

Alejandro B Thiermann
President, Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission
World Organization for Animal Health



Codes, Manuals and associated obligations of Delegates

New CVOs, March 2010
Gabrone



OIE SPECIALIST COMMISSIONS

- use current scientific information
- study problems of epidemiology and the prevention and control of animal diseases
- develop and revise OIE international standards
- address scientific and technical issues raised by Member Countries

↳ but not to deal with bilateral trade problems (which may be address through mediation)



Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
"Code Commission"

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
"Scientific Commission"

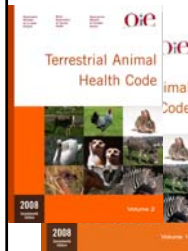
Biological Standards Commission
"Laboratories Commission"

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
"Aquatic Animals Commission"



Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
"Code Commission"



Responsible for updating the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* annually and for ensuring that it reflects current scientific information



Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission:

-  Dr. Alejandro Thiermann, President
-  Dr. Etienne Bonbon, Vicepresident
-  Dr. Jorge Caetano Junior, Secretary
-  Dr. Stuart MacDiarmid
-  Dr. Stuart Hargreaves
-  Dr. Ahmed Mustafa Hassan



Specialist Commissions






Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
"Scientific Commission"

Assists in identifying the most appropriate strategies and measures for:
disease surveillance
disease prevention and control

Examines Member Countries submissions regarding their animal health status for countries that wish to be included on the OIE official list of free countries and zones for certain diseases



Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases:

-  Dr. Gideon Bruckner, President
-  Dr. Kris de Clerq, Vicepresident
-  Dr. Kenichi Sakamoto, Secretary
-  Dr. Thomas Mettenleiter
-  Dr. Hassan Abdel Aziz Aidaros
-  Dr. Sergio Duffy



Specialist Commissions

Biological Standards Commission "Laboratories Commission"



Establishes or approves methods for
diagnosing diseases of mammals, birds and bees
testing biological products, such as vaccines, used for control purposes
 Oversees production of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*



Biological Standards Commission:

-  Dr. Vincenzo Caporale, Presidente
-  Dr. Beverly Schmitt, Vicepresidente
-  Dr. Medhi El Harrak, Secretary
-  Dr. Hualan Chen
-  Dr. Alejandro Schudel
-  Dr. Paul Townsend



Specialist Commissions







Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission "Aquatic Animals Commission"



Compiles information on diseases of fish, molluscs and crustaceans, and on methods used to control these diseases
 Responsible for updating the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*



Aquatic Animal Health Code Commission:

-  Dr. Barry Hill, President
-  Dr. Ricardo Enriquez, Vicepresident
-  Dr. Frank Berthe, Secretary
-  Dr. Huang Jie
-  Dr. Olga Haenen
-  Dr. Victor Manuel Vidal



OIE's international standard



OIE international standards

- OIE develops and publishes
 - health standards for trade in animals and animal products
 - biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines
- adopted by OIE Members during General Session each May
 - no other pathway for adoption



The OIE Codes and Manuals

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- Aquatic Animal Health Code
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals



Codes

- recommend health measures to be used by veterinary services or other competent authorities
 - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
 - while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
- OIE has expanded into animal welfare and food safety



Principles in the Codes

- WTO obligations complied with if Codes used correctly
 - importing country assumed to be free of a specific disease or with a control programme for that disease
 - measures take into account
 - assessment of risk factors in real world situation
 - quality of veterinary services / competent authorities
 - zoning and compartmentalisation
 - disease surveillance and timely notification
- credible health certification for traded commodities



Terrestrial Animal Health Code



Approach in the Terrestrial Code

- general approach very similar to that in Aquatic Code
- generic (horizontal) chapters
 - general definitions
 - obligations and ethics in international trade
 - disease notification
 - import risk analysis methodology
 - evaluation of veterinary services
 - import/export procedures



Approach in the Terrestrial Code

- specific chapters on diseases for
 - live animals
 - genetic material
 - products of animal origin (meat, milk, hides / skins)
- covering diseases of
 - mammals eg FMD, BSE
 - birds eg AI, NCD
 - bees eg fowlbrood



Approach in the Terrestrial Code

- in each chapter, articles on
 - description of pathogen / disease
 - determining status of a country, zone or compartment
 - 'safe' commodities irrespective of status (if possible)
 - recommendations for 'unsafe' commodities



Approach in the Terrestrial Code

- appendices
 - collection and processing of semen and embryos/ova
 - disease surveillance - general and disease specific
 - inactivation of pathogens and vectors
 - animal welfare
 - food safety
 - antimicrobial resistance
- model veterinary certificates for
 - live animals and products of animal origin



Influences on standards

- From EXPORTING countries for less restrictions
- From IMPORTING countries for maximum protection (e.g avian influenza)
- From producers / consumers / NGOs
- Ethics and public health protection – objective science



Equivalence

- estimation of risks associated with importation and choice of appropriate risk management option(s) are made more difficult by differences among animal health and production systems
- now recognised that significantly different systems can provide the same level of animal and human health protection
 - benefits to both importing and exporting countries



Equivalence

- Code guidelines assist OIE Members to determine whether sanitary measures arising from different systems may provide the same level of protection
- discuss principles common to all judgements of equivalence
 - including for aquatic animal health
- outline a step-wise process for trading partners to follow in facilitating a judgement of equivalence



Equivalence

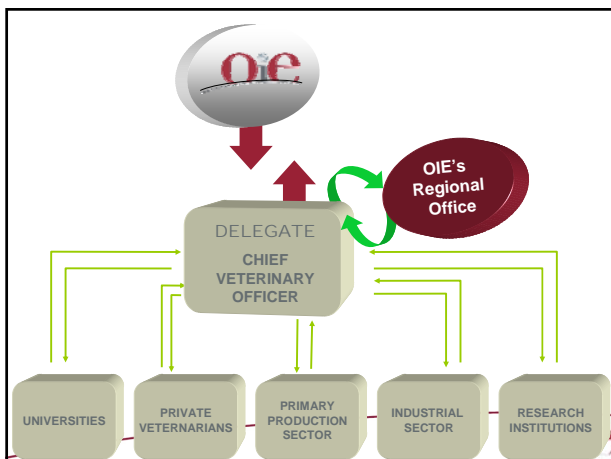
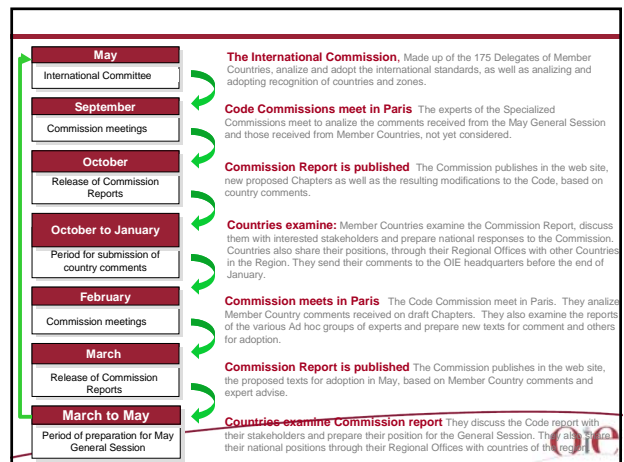
- equivalence may apply
 - at the level of specific measures or on a systems-wide basis
 - to specific areas of trade or commodities or generally
- essential to apply a scientific risk analysis to the extent practicable in establishing the basis for a judgement of equivalence



OIE's standard setting process



establishing or updating international standards



Critical aspects of the Codes

- do not use the Codes as textbooks on diseases
- use them as international standards to evaluate and determine measures to protect animal health in the trade of animals and animal products
- ensure that the application of the standards for national health measures are in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement



Critical aspects of the Codes

- use the Guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services as an essential baseline
- use the Codes to establish baseline arguments to establish equivalence in trade negotiations
- use the Codes to establish most cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- use the Codes and Manuals to challenge scientific unjustifiable sanitary measures of trading partners



OIE reporting obligations

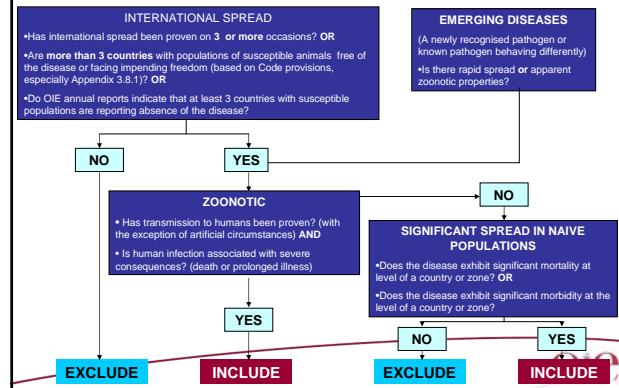
- OIE Members have international reporting obligations as laid down in the Codes
 - to make available to other members, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important animal diseases and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases
 - OIE Members have to report the presence of any listed disease, as well as the detection of any epidemiological event of significance



Criteria for listing a disease/infection within the OIE List

Basic Criteria (always considering "worst case" scenario)	Parameters (at least one "yes" answer means that the criterion has been met)
International Spread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has international spread been proven on three or more occasions? OR • Are more than three countries with populations of susceptible animals free of the disease or facing impending freedom (based on Code provisions, especially Appendix 3.8.1)? OR • Do OIE annual reports indicate that a significant number of countries with susceptible populations have reported absence of the disease for several consecutive years?
Zoonotic Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has transmission to humans been proven? (with the exception of artificial circumstances) AND • Is human infection associated with severe consequences? (death or prolonged illness)
Significant Spread within Naive Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the disease exhibit significant mortality at the level of a country or compartment? AND/OR • Does the disease exhibit significant morbidity (infected animals) at the level of a country or compartment?
Emerging Diseases (newly recognised pathogen or known pathogen behaving differently)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the disease exhibit significant mortality at the level of a country or compartment? AND/OR • Does the disease exhibit significant morbidity (infected animals) at the level of a country or compartment?

Decision Tree used to determine the list



Thank you for your attention

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12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France - www.oie.int - oie@oie.int

