The OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes

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OIE’s International Standards

- OIE develops and publishes
  - Science based health standards for trade in animals and animal products => Codes (WTO SPS agreement)
  - Biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines => Manuals
OIE Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
"Code Commission"

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
"Aquatic Animals Commission"
Composition of the OIE Code Commission (2012)
- President: Dr A. Thiermann
- Vice-President: Dr E. Bonbon
- Secretary General: Dr J. Caetano
- Members: Dr S.C. MacDiarmid, Dr A. Hassan and Dr S. Hargreaves

Composition of the OIE Aquatic Animals Commission (2012)
- President: Prof. Barry Hill
- Vice-President: Dr Ricardo Enríquez
- Secretary General: Dr Franck Berthe
- Members: Dr Olga Haenen, Dr Huang Jie and Dr Victor Manuel Vidal Martinez
What is the purpose of the Codes?

- Primary object is to set recommended actions to be used by Veterinary Authorities or other Competent Authorities
  - To establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
    - Protect animal and human health and guard against zoonotic diseases
  - While avoiding unjustified trade restrictions

- The Codes are NOT textbooks on terrestrial or aquatic animal diseases, nor on zoonosis.
Contents of the Terrestrial Code

› Part 1 - General provisions
  › General Definitions : glossary
  › Section 1 – Animal disease diagnosis, surveillance and notification
  › Section 2 - Risk analysis
  › Section 3 - Quality of Veterinary Services
  › Section 4 – General recommendations: disease prevention and control
  › Section 5 – Trade measures, import / export procedures and veterinary certification
  › Section 6 – Veterinary Public Health
  › Section 7 – Animal Welfare
Contents of the Terrestrial Code

Part 2: Specific chapters on diseases for

- Live animals
- Genetic material (semen, embryos, oocytes, etc)
- Products of animal origin (meat, milk, hides/skins) for:
  - Human consumption
  - Animal feeding
  - Agriculture or industrial use
  - Pharmaceutical use
  - Trophies

e.g: FMD, BSE, Avian Influenza…
Contents of the Terrestrial Code

› In each chapter on diseases, articles on

› Description of pathogen / disease/ infection, incubation period (determining quarantine period and other risk mitigation procedures)

› Determining status of a country, zone or compartment (establishment; suspension; recovery)

› Recommendations for imports, depending on statuses

*OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code: same outlines / 1 volume only*
What information is available from the OIE Code?

- Conditions for trade
- Guidelines for risk analysis
- Criteria for disease freedom
- Surveillance for disease
- Procedures for carcass disposal
- Risk mitigation to render products safe
- Model export certificates
- Guidelines for humane killing of animals
- Standards for zoning & compartamentalisation

Foot & mouth disease
Veterinary Products in the OIE Code (terrestrial)

- **Specific chapters on antimicrobial resistance**
  - Glossary
  - Chap 6.6 on Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance
  - Chap 6.7 on Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes
  - Chap 6.8 on Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food producing animals
  - Chap 6.9 on Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine
  - Chap 6.10 on Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance
Updating International Standards

ISSUE / PROBLEM

Specialist Commissions

Review

Advice of experts or other Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1

Committee, Commissions, Delegates

Comments

Delegates

World Assembly

OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Adoption

2
Updating OIE standards

» Issue / problem

» New scientific information e.g. from research or disease outbreak

» New diseases – emerging

» New approach eg vaccination
Updating OIE standards

› Issue / problem identified by Delegates, OIE Commission, industry, scientist, individual, SPS Committee of WTO

› Addressed by appropriate Commission as new or revised standard

› If:
  › Wide support from MC to the proposal
  › Scientific information is available to develop the standards
  › The proposal is in link with the OIE 5th Strategic Plan priorities

› Using working groups and ad hoc groups for specialist tasks e.g. animal welfare, BSE, epidemiology, avian influenza, TB…
Updating OIE standards

- Commission proposal circulated for comments to Members Countries, experts, organisations
  - Commission may revise proposal on basis of comments received

- Discussed by Delegates at General Session
  - May be discussed only and returned to Commission for further work
  - May be adopted as OIE international standards
Updating OIE standards

- Adoption during the General Assembly in May
  - By consensus in most cases
  - By vote (2/3 majority, quorum needed)

Revisions to the Codes are adopted via Resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates

- ‘Normal’ cycle of adoption = 2 to 4 years
- ‘Fast track procedures’ (in case of new risks to be addressed on an urgent basis) = 1 year
Updating OIE standards

- Increasingly, expert advice is outside government and OIE utilises all sources
  - Individual / expert group from industry / academia / government
  - Other OIE Commission or Reference Laboratory

- Transitional period for transparency
  - NGOs with OIE agreement are consulted as per Member Countries e.g. IDF
  - Experts may participate in meetings
  - Commission reports on OIE website
Opportunities for Member Countries to influence international standard setting

- **Member countries** are thus **primarily responsible** for setting and the adoption of international standards and should therefore always attempt to actively participate in the standard setting process.

  - Once adopted, the OIE standards are applicable to all OIE MCs.
2012 edition of the Codes

> **TAHC : Current version = 21\textsuperscript{th} edition (2012)**

- **Revisions:** 26 chapters!
- **Deletions:** /
- **Additions:**
  - 2 new chapters on Legislation (chapter 3.4) and animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (chapter 7.9)
  - Incorporates a new model veterinary certificate for international trade in laboratory animals.

> **AAHC : Current version = 15\textsuperscript{th} edition (2012)**

- **Revision:** 7 chapters
- **No deletion**
- **4 new chapters:** communication; monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in aquatic animals; development and harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes for aquatic animals; and killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes
How to use the *OIE Codes* and *Manuals*

- Use the **OIE Codes** to establish the sanitary requirements for trade
- Use the **Codes** to establish baseline arguments to establish *equivalence* for trade negotiations
- Use the **Codes** to establish cost-effective **risk mitigation measures** for trade
- Use the **Codes** and *Manuals* to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of importing countries
How to use the *Codes and Manuals*

- Use the *Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services* as an essential baseline for risk assessment and to comply with at least the minimum requirements of the ALOP of importing country.
How to use the *Codes and Manuals*

- Use the **OIE Scientific and Technical Review** to obtain **background information** on experiences in the practical application of standard

- Use **textbooks on diseases** to understand the scientific justification for OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations
Where to find the Codes

› Available on line at: www.oie.int
› Produced in OIE Official languages (EN, FR, SP)
› Unofficial translation in Russian
Thank you for your attention