal health but which have no impact on food safety, are not considered as they are not within the scope of the Codex Alimentarius.

In light of the work being undertaken by the CCGP eWG on Codex/OIE Cooperation to '*identify means to consistently reference each other's standards and guidance, as appropriate*', the OIE would request that a more explicit reference be made to the work of the OIE with respect to agents which may adversely affect animal health to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the OIE and the CAC.