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# codex alimentarius commission



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD  
HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION



JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

## JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

### CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

#### *Twenty-eighth Session*

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### **INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE) RELEVANT TO CODEX WORK**

**(Submitted by OIE)**

1. As an observer Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) would like to thank the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (CAC) for the opportunity to participate in its Commission and Committees meetings. We hope the CAC shares with us the positive perception of this collaboration.
2. Recognising the usefulness of the normative framework provided by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the OIE is keen to formalise its collaboration with the CAC. In this respect, the OIE has already renewed its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) by ratifying two new mutual agreements. Within this cooperation and on request of the Codex Executive Committee, FAO and WHO will continue discussions with OIE on how to foster the relations in between Codex and OIE. The resulting synergies will benefit both organisations. This collaboration should be facilitated by the fact that almost all OIE Member Countries are also CAC Member Countries.
3. An important step has been taken by the CAC by requesting the CCGP to draft Guidelines on Cooperation between the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission and International Intergovernmental Organizations on the Establishment of Standards and Related Texts. We welcome the work done by the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) and we support its adoption by this 28<sup>th</sup> session of the CAC as a first step of a new spirit of collaboration.
4. To help coordination between the CAC and the OIE, the OIE Member Countries gave the Director General a mandate to constitute the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group. Its current membership includes the Chairman and the Secretary of the CAC, the Chairman of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, the Director of the Food Safety Department of the World Health Organization (WHO) and experts from OIE Member Countries of all Regions. A high level FAO expert will become a member at the next meeting of the Working Group.

5. One of the Working Group's roles is to help the OIE define more precisely its policies on the development of standards aimed at protecting consumers from food-borne hazards arising from animals, at the production level of the food chain. The Working Group held its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in March 2005. A summary report is provided in Appendix I.
6. The OIE has just adopted its IV strategic plan for the period 2006-2010. It retains three key elements from the previous strategic plan: Provision of international disease information; development and implementation of scientifically-based standards; and methods for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses, and the determination of Member Countries animal health status. Two new strategic elements are added: capacity building and the strengthening of OIE's influence in policy design, research and governance in animal health and welfare. A summary report is provided in Appendix II.
7. The OIE has already contributed to the production of the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, the draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat and the draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance. The OIE believes that it is essential to further improve this cooperation in order to enhance the harmonised development of the following priorities:
  - Animal identification and traceability; the OIE to work with the CAC and the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) in order to produce harmonised standards to facilitate the traceability links between live animals and their products (see Appendix III for more details).
  - Testing, inspection and certification; the OIE to work with the CAC and the CCFICS (and other relevant international organisations such as the IDF) to review international standards with a view to maximising harmonisation especially for export health certificates (see Appendix IV for more details).
  - Antimicrobial resistance; follow up of the CAC, the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) as well as the OIE developments (see Appendix V for more details).
  - Good farming practices; draft texts considering CAC and FAO work (see Appendix I for more details).
  - Salmonellosis and other food borne diseases linked with animal production; take into account the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis at the production end (see Appendix I for more details).
8. The OIE held its 73<sup>rd</sup> General Session from 22 to the 27 May 2005. It is the annual meeting where the International Committee of OIE Member Countries votes for adoption of proposed OIE International Standards; it also provides the OIE with guidance on its future work. It unanimously adopted Resolution XXIV on Animal Production Food Safety which indicates what the OIE will do in this field in the short term. The Resolution is appended in Appendix VI for the information for the CAC.

**Summary Report of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety****Introduction**

Following a request by OIE's International Committee to strengthen activities in the food safety area and desiring to further develop collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), a permanent *Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety* (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) was established. The Working Group's role is to coordinate OIE activities related to animal production food safety and to provide advice to the Director-General of OIE and relevant Specialist Commissions in these areas.

The Working Group held its first meeting in November 2002 and has held three meetings since then, the latest at OIE Headquarters in Paris on 21-23 March 2005. The first three meetings were chaired by Dr Andrew McKenzie: he did an excellent job in getting the Working Group off to a flying start and putting its work on a firm foundation. He has now stepped down as chair and the Working Group's fourth meeting was chaired by Dr Stuart Slorach.

***Modus operandi* of the Working Group**

At its meeting in March 2005, the Working Group reviewed and revised its *modus operandi*, based on the terms of reference established by the 70<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session, and has clarified its role as:

1. Providing advice to the OIE Director-General on policy and strategic issues related to OIE's work on animal production food safety, which has the goal of reducing food-borne risks to human health by preventing, eliminating or controlling hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products. The priorities were identified as:
  - Identifying and addressing gaps, contradictions, areas where harmonisation is necessary and duplications in the work of the OIE and other international/ intergovernmental organisations (in particular the CAC) involved in food safety standards,
  - Strengthening the relationship to other relevant standard-setting organisations (in particular the CAC), through enhanced informal exchange,
  - Improving coordination between competent authorities with animal health and food safety responsibilities at the national and regional levels,
  - Recommending a work programme to address the mandate of the OIE on animal production food safety;
2. Acting in a steering group capacity, as required by the OIE Director-General, regarding the work of OIE expert groups:
  - Advising the Director-General on membership, scope and terms of reference for expert groups,
  - Reviewing texts arising from relevant expert groups for consideration by the relevant Specialist Commissions.

Intended outputs addressed to the OIE Director-General and the relevant Specialist Commissions include discussion papers, policy documents and reports.

## **Update on some OIE/Codex activities**

At its 27<sup>th</sup> Session in 2004, the CAC reiterated its interest for increased co-operation with OIE and suggested that FAO and WHO initiate discussions with OIE in accordance with an earlier recommendation of the Executive Committee of the CAC. At present there is still no formal agreement between the two organisations, but cooperation is continuing on an informal basis. Codex appreciates the active participation and contribution of OIE in the work of its subsidiary bodies and the CAC has also recommended that collaboration between OIE and Codex be strengthened at the national and regional levels. The current thinking in Codex is that cooperation with OIE should be maintained throughout the standard development process, including the initial phase of the drafting of texts, as well as enhanced mutual information exchange.

## **Antimicrobial resistance**

Two OIE/FAO/WHO expert meetings, held in Geneva and Oslo, recommended the creation of a Joint Codex/OIE Task Force on antimicrobial resistance. The Director-General of OIE has indicated that, in principle, OIE would accept the proposal to establish such a Joint *ad hoc* Task Force and to share the costs of operating such a joint activity. However, the CAC has not yet decided on its approach to the issue, which will be discussed at its forthcoming meeting in July 2005. The Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods finalised its discussions on a draft Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance in October 2004 and forwarded it to the CAC for adoption.

The Working Group noted the importance of the issue of antimicrobial resistance for trade in animal products due to the risks to public health, and encouraged Member Countries and relevant organisations to provide comments to the OIE on the proposed revisions to the Code Appendices on 'Guidelines for the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine' and 'Risk Assessment for Antimicrobial Resistance Arising from the Use of Antimicrobials in Animals'. The Working Group encouraged the FAO and WHO to take into account the OIE work when developing guidelines on risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance. The Working Group concurred with the proposed OIE definition for antimicrobials and noted the benefits of a harmonised definition. The Working Group noted the work on critically important antimicrobials underway in the OIE and WHO, and recommended that the organisations work together to ensure a coordinated list.

## **Good farming practices**

The Working Group reviewed a revised document on good farming practices. The Working Group requested OIE Headquarters to redraft the document in line with the comments received and taking into account the draft FAO paper on Good Agricultural Practices, the Codex Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, the Codex draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat and the IDF Guide to Good Dairy Farming Practices.

## **Role and functionality of veterinary services**

This document is intended to provide advice to countries where the veterinary services have both public and animal health objectives and to assist in providing effective links between animal health and public health work. The Working Group requested that the OIE Secretariat redraft the document in the light of the comments received and circulate it among Working Group members before the next meeting, with a view to a final position in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code).

## **Certification**

OIE is interested in working with Codex on combined certificates when this was possible and the OIE Director-General asked the Working Group to recommend a suitable way of advancing the work. The Working Group identified some key points, namely that OIE and Codex should agree on a list of minimum requirements for a certificate, that the certificate should be applicable regardless of which Competent Authority was making the certification (e.g. veterinary services or public health services), and that an electronic certification system should be further developed. The Working Group recommended that the OIE provide input into the ongoing work of CCFICS, including participation in the working group established by

CCFICS on the revision of the Codex Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates, outlining its proposal for a combined certificate.

### **Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through *ante-* and *post-mortem* meat inspection**

A revised version of the paper was discussed and agreed as a Working Group document. The OIE Secretariat will finalise the document in line with the discussion, with a view to placing it on the OIE Website as an information document and, refine and reduce the document, including links to the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat, for circulation to the Working Group members, with a view to a final position in the *Terrestrial Code*.

#### **Bovine tuberculosis**

The Working Group reviewed the work of the OIE *ad hoc* group in revising the current *Terrestrial Code* chapter on bovine tuberculosis, and welcomed the new emphasis placed on the food safety aspects of the disease. The Working Group recommended that Articles 2.3.3.8 and 2.3.3.9 refer to the relevant Codex Codes of Practice covering meat and meat products, and that there be a differentiation between measures recommended for infected and free countries/zones/herds (as has been done in the article dealing with milk and milk products).

The Working Group recommended that the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on brucellosis be revised through a risk-based approach for the food safety aspects and taking into account the above comments.

#### **Revision of the OIE list of diseases**

The Working Group discussed the principles underpinning the new OIE single list of terrestrial diseases, and the criteria used for determining whether a disease would be listed. The Working Group encouraged the OIE in its work and recommended that the OIE continue to screen against the listed criteria significant human pathogens associated with foodborne illness, e.g. *Salmonella* species, for inclusion in the list.

The Working Group believed that, in reviewing the criteria for the inclusion of zoonoses for compulsory notification by Member Countries, the OIE should take account of all risk management options, including alternatives to listing, e.g. for some human pathogens associated with foodborne illness. If other risk management options prove to be more effective and less trade restrictive than compulsory reporting, they should be chosen. These risk management options could include measures at the production or processing stages of the food chain, and may lead to additional chapters in appropriate OIE and/or Codex codes.

#### **Animal identification and traceability**

The Working Group was informed about the initial work underway in OIE Headquarters on animal identification and traceability. It also noted that Codex had agreed on a definition of traceability/product tracing for its purposes, and CCFICS was now developing guidelines on traceability for Member Countries through a working group. The Working Group noted the relevance of traceability for both animal health and food safety - among the reasons for progressing work on animal identification and traceability were the benefits in having the ability to trace forward and backwards within the food continuum.

The Working Group recommended that the OIE coordinate its work with that of Codex on traceability, including at the working level through the OIE *ad hoc* group and CCFICS. The Working Group requested that the OIE include information on its work in its report to the CAC. The Working Group reviewed the draft terms of reference of the *ad hoc* group and suggested some improvements.

## **Future Work Programme**

The Working Group discussed issues identified at its previous meeting and which still needed to be addressed, and agreed the following additional work and priorities for 2005:

### Horizontal issues

- animal identification and traceability – underway through an OIE *ad hoc* group
- testing, inspection and certification
- antimicrobial resistance - Working Group to follow up Codex and OIE developments
- most effective approaches to zoonoses – listing (*ad hoc* group on disease notification) or alternative approaches (*ad hoc* group on emerging zoonoses)
- good farming practices – revise, through establishment of an *ad hoc* group if necessary
- guidelines for animal feeding, addressing the animal health issues
- summary of document on ‘Control of hazards of public health and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection’.

### Disease-specific OIE texts

- Terrestrial Code chapter on bovine tuberculosis – underway for possible adoption
- Terrestrial Code chapters on brucellosis – subject to adoption of tuberculosis chapter
- salmonellosis – take into account Codex (CCFH) and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis; initially *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs

### Continue to strengthen relationship between OIE and Codex by

- encouraging enhanced OIE input into Codex texts
- developing a method for the most effective utilisation of Codex expertise in the work of OIE *ad hoc* Groups

### Development of new texts

- “The role of veterinary services in the reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level” through establishment of an *ad hoc* group as resources permit.

## **Executive Summary of the IV OIE Strategic Plan**

### **Framework of the Fourth Strategic Plan**

The World Organisation for Animal Health was founded in 1924 as the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE) to provide international cooperation and coordination against the spread of animal diseases. Eighty years later, the core mandate of the organisation has been modified to become “the improvement of animal health throughout the world” because it is recognized that controlling the spread of animal diseases is best achieved by ensuring the health of animals wherever they are.<sup>1</sup> The improvement of animal health has net positive consequences for human health (including through food safety) and animal welfare and it has net benefits for economic development and the alleviation of poverty especially in rural populations. International cooperation and coordination of actions based on the scientific assessment of risks to animal health remain the principal means of achieving these benefits.

The Fourth Strategic Plan addresses matters that affect countries’ abilities to trade in animals and animal products, raising issues of access to markets for safe and acceptable food products and the question of benefiting from the rights and obligations acquired by Members of the World Trade Organisation under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. It takes into account the economic, social and environmental consequences of animal disease control measures. It also addresses fundamental issues of protecting livestock from devastating diseases, the consequences of which and the subsequent economic losses are felt most severely in the poorest of the world’s countries. Reduction of the animal disease burden is linked to poverty reduction in these countries and is an essential element of the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations to be achieved by 2015.

The Plan also stresses the capacity of the Organisation to address the consequences of those animal diseases that are also diseases in humans (zoonoses), or have the potential to be harmful to public health. The OIE will remain the key international organization providing professional science-based advice on ways to identify, control and where possible eradicate these diseases, and will work in cooperation with other professional international organisations such as the FAO and the WHO to achieve this.

Finally, the Fourth Strategic Plan proposes new solutions for delivering its strategic objectives, from strengthening the Organisation’s reputation for scientific excellence in its normative work to the introduction of new mechanisms for capacity-building for national Veterinary Services.

### **New Directions**

The Fourth Strategic Plan of the OIE covers the period 2006 to 2010 and was developed by the Administrative Commission of the Organisation following extensive and inclusive consultation with Regional Commissions of the OIE and the Member Countries.

The global vision of the OIE enunciated in the Third Strategic Plan has been retained for the current planning period. In fact, the Fourth Strategic Plan retains three of the four strategic elements of the previous Plan, with minor modifications as these have been identified with the fundamental mandate of the Organisation:

- Provision of international disease information;
- Development and implementation of scientifically-based standards in relation with the World Trade Organisation (WTO); and
- Prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses, and the determination of animal health status.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout the Strategic Plan reference to the terms “animals”, “animal disease(s)”, “animal products” and “livestock” should be taken to mean both terrestrial and aquatic animals unless otherwise stated.

Two new strategic elements are added. The first of these, **capacity building**, has been included as a result of overwhelming interest expressed by Member Countries for the Organisation to take an active role in this area. Because of its mandate, the primary role of the OIE in capacity building is seen as one of a catalyst, enhancing linkages between national Veterinary Services and financial and development institutions. One of the main channels of support is the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) operated by the World Trade Organisation in cooperation with the World Bank and in which the OIE is an active partner and which is intended to strengthen the role of developing Member Countries in the standards-setting process as described in the Doha Ministerial Declaration. In addition to its role as a catalyst for major capacity building activities, the OIE will also provide support to Member Countries wishing to become more fully engaged in the work of the Organisation in the form of training materials and training programmes for official Delegates, especially new Delegates.

The second new element deals with **strengthening OIE's influence on policy design, research and governance in animal health and welfare**. This element brings together a wide variety of activities undertaken by the Organisation especially in the policy design and research into animal diseases and the role of OIE's Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres; it is not therefore entirely "new" but should bring a new impetus to the Organization's work in this area. Within the part of this element dealing with "governance", emphasis is also placed on the capacity of the OIE to assist Member Countries to resolve disputes, on a voluntary basis, in accordance with the procedures set out in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

***The Strategic Objectives 2006-2010:***

1. *To maintain and improve the provision of timely and accurate animal disease information, including information on zoonoses, by making the best use of scientific data modelling, modern information technologies and non official information tracking systems.*
2. *To maintain and strengthen the role of the OIE as a reference organisation for scientifically-based standards to the international community on all matters concerning animal health and zoonoses, animal welfare, diagnosis and control of diseases including the assessment of animal health status, and sanitary safety in international trade.*
3. *To provide scientifically-based recommendations on measures for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases including zoonoses, taking into account the economic, social and environmental impacts of such measures, and to provide services for the determination of animal health status in relation to specific diseases.*
4. *In cooperation with partners, to strengthen the capacity of member countries in their efforts to participate in the development of, and to apply international standards and guidelines for animal health and welfare, including zoonoses.*
5. *To strengthen OIE's involvement in policy design and governance related to decision making in animal health and welfare including capacity building, policy research, effective communication, and the "mediation" of potential disputes.*

### **Delivering the Strategic Objectives**

The Fourth Strategic Plan introduces four issues that cut across the five major strategic elements and which are essential for their successful delivery. It is in these areas that the growth of the Organisation's work will be concentrated between 2006 and 2010.

The first of these is the strengthening the OIE's reputation for **scientific excellence**. OIE will continue to ensure that the work of its scientific bodies is soundly based and draws upon the best available scientific information. To enhance the depth and coverage of this information, the OIE will strengthen the work of its scientific Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories using techniques ranging from direct financial support to the encouragement of laboratory-to-laboratory cooperation ("twinning"). Transparency in the scientific decision-making processes will continue to be assured. The scientific decisions of the OIE will be such that they would be able to withstand external scientific scrutiny and peer-review.



The OIE will also give strong attention to the implications of **diseases transmitted from animals to humans (zoonoses)**. Lessons learned during the period of the Third Strategic Plan in handling issues such as Sudden Acute Respiratory Symptoms (SARS), Avian Influenza, and the occurrence in Asia and North America of BSE will provide the basis for international responses to unexpected or unusual animal disease outbreaks affecting human health, with the collaboration of other competent agencies such as the WHO.

One of the major means of delivering the strategic objectives of the Fourth Strategic Plan will be enhanced **communication**. Considerable efforts and resources will be dedicated to ensuring that the information technology, communications and publications systems of the Organisation will remain at the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness throughout the planning period. The visibility of the OIE to the general public, media, decision-makers, veterinary professionals and farmers will be enhanced significantly.

Delivery of the Fourth Strategic Plan will require **cooperation with other partners** at many institutional levels. During the period of the Third Strategic Plan, cooperative agreements were concluded with the principal international intergovernmental organisations working in related technical fields, as well as with a number of developmental and financial institutions, and with the private sector. In the period covered by the Fourth Strategic Plan, attention will be paid to issues of practical cooperation for improving international coordination.

### **Institutional arrangements**

The Fourth Strategic Plan includes recommendations for a renovation of its **basic texts** to take into account the cumulative Decisions and Resolutions of its governing body, the International Committee. The Plan recognizes the important contribution to the overall strategic work of the OIE provided by its Regional Commissions and Regional Representations. Regional institutional arrangements, including budgeting provisions, will be addressed during the planning period. The relationship between the International Committee, the Administrative Commission and the Director-General will be examined with a view to ensuring efficient and transparent governance of the Organisation.

The vision of the Fourth Strategic Plan is for a stronger, energetic work programme. This will require adequate financial resources based primarily on the assessed contributions of OIE's Member Countries and on voluntary contributions. For the first of these, the Fourth Strategic Plan foresees adjustments to the design and scale of assessed contributions in order to facilitate the recovery of contributions from all Members; new members will also be recruited. For voluntary contributions, there will be greater flexibility in how such contributions can be made and from which sources; nevertheless, the independence of the Organisation will not be affected.

### **Next Steps**

The Strategic Plan is to be completed by an initial Programme of Work that gives effect to the objectives enunciated in the Plan. This will be submitted for adoption to the International Committee in 2006. It is recommended that the Administrative Commission review the progress towards achieving these objectives during the third year of the Plan (2008) with a view to making such adjustments to the Programme of Work as may be required to meet the objectives described by the year 2010.

The Director-General will also propose estimates of the resources required to implement the Strategic Plan on the basis of both regular and voluntary contributions including the new modalities for the use of Trust Funds, as well as proposals for the allocation of these resources according to the Programme of Work.

**OIE Work on Traceability and Cooperation with the CAC**

Animal identification and traceability have become issues of increasing interest and are closely related with disease control procedures as an epidemiological tool, with a heavy impact on matters such as animal health, public health and trade.

The OIE is aware of the need for international standards on animal identification and traceability of live animals. A specific request came to the OIE by its Member Countries through:

- the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East in Muscat (Oman) in October 1999 in Recommendation No. 2, Systems of animal identification and their importance for disease surveillance,
- the OIE International Committee in the Resolution No. XXX at the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session in May 2004,
- the OIE Regional Commission for Africa in Khartoum (Sudan) in February 2005 in Recommendation No. 1, Organisation and management of transhumance in Africa,

The international standards provided by the OIE are, in the same way as the Codex standards, in force under the WTO SPS Agreement. The OIE standards are grouped in the OIE Terrestrial Code that is being updated regularly. The concept of traceability is already mentioned in several chapters of this Code:

- Chapter 1.3.4. Guidelines for the evaluation of veterinary services
- Chapter 2.2.2. Aujeszky's disease
- Chapter 2.2.9. Trichinellosis
- Chapter 2.3.3. Bovine tuberculosis
- Chapter 2.3.4. Enzootic bovine leucosis
- Chapter 2.3.13 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
- Chapter 2.4.8. Scrapie
- Chapter 2.6.7. Classical swine fever

The OIE has assessed the situation on animal identification and traceability worldwide through a questionnaire sent to all OIE Member Countries in 2004. This questionnaire gathered information about the status of each of the countries in order to perform an analysis on the issues of: competent authorities and regulations, registration systems, mandatory animal identification, purposes of animal identification, elements used in animal identification, documentation used for animal movements, harmonisation and standardisation procedures applied by the Member Countries, how animal identification and traceability relate to factors such as public health, animal health, trade, bioterrorism, economic aspects and the OIE's role in this respect. Most of the Member Countries replied that they did think the OIE should develop international rules and guidelines.

The lack of a definition for identification and traceability of live animals has not assisted in having an international and common perception of this topic among the OIE member countries. Thus the OIE needs to work on relevant definitions, taking into account the definitions adopted by the CAC and the International Organisation for Standardisation.

Traceability is not an end in itself but rather a tool which, in some circumstances, is used to seek information, or even to guarantee the veracity of a piece of information where necessary, and to carry out measures of surveillance, isolation, or even destruction of products or animals in connection with public health or animal health measures. Good examples of the application of animal identification and traceability are in the above mentioned chapters of the OIE Terrestrial Code.

The OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group agreed, during its March 2005 meeting, on the terms of reference for the *Ad hoc* Group on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals. It also underlined the importance of the cooperation between the two "sister" organisations, OIE and Codex.

On 14-16 June 2005 the OIE will convene an expert meeting (an *ad hoc* Group) on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals. One expert from the *Codex Alimentarius* Secretariat will attend in order to ensure the coordination with the CAC work in this area. The *ad hoc* Group will be asked to start by agreeing on key definitions and then enumerate a set of principles for good live animal identification and traceability. After this, based on the produced principles, the group should lay out the main points that constitute a good system for identification and traceability of live animals and the outcomes required. Finally, the group should develop a set of recommendations for a practical implementation of the system. This may need a series of meetings.

Such *ad hoc* Group will take into account the current activities of the CAC related to traceability in order to ensure a *continuum* between animals and products traceability.

In parallel the OIE is willing to take part in the work undertaken by CAC (notably CCFICS) in this field by contributing to its forthcoming Committee and Working Group meetings.

The exchange of information between the two organisations is crucial for the harmonised development of standards. To best serve their “clients” both Codex and OIE have to keep in mind that their Member Countries need a traceability system that encompasses the entire food chain without gaps and duplications.

**OIE work on Certification and cooperation with the CAC**

To better address its Member Countries' needs, the OIE is updating its standards on certification. Considering the relevant work already done by the CAC, cooperation with CAC is necessary to obtain, when possible, combined certificates in order to promote harmonisation and avoid contradictory standards for both Codex and OIE Member Countries.

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code includes several appendices on certificates for international trade and the procedures related to it. Those certificates address trade of animals and their products among OIE Member Countries.

The OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group identified some key points for the revision of the certification system:

1. that OIE and CAC should agree on a list of minimum requirements for a certificate,
2. that the certificate should be applicable regardless of which Competent Authority is providing the certification (e.g. veterinary services or public health services), and
3. that an electronic certification system should be further developed.

As also suggested by the Working Group, the OIE intends to provide its input to the ongoing work of CCFICS, including participation in the working group established by CCFICS on the revision of the Codex Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates, outlining its proposal for a combined certificate.

Addressing the first key point for the revision of the certification system, the OIE started by comparing the OIE and Codex certification systems:

- Table 1 shows the points that are in common between the Codex and OIE standards related to certification. This table shows that there is already a solid starting point for the harmonisation process.
- Table 2 shows the minor differences between the Codex and OIE standards related to certification. This is the area where the collaboration between the two organisations can easily produce good outputs.
- Table 3 shows the significant differences between the Codex and OIE standards related to certification. This table reflects the two organisations' different approach to certification. The divergence is linked with the basic differences in the mandates and objectives of the two organisations. These diverging perspectives should be kept in mind in addressing both public health and animal health needs of Member Countries.

This first step in trying to compare the Codex and OIE standards on certification is aimed at stimulating the discussion with the CAC, as first step, and afterwards with CCFICS.

The OIE supports the work already undertaken by IDF in the CCMMP on the Codex Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products.

For the best results on this harmonisation work on certification, OIE believes that it would be desirable for both Organisations to revise their standards in close collaboration. The final goal will be to achieve a single certificate per product (recognised by both the Codex and the OIE) that would simplify the exporting/importing procedures, when this is possible. These single certificates would cover only the fields where both the CAC and the OIE have competence: the raw materials of animal origin.


**Table 1. Common points between CAC and OIE standards on certification**

| <b>Subject</b>   | <b>OIE standards</b>   | <b>Codex standard</b>  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Mandate</b>   | Sanitary safety of international trade:<br>Zoonosis, human hazards transmitted through animals<br>[Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2004 (TAHC): Foreword . CAC Procedure Manual Fourteenth edition Article 1]   | Safety of consumer:<br>Zoonosis, human hazards transmitted through animals   |
| <b>Recognitions</b>  | WTO Agreements:<br>Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)   |  |
| <b>Scope of the standards</b>                              | Animal products  |  |
| <b>Definitions</b>   | Certificate, Certifying officer, Import requirement, Equivalence of sanitary measures, Official inspection systems and official certification systems<br>(CAC/GL 20-1995 Section 2 . TAHC: Article 1.1.1.1.)   |  |
| <b>Principles for food import and export certification</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fitness for purpose</li> <li>- Risk assessment</li> <li>- Efficiency</li> <li>- Harmonization of national legislations using International standards</li> </ul> (CAC/GL 20-1995 Section 3 . TAHC: Foreword and User' guide)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equivalence</li> <li>- Transparency</li> <li>- Special and differential treatment (WTO)</li> <li>- Control and inspection procedures</li> <li>- Certification validity</li> </ul>                   |
| <b>Drawing up certificate</b>                              | <u>General requirements:</u><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Security measures</li> <li>- Standard format</li> </ul> (CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 3 . TAHC: Foreword and User' guide)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language</li> <li>- Writing style</li> <li>- Paper or electronic certificates</li> </ul>  |
|  | <u>Details of the consignment for meat certificates:</u><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantity</li> <li>- Coordinates of exporter and importer</li> <li>- Country of dispatch</li> <li>- Traceability: on going</li> </ul> (CAC/GL 38-2001 . TAHC: Appendix 4.2.1). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Country of destination</li> <li>- Identity, location of production establishment</li> <li>- Address/es &amp; number/s of veterinary approval abattoir/s &amp; cutting-up establishment/s</li> </ul> |

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Drawing up certificate</b> | <p><u>The Concept of Maximum Residue Limits:</u><br/>The OIE and the Codex are sensible to the presence of veterinary drugs and pesticide residues in feed and food. (Draft TAHC guidelines. CAC/MRL 2 . CAC/MRL 3))</p>  |
|                               | <p><u>Attestations:</u><br/><i>Status of production</i> (e.g. licensing details or the number of veterinary approval for abattoir)<br/><i>Product conformity</i><br/>( TAHC: Part 4. CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 6 §18</p>   |
|                               | <p><u>Responsibilities of certifying officers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be designated by the certifying body</li> <li>- Be independent</li> <li>- Be fully conversant with the requirements to which they are attesting</li> <li>- Only certify matters which are within their own knowledge</li> </ul> <p>(TAHC: Article 1.2.2.3.. CAC/GL 38-2001, Section 6. §22—23)</p> |
|                               | <p><u>Instruction for completing paper and electronic certificate</u><br/>(TAHC: Article 1.2.2.2 . CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 6 §7-15)</p>  |
|                               | <p><u>Presentation of original certificates</u><br/>Importer or consignee has to ensure that the product is presented to the importing country's authorities with the original certificate. (TAHC: Article 1.2.2.2 §8 . CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 6 §9)</p>  |

Table 2. Minors differences between CAC and OIE standards on certification

| Subject   | OIE standards   | Codex standards  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Issuing of Certificates</b>                      | Veterinary administration<br>↳ Via Certifying veterinarians<br>(Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Article 1.3.3.1.) | Certification Bodies<br>↳ Via Certifying officers<br>(CAC/GL 20-1995 Section 2)                  |
| <b>Designation of Certificates</b>                  | International Veterinary Certificates   | Official Certificate / Certificate   |
| <b>Principles for food and export certification</b> | Animal products <b>must</b> be accompanied by a certificate<br>(TAHC: Article 1.2.4.6 §1 / Article 1.4.5.3. §1)   | Animal products <b>should</b> be accompanied by a certificate<br>(CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 2 §2)   |
| <b>Drawing up certificate</b>                       | <b><u>Detail of consignment</u></b><br>(TAHC: Appendix 4.2.1. . CAC/GL 38-2001)                                   |  |
|   | <i>Identification of the product:</i><br>-Type of portions of meat<br>- No equivalence                            | <i>Identification of the product:</i><br>-Nature of the food<br>-Name of the food                |
|   | <i>Type of package</i>  | <i>Type of package</i> → No specification  |
|   | <i>Transport</i><br>- Nature<br>- Identification  | <i>Transport</i><br>- Temperatures<br>- Handling<br>more detailed regarding transport conditions |
|   | <b><u>Maximum Residue Limits (MRL)</u></b>  |  |
| Preventives recommendations<br>(Draft GGPF):        | MRL: quantitative data<br>(CODEX STAN 193-1995 (Rev.1-1997) . CAC/MRL 2 .<br>CAC/MRL 3)                           |  |

|                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Drawing up certificate</b> | <b><u>Attestations</u></b><br>(TAHC: Article: 1.2.1.2. . CAC/GL 38-2001, section 6.§18)   |  |
|                               | <i>Bilateral/multilateral agreement</i><br>Reference in OIE code but not in guidelines concerning certification<br><i>Health statue:</i><br>OIE listed disease              | <i>Bilateral/multilateral agreement</i><br>Reference to this type of agreement in certificate<br><i>Health statue:</i><br>zoonosis |
|                               | <b><u>Instructions for completing paper certificates</u></b><br>(TAHC: Article 1.2.2.2.. CAC/GL 38-2001 Section 6 §7-15)  |  |
|                               | - to affix official stamp<br>- to specify the address of the certifying veterinarian on the paper certificate<br>- to specify the place of the signature of the certificate |  No specification                               |
|                               | <b><u>Replacements certificates</u></b><br>(CAC/GL 38-2001, Section 6.§24)  |  |
|                               | No specification  | Procedures: make “REPLACEMENT” on the new certificate  |
|                               | <b><u>Revocation of a certificate</u></b><br>(TAHC: Article 1.3.4.7.. CAC/GL 38-2001, Section 6.§31)  |  |
|                               | Term used: <b>withdraw</b>  | Term used: <b>Revocation</b>   |



**Table 3. Significant differences between CAC and OIE standards on certification**

| <b>Subject</b>                | <b>OIE standards</b>  | <b>Codex standards</b>  |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Mandate</b>                | Sanitary safety of international trade:<br>Animal health,<br>Hazards for humans transmitted through animals<br><br>(TAHC: Foreword . Procedure Manual Fourteenth edition Section I Article 1) | - Safety of consumer:<br>Human health<br>- Quality (notably organoleptics aspect: odours and flavours)<br>- Ensure fair practices in food trade   |
| <b>Scope of the standards</b> | - Live animals  | - Additives / Contaminants<br>- Labelling<br>- Vegetables product<br>- Process food<br>(Vegetables product + Animal product)<br>(Procedure Manual Fourteenth edition Section II Relation between Codex Committee / Section IV Subsidiary Bodies of the Codex Alimentarius Commission) |
|                               | -Production   | - Process<br>- Packaging<br>- Distribution  |
| <b>Import Requirements</b>    | - Animal health<br><br>(Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Article 1.2.1.2. §1)  | - Protection of consumers<br>- Conditions of fair trading<br>(CAC/GL 20-1995 Section 2)   |

### OIE Work on Antimicrobial Resistance and Cooperation with the CAC

Antimicrobial resistance is a priority topic for the OIE with regard to the development of international standards, taking in account the demand from Member Countries and the impact on animal and human health.

The OIE has already started (in 1998) to address the matter through an expert meeting (an *ad hoc* Group) and an international conference in Paris in October 2001. Four guidelines were adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2003. Three of them were incorporated into the Terrestrial Animal Health Code as appendices, and another into the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

Guidelines on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance, a companion appendix for the three adopted in 2003 were unanimously adopted in May 2004 at the 72<sup>nd</sup> General Session by Member Countries.

During 2004 the OIE has convened twice an expert meeting (an *ad hoc* Group) on Antimicrobial Resistance. Two of the invited experts were officials from FAO and WHO. The *ad hoc* Group revised and updated the OIE standards on antimicrobial resistance (Appendixes 3.9.4. and 3.9.3.) taking into account the latest scientific knowledge and the work done during the October 2004 CCRVDF meeting in Washington. The updates proposed by the *ad hoc* Group were endorsed by OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group first and subsequently by the OIE International Committee during its 73<sup>rd</sup> General Session. The *ad hoc* group is also currently working on critically important antimicrobials for veterinary use.

The current *Terrestrial Code* Appendixes are:

- [Appendix 3.9.1.](#) : Guidelines for the harmonisation of antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.
- Appendix 3.9.2.: Guidelines for the monitoring of 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.

The current Chapter in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals is:

- Chapter I.1.10: Laboratory methodologies for bacterial antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

The FAO, the OIE, and the WHO have actively cooperated 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).

In this spirit and following a suggestion of the WHO and *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (CAC), a world-wide consultation of experts has been launched in Geneva, Switzerland (2003) and Oslo, Norway (2004) by WHO, FAO and OIE with the view to gather all available scientific data and to prepare a common action plan for the future.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage, held in December 2003 in Geneva, included a preliminary scientific assessment of all non-human uses of antimicrobials in animals (including aquaculture) and plants, and their role in antimicrobial resistance, based on the available scientific information. Based on the outcome of the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop in Geneva, as well as other relevant input (e.g. reports of previous WHO and OIE workshops), the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop, held in Oslo in February 2004, considered the broad range of possible risk management options for antimicrobial resistance from non-human use of antimicrobials. To ensure that the conclusions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop reflected the perspectives of interested parties, the major stakeholder groups (e.g. members of the pharmaceutical industry, farmers, food processors, consumers, regulatory agencies, and veterinarians) participated to the meeting.

In particular, it focused on potential directions of future *Codex*, FAO, WHO and OIE work in this area, in order to prevent and minimise antimicrobial resistance at the global level.

Particularly, the meeting emphasised the need for rapid implementation of the principles in the WHO Global Principles and OIE Guidelines by governments and all stakeholders. WHO and OIE should keep the documents under continuous review in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The OIE supports the outcomes of this Workshop.

To address the conclusions of those Workshops a mechanism should be established to ensure that the already approved guidelines are duly taken into account and in case two documents already exist on a same subject, a common document should be established and recognised by OIE and Codex.

Before developing new guidelines, OIE and Codex should officially exchange information in order to avoid gaps or duplication in their efforts.

The OIE supports the creation of the joint Codex/OIE Task Force on the matter and reiterates its offer to share the costs with Codex on this issue.

In all cases, the development of mechanisms for adoption of International Standards should take into account adoption procedures of both organisations in order to preserve both autonomy and independence of the two “sisters” under the SPS Agreement framework.

**RESOLUTION No. XXIV****Animal Production Food Safety****CONSIDERING THAT**

1. The Director General has established a permanent Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety, which has met again in 2005, and has drafted a work programme for 2005/2006,
2. The Working Group has developed various texts relating to minimizing the risks from hazards arising from animals at the farm level, including guidelines for 'Good Farming Practices' and a paper on the 'Role and functionality of Veterinary Services throughout the food chain', modified versions of which may form part of the Terrestrial Code,
3. The Working Group is developing a paper on the control of hazards of public and animal health importance through ante- and post-mortem inspection, intended to provide guidance to veterinary services,
4. The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission have continued to work together to ensure animal production food safety standards being developed by either party take a whole of food chain approach to addressing food safety, and ensure as much consistency as possible with each others work

**THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Director General maintains the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him as well as the relevant Specialist Commissions on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety.
2. The Working Group's 2005/2006 work programme be a guide for the OIE's activities on animal production food safety for the next 12 months, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed.
3. Of the priorities listed in the work programme, the Working Group gives special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting a text dealing with Salmonella Enteritidis in eggs, for consideration by the International Committee.

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(Adopted by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2005)