

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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Agenda Item 4

CX/FH 22/53/4
September 2022

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE
Fifty-third Session
San Diego, United States of America
29 November – 2 December 2022 and 8 December 2022

INFORMATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (WOAH)

(Prepared by WOAH)

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) thanks the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) for the opportunity to provide this update on relevant WOAH activities and to contribute to its standards development process.

2. NEW OFFICIAL LOGO AND COMMON ACRONYM OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

2. For those that perhaps are not aware, on 25 January 1924, twenty-eight countries agreed to create the Office International des Epizooties in Paris. In 2003, in view of the evolving scope and missions of the Organisation, the World Assembly of Delegates authorised the use of the common name 'World Organisation for Animal Health' alongside the statutory name and the acronym 'OIE'. The Assembly's intention was to improve the recognition of the Organisation by opting for a less technical common name that would fully reflect the Organisation's missions.

3. Now, nearly two decades later, the Organisation has become the world authority on animal health, an ambassador of the One Health approach and recognised beyond the veterinary sphere, in particular by government authorities, giving the Organisation increasing political resonance. These developments prompted the World Assembly to adopt a resolution at the 89th General Session in May 2022 regarding the new logo and common name of the Organisation.

4. Consequently, in English, the new common acronym 'WOAH' matches the Organisation's common name, the aim being to achieve greater consistency in the terms used on an everyday basis as our stakeholders found the juxtaposition of the common name with the historic acronym 'OIE' confusing. The Organisation has also adopted a new, more modern official logo, representing on the one hand the three pillars of the One Health approach and on the other hand the dynamism, independence and global reach of our Organisation.

3. CONTROL OF *CAMPYLOBACTER* AND *SALMONELLA* IN CHICKEN MEAT

5. WOAH is following the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) to review pre- and post-harvest control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp. in poultry meat and the consequential work to update the Codex Guidelines for the Control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* in Chicken Meat (CXG 78-2011). Given that these Guidelines reference the Terrestrial Code Chapters 6.5. Biosecurity procedures in poultry production and 6.6. Prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in poultry for control measures during primary production, the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission) will be informed of the progress of the CCFH work and on the need to consider the JEMRA recommendations regarding pre-harvest measures.

4. REVISION OF CHAPTER 6.10. RESPONSIBLE AND PRUDENT USE OF ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

6. The Code Commission agreed to review Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine of the Terrestrial Code but considered it important to wait until the revised Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005) had been adopted, to avoid duplications and inconsistencies between the two standards.

7. At its September 2021 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to start this work and requested that the review of Chapter 6.10. be undertaken by the WOAHA Working Group on AMR. The Commission will consider a draft revised chapter at its September 2022 meeting, and also whether the other AMR chapters in the Terrestrial Code (i.e. Chapters [6.7.](#), [6.8.](#), [6.9.](#) and [6.11.](#)) need to be amended as a consequence of the proposed revision of Chapter 6.10. All decisions will be reported in the Commission's September 2022 report.

5. WOAHA INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS UPDATES

8. At the 2022 WOAHA General Assembly the following revisions, of relevance to CCFH, were adopted and are included in the 2022 editions of the Aquatic Code and Terrestrial Code, as relevant.

9. Revised Glossary definitions for 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services' in the *Terrestrial Code* and definitions for 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Aquatic Animal Health Services' for the Aquatic Code were adopted to improve clarity and remove unnecessary descriptive information, ensuring that the definitions remained applicable to the diversity of administrative arrangements in WOAHA Members.

10. Revisions to Chapter 8.5. 'Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus*' and Chapter 15.4. 'Infection with *Taenia solium* (Porcine cysticercosis)' of the Terrestrial Code to include new developments in the area of vaccine production and vaccination and to ensure alignment between the corresponding chapters in the Terrestrial Manual were adopted.

6. COLLABORATION

11. In March 2022, the Tripartite partnership for One Health, bringing together the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAHA), formally became the Quadripartite as it signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

12. The work of the newly expanded alliance will be focused on a One Health Joint Plan of Action, which includes six main action tracks: enhancing countries' capacity to strengthen health systems under a One Health approach; reducing the risks from emerging or resurfacing zoonotic epidemics and pandemics; controlling and eliminating endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical or vector-borne diseases; strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks; curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance and better integrating the environment into the One Health approach.

13. Collaboration between WOAHA and Codex should not occur uniquely at the international level. WOAHA continues to encourage 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 both organisations.