Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Wildlife

OIE Standards
(Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Manuals)
and the role of the Specialist Commissions

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Background Information - OIE

• Background Information about the OIE

• OIE Standards (Codes & Manuals)

• Standards Setting Process

• End
Background Information - OIE

- Formed in 1924 as the *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE) – to fight TADs (Rinderpest)
- In 2003 became the World Organisation for Animal Health, but retained acronym “OIE”
- Responsible for Animal Health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health – *sets Standards for these*
- Recognised by the WTO as a reference body for this mandate
- Currently 180 member countries (represented by their Directors of Veterinary Services – OIE Delegate)
- Operates through a network of Regional/Sub-Regional Offices & Reference Laboratories
Background Information - OIE

- Tunis
- Tokyo
- Panama
- Buenos Aires
- Bamako
- Nairobi
- Bangkok
- Brussels
- Moscow
- Beirut
- Astana
OIE international standards

- OIE develops and publishes standards in relation with its mandate:

  ✓ **health standards** for trade in animals and animal products, surveillance and control of animal diseases, food safety, animal welfare, etc.

  ✓ **biological standards** for diagnostic tests and vaccines

- **adopted by OIE Members during General Session in May of each year by consensus**
The Role of the Standards

- Enhance **safety of international trade** in animals and animal products
- Encourage **harmonisation** of national legislations and control measures
- **Narrow the gap** between rich and poor countries
- To preserve **International Public Good** through surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses
- Promote **fair trade** (fewer unjustified restrictions on trade)
Safeguard world trade by publishing health standards

OIE standards are recognised by the WTO as reference international sanitary rules (SPS Agreement)

These rules can be used by Member Countries to protect themselves from the introduction of diseases and pathogens, without setting up unjustified sanitary barriers
WTO SPS Agreement recognises OIE as a reference organisation for international standards on animal health including zoonoses.
OIE Standards

**CODES**
- Terrestrial
- Aquatic

**MANUALS**
- Terrestrial
- Aquatic

Codes and Manuals available on the OIE website
Recommend measures to be used by Veterinary Authorities or other Competent Authorities

- to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
- to avoid unjustified trade restrictions
- to use as reference for harmonization of national legislations and control measures
Scientific basis for recommendations

Compliance with WTO obligations

Credibility of health certification

Importing country assumed to be free of disease or to apply official controls.
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

**Terrestrial Code – structure** → Divided into 2 volumes:

- **Volume 1**
  - 7 sections

- **Volume 2**
  - 70 Chapters on specific diseases
OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Content Volume 1

Horizontal chapters on

▶ 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
Content Volume 1

Horizontal chapters on

- 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
Content Volume 2

Specific chapters on diseases for

- 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, for
  - Live animals
  - Genetic material (semen, embryos, oocytes, etc)
  - Products of animal origin (meat, milk, hides/skins)

e.g.: FMD, BSE, Avian Influenza
What information is available from the OIE Code?

**Foot & mouth disease**

- 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 & compartmentalisation
When the **Code** requires a test that needs to be carried out for international movement or other designated purpose, the *Manual* should provide a recommended laboratory method.
Terrestrial Manual – structure → Divided into 4 parts, presented in 2 volumes:

**Volume I**

**Part I**
- 10 introductory chapters

**Part 2**
- 113 Chapters on specific diseases

**Volume II**

**Part 3**
- General Guidelines

**Part 4**
- OIE Reference Experts and disease index
OIE Aquatic Code and Manual

Aquatic AH Code

Aquatic Animal Health Code

Same organisation as Terrestrial Code

Aquatic Manual

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

Same organisation as Terrestrial Manual (except for vaccines)
OIE Standard Setting Process

How to use the Codes and Manuals

 › to establish the sanitary requirements for trade
 › to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence for trade negotiations
 › to challenge unjustifiable sanitary measures on a scientific basis of importing countries

 › Use the OIE Scientific and Technical Review to obtain background information on experiences in the practical application of standards
 › Use textbooks on diseases to understand the scientific justification for OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations
OIE Standard Setting Process

**Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

*“Code Commission”*

- Responsible for ensuring that the Code reflects current scientific information.

**Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases**

*“Scientific Commission”*

- Assists in identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for disease surveill., prevention, control.
- Examines Members’ request regarding their official animal health status, for MCs that wish to be included on the OIE official list of countries or zones free from certain diseases.

**Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission**

*“Aquatic Animals Commission”*

- Compiles information on aquatic diseases and recommends appropriate prevention and control methods for these diseases.
- Responsible for updating the *Aquatic Code and Manual*; and for proposing new standards for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates.

**Biological Standards Commission**

*“Laboratories Commission”*

- Establishes/approves methods for:
  - diagnostic of terrestrial animals diseases
  - defining quality criteria of biological products (vaccines)
- Oversees production and adoption of the Terrestrial *Manual*.
- Advises the Director General in supervising the global network of OIE Reference Centers.
OIE Standard Setting Process
OIE Standard Setting Process
OIE Standard Setting Process

1. **Delegates**
   - International Organisations
   - OIE Global Conferences

2. **Topic**

3. **Specialist Commissions**

4. **Review**

5. **Draft**
   - Global experts
OIE Standard Setting Process
OIE Standard Setting Process

1. Delegates International Organisations OIE Global Conferences
   TOPIC

2. Specialist Commissions REVIEW

3. Global experts DRAFT
   2 CYCLES

4. Delegates COMMENTS
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www.oie.int
OIE international standards

- Transparent
- Democratic
- Science based
- Rapid & flexible
- Member participation
- Well-established
- International collaboration
Thank you for your attention