

# Evolving Veterinary Statutory Bodies in the World



## Relevant OIE TAHC Standards and the Evaluation of quality and performance using the OIE-PVS Tool

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## Standards on the Quality of Veterinary Services (VS)

- as contained in the TAHC, have been formally adopted by the OIE International Committee, the general assembly of all National Delegates of OIE Members, which constitutes the organisation's highest decision-making body
- and VS shall conform to these principles regardless of the political, economic or social situation of the respective country

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## TAH Code Provisions re Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) contained in Definitions; Article 3.2.2.2 (evaluation of VS) and Article 3.2.12 (detailed information)



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## Veterinarian

means a person registered or licensed by the relevant veterinary statutory body of a country to practise veterinary medicine / science in that country

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## Veterinary para-professional

- means a person who, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, is authorised by the veterinary statutory body to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of *veterinary para-professional*) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a *veterinarian*. The tasks authorized for each category of *veterinary para-professional* should be defined by the veterinary statutory body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

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## Veterinary Statutory Body

means means an autonomous authority regulating *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*.

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Standards on the Quality of VS

Thus a VSB is a very **important and essential part - a kingpin** – regarding **Good Veterinary Governance and in meeting the TAHC standards on quality and performance for VS in a country**

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Standards on the Quality of VS

**VSB's** have been in existence in many countries for many years, with wide variations in legal basis; autonomy; objectives; authority; functions and responsibilities, composition; administrative procedures etc. **However, in quiet a number of countries there is no VSB at all.**

**TAHC Article 3.2.2.2:** *To complement the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the organisational structure and functioning of the of the veterinary statutory body should also be considered.*

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Standards on the Quality of VS  
TAHC Article 3.2.12

**TAHC Article 3.2.12 - Evaluation of the VSB**

**1. Scope**

In the evaluation of the *veterinary statutory body*, the following items may be considered, depending on the purpose of the evaluation:

- a) objectives and functions;
- b) legislative basis, autonomy and functional capacity;
- c) the composition and representation of the body's membership;
- d) accountability and transparency of decision-making;
- e) sources and management of funding;
- f) administration of training programmes and continuing professional development for *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*.

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Standards on the Quality of VS  
TAHC Article 3.2.12

**2. Evaluation of objectives and functions**

The *veterinary statutory body* should define its **policy and objectives, including detailed descriptions of its powers and functions** such as:

- a) to regulate *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals* through licensing and/or registration of such persons;
- b) to determine the minimum standards of education (initial and continuing) required for degrees, diplomas and certificates entitling the holders thereof to be registered as *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*;
- c) to determine the standards of professional conduct of *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals* and to ensure these standards are met.

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Standards on the Quality of VS  
TAHC Article 3.2.12

**3. Evaluation of legislative basis, autonomy and functional capacity**

The *veterinary statutory body* should be able to demonstrate that it has the **capacity**, supported by **appropriate legislation**, to **exercise and enforce control over all veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals**.

These controls should include, where appropriate, compulsory licensing and registration, minimum standards of education (initial and continuing) for the recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates, setting standards of professional conduct and exercising control and the application of disciplinary procedures. The *veterinary statutory body* should be able to demonstrate autonomy from undue political and commercial interests. Where applicable, **regional agreements** for the recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates for *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals* should be demonstrated.

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Standards on the Quality of VS  
TAHC Article 3.2.12

**4. Evaluation of membership representation**

Detailed descriptions should be available in respect of the **membership of the veterinary statutory body and the method and duration of appointment of members**.

Such information includes:

- a) *veterinarians* designated by the *Veterinary Authority*, such as the Chief Veterinary Officer;
- b) *veterinarians* elected by members registered by the *veterinary statutory body*;
- c) *veterinarians* designated or nominated by the veterinary association(s);
- d) representative(s) of veterinary para-professions;
- e) representative(s) of veterinary academia;
- f) representative(s) of other stakeholders from the private sector;
- g) election procedures and duration of appointment;
- h) qualification requirements for members.

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**Standards on the Quality of VS  
TAHC Article 3.2.12**

**6. Evaluation of financial sources and financial management**  
Information regarding income and expenditure, including fee structure(s) for the licensing/registration of persons should be available.

**7. Evaluation of training programmes and programmes for continuing professional development, for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals**  
Descriptive summary of continuing professional development, training and education programmes should be provided, including descriptions of content, duration and participants; documented details of quality manuals and standards relating to **Good Veterinary Practice** should be provided.

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**The OIE/PVS Evaluation Tool**

Any such **EVALUATION of a VS** should use the **OIE Tool for the Evaluation of the Performance of VS (OIE-PVS Tool)**

**Performance, Vision and Strategy: A tool for governance of Veterinary Services**

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**The OIE/PVS Evaluation Tool**

**4 Fundamental components**

- Human, physical and financial resources
- Technical authority and capability
- Interactions with stakeholders
- Access to markets

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**The OIE/PVS Evaluation Tool**

**VSB**

Within the 4 fundamental components, the following competencies address the VSB directly or indirectly

- I. Human, physical & financial resources**
  - ⊕ I.2 Competencies of the Veterinary Service
  - ⊕ I.3 Continuing Education
- III. Interaction with Stakeholders**
  - ⊕ III.5 Veterinary Statutory Body
- IV. Access to Markets**
  - ⊕ IV.3 International Harmonisation

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**The OIE/PVS Evaluation Tool**

**VSB**

**III. INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**  
This component of the evaluation appraises the capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve stakeholders in the implementation of programmes and activities. It comprises six critical competencies.

**Critical competency:**

**III.5 Veterinary Statutory Body**

**III.5. Veterinary Statutory Body**  
The *Veterinary Statutory Body* (VSB) is an autonomous authority responsible for the regulation of the *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*. Its role is defined in the *Terrestrial Code*.

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**III.5 Veterinary Statutory Body**

Activity per Level	Level				
<b>VSB</b>	1 There is no legislation establishing a VSB.	2 There is a VSB, but it does not have legislated authority to make decisions nor to apply disciplinary measures..	3 The VSB regulates veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals only within certain sectors of the VS (e.g. public sector but not private sector veterinarians).	4 The VSB regulates veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals throughout the VS.	5 The VSB is subject to evaluation procedures in respect of autonomy, functional capacity and membership representation.

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**Conclusion**

1. In evaluating the compliance of a country with OIE international standards of quality of Veterinary Services, a **Veterinary Statutory Body** – be it called a Veterinary Board or Council or by any other designation – **plays a pivotal role and is indispensable in the establishment and maintenance of Good Veterinary Governance and Practice.**
2. Countries without a VSB should be encouraged to **establish a VSB** in accordance with the provisions of the TAHC **as a matter of high priority.**

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**Conclusion**

3. **Veterinary Associations** are vital stakeholders in the establishment and maintenance of **public-private veterinary partnerships** for Good Veterinary Governance and Practice.
4. To explore possibilities for possible harmonization of licensing/registration requirements for *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals* in OIE member countries in the SADC Region, a **networking and consultative forum** between existing VSB's (bi-lateral or multi-lateral) **should be initiated.**

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**Conclusion**

5. The concept of **"twinning"** should be investigated between established and to-be-established VSB's in order to share expertise and competencies.
6. The aim for the **reciprocal recognition of veterinary degrees for licensing / registration purposes** between OIE member countries in the SADC Region should be discussed and possibilities be explored as to the achievement of this goal.

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**THANK YOU**

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