



## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE

#### Forty-eighth Session

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#### INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) wishes to thank the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) for the opportunity to contribute to its standard development process.
2. The relationship between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and Codex is particularly important because risks to human health and food safety may arise at the farm and any subsequent stage in the food production continuum. Therefore, risk management must be tailored to detect and address risks at the appropriate stage(s). The OIE is responsible for setting standards in the domains of animal health and veterinary public health, including animal production food safety, to manage risks arising from the farm level through to primary processing, and Codex from primary processing through to consumption. The standard setting activities of the OIE and Codex for food safety and international trade are therefore interdependent, and the relevant standards produced by both organisations must be complementary.
3. Regular participation in each other's standard setting work improves the coverage by official standards of the whole food production continuum in the standards and guidelines of the two organisations. This is particularly evident in the recent standards developed by both organisations on *Salmonella* in poultry/chicken meat and *Trichinella* in pigs/pork, and the current work on *Salmonella* in pigs/pork and cattle/beef, which are aligned and address all recognised risks to animal health, human health and food safety in the farm to fork food production continuum.

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

4. The OIE established the Animal Production Food Safety (APFS) Working Group in 2002, with the view of improving the coordination and harmonisation of standard setting activities of the OIE and Codex. The Codex Secretary or representatives and, on an observer basis, the Chairperson of Codex, regularly attend the annual meeting of the APFS Working Group. Through this mechanism and through participation in each other's standard setting procedures, the OIE and Codex collaborate closely in the development of standards relevant to the whole food production continuum, taking care to avoid gaps, duplications and contradictions. OIE Members strongly support this collaboration.
5. Collaboration between OIE and Codex should not occur uniquely at the international level. The OIE actively encourages its national Delegates to collaborate with their national delegations to Codex to ensure, at national level, alignment of their national approach to relevant standards under development by the OIE and Codex.
6. The OIE invites the chair or relevant experts of a Codex Working Group to OIE ad hoc Groups, when relevant, and considers this to be an important means of ensuring alignment of relevant standard development work between the two organisations.

#### OIE standard setting work addressing *Salmonella* in pigs and cattle

7. The standard development work for two new chapters addressing *Salmonella* in pigs and cattle has been underway since late 2014. Two draft chapters 'Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in commercial pig production systems (Chapter 6.Y.)' and 'Prevention and control of *Salmonella* in commercial cattle production systems (Chapter 6.X.)' were developed by OIE expert *ad hoc* Groups, which included a representative from the FAO and the Codex Secretariat.
8. The aim of these chapters is to contribute to the reduction of food-borne illness in humans by controlling and where possible, reducing the prevalence of *Salmonella* infection in pigs and cattle, respectively, and they should be read in conjunction with the recently adopted Codex *Guidelines for the control of nontyphoidal Salmonella spp. in beef and pork meat* (CAC/GL 87-2016).

9. Both draft chapters have been circulated for Member Country comment on two occasions. In September, 2015, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) reviewed Member Countries' comments on both of the draft chapters, made relevant amendments and circulated them for Member Country comments in their September 2016 meeting report with the possibility of proposal for adoption at the 85th General Session in May 2017.

10. The OIE draft chapters are available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/code-commission-reports/meetings-reports/> (Annex 10 and Annex 11 of the Code Commission meeting report - September 2016).

11. The OIE appreciates the high level of collaboration between OIE and Codex during the development of these standards that will result in the development of an integrated food chain approach to the prevention and control of Salmonella in pig/pork and cattle/beef.

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

12. Given that there have been considerable developments and changes in the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians and Veterinary Services in food safety since the adoption of Chapter 6.1. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety (in 2008) and Chapter 6.2. Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection (in 2006), the Code Commission has agreed that these chapters should be reviewed and updated.

13. The APSF Working Group reviewed and amended Chapter 6.1. During their 2015 meeting and the revised draft chapter was circulated for Member Country comments in the February 2016 meeting report of the Code Commission. Member comments will be considered by the APFS Working Group at their next meeting in December 2016.

14. 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.