



3 June 2022

(22-4237)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English/French/Spanish

83RD MEETING OF THE SPS COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION FROM THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The following communication, received on 1st June 2022, is being circulated at the request of the OIE.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is pleased to provide this report for the information of WTO Members attending the 83rd meeting of the SPS Committee.

1 89TH GENERAL SESSION

1.1. The 89th Annual General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates was held in a semi-hybrid format from Monday 23 to Thursday 26 May 2022. The semi-hybrid format allowed the main speakers and some members holding elected positions to participate in-person at the event venue in Paris while all other members and partners attended remotely.

1.2. The General Session included the adoption of administrative and technical resolutions. A total of 151 OIE Delegates participated in the General Session.

1.3. OIE National Delegates adopted 29 Resolutions. The [Report of the 89th General Session](#) and [adopted Resolutions](#) are available on the OIE website.

1.1 Standard setting activities at the 89th General Session

1.4. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates adopted updated texts in the OIE International standards: the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*, the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*, the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)*, and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals (Aquatic Manual)*.

1.5. Information regarding all new and revised text adopted in the OIE International standards are available in the report of the [89th General Session](#).

1.6. More details about new and revised texts in the OIE International standards of interest to the SPS Committee are noted below:

1.1.1 Terrestrial Animal Health Code

1.7. Eleven revised chapters, three revised glossary definitions and 1 new glossary definition were adopted in the *Terrestrial Code*.

- Rinderpest. The deadliest cattle disease in history, was officially declared eradicated from the world in 2011. Chapter 8.16. Infection with rinderpest virus remained in the *Terrestrial Code* to address the risk of re-emergence. A thoroughly revised version was adopted to improve surveillance, notification, and control provisions, and to revise the structure of the chapter and trade provisions to ensure the maintenance of global freedom and its prompt recovery in the case of re-emergence;

- Theileriosis. A revised Chapter 11.10. Theileriosis was adopted. The chapter was comprehensively revised and the revision included an amendment to the title to 'Infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva*'. The name of the disease listed in Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE was also amended to align with this name change;
- Echinococcosis and Porcine cysticercosis. Chapter 8.5. Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* and Chapter 15.4. Infection with *Taenia solium* (Porcine cysticercosis) were amended to include new developments in the area of vaccine production and vaccination;
- Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates. Chapter 6.12. Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates was revised to clarify that hepatitis B is a disease of humans and is not a zoonotic disease;
- Stray dog population control. Chapter 7.7. Stray dog population control was revised to ensure its alignment with the Global Strategic Framework for the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030. Amendments adopted included the revision of the scope of the chapter and a focus on the welfare of dogs when implementing dog population management programmes. As a consequence the title of the chapter was changed to 'Dog population management'. A new Glossary definition for 'Free-roaming dog' which replaced 'Stray dog' was also adopted.

1.8. The online version of the 30th edition (2022) of the [Terrestrial Code](#) will soon be available and can be accessed from the OIE public website.

2 MANUAL OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS AND VACCINES FOR TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS

2.1. Two new chapters, 17 revised chapters, and two new glossary definitions were adopted.

- A new chapter on Mammalian tuberculosis (infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex) was updated to provide diagnostic techniques for this newly listed disease. The chapter replaces the chapter on bovine tuberculosis;
- A new chapter, Theileriosis in sheep and goats (infection with *Theileria lestoquardi*, *T. luwenshuni* and *T. uilenbergi*) was adopted;
- Chapter 3.1.4 Brucellosis (infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis*, *B. suis*) was revised to update the description of the disease and added some information on the disease in camels and wildlife species;
- Chapter 3.3.14. Nipah and Hendra virus diseases was extensively revised to include statements on the zoonotic potential of these viruses and the subsequent need to undertake a biological risk assessment, which may lead to a decision to avoid serological tests using live virus; updated the tests included in Table 1, Test methods available for the diagnosis of henipaviruses and their purpose and their scores; inserted protocols for indirect and blocking ELISAs;
- Chapter 3.1.22. Tularemia was revised to include information on how the disease spreads and how humans can acquire it. Table 1 was updated to include conventional PCR and clarified that serology is of limited use;
- Chapter 3.2.1. Acarapisosis of honey bees (infestation of honey bees with *Acarapis woodi*) (extensive) was thoroughly revised with the addition of new diagrams, a revised Table 1 Test methods available and their purpose and a new section on PCR, both conventional and real-time;
- Chapter 3.3.15. Turkey rhinotracheitis (avian metapneumovirus) was updated virus taxonomy, strain classification and host range; clarified that avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) does not cause infection in humans; added Table 1 Test methods available and their purpose; and updated and reformatted the section on requirements for vaccines;
- Chapter 3.6.2. Contagious equine metritis was revised to include two real-time PCR methods and noted that other PCRs can only be used if they have been validated to OIE Standards as fit for use for defined purposes;
- Chapter 3.8.11. Scrapie was revised to clarify the information on classical and atypical scrapie, that histological examination should not be used as a primary screening or confirmatory test, changed the title of the section on Strain characterisation to Discrimination between classical scrapie and BSE as the chapter does not describe strain characterisation;
- Chapter 3.10.7. Salmonellosis was revised including the sections on the nature and classification of the pathogen, the description and impact of the disease, and its zoonotic

potential and biosafety and biosecurity requirements. Revised the example test procedures for isolation of *Salmonella* from food, feedstuffs, faecal and environmental samples and on immunological and nucleic acid recognition methods. Stressed that attenuation of live vaccines is essential to limit intestinal replication and persistence in the animals and environment, but such attenuation is unlikely to have no impact on the vaccinal response.

2.2. The online versions of these new and revised chapters will be available shortly in the [Terrestrial Manual](#) and can be accessed from the OIE public website.

2.1.1 Aquatic Animal Health Code

2.3. One new and 30 revised chapters in the *Aquatic Code* were adopted.

- Infection with tilapia lake virus was adopted as a listed disease of fish in Chapter 3.2. which will support transparent and timely notification of disease and support members in preventing transboundary spread;
- A significantly revised Chapter 1.4. Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance and model articles for declaration of freedom for each disease-specific chapter were adopted to provide guidance on self-declaration of freedom including the types of evidence and the periods of surveillance needed;
- Model articles for safe commodities in Articles 9.X.3 and Article 10.X.3. were adopted for the crustacean and fish disease-specific chapters, respectively to specify the minimum time/temperature treatments required to inactivate the specific pathogenic agent rather than the previous commodity based approach;
- A new chapter for infection with decapod iridescent virus 1 was adopted;
- The list of susceptible species in the disease-specific chapters on infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus, infection with koi herpes virus, infection with abalone herpes virus and infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* were amended after consideration of the work of the ad hoc Groups on Susceptibility of fish and molluscs species to infection with OIE listed diseases.

2.1.2 Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals

2.4. Five revised chapters of the *Aquatic Manual* were adopted.

- Chapters on infection with HPR-deleted or HPRO infectious salmon anaemia and infection with koi herpes virus were revised using the new disease-chapter template;
- The list of susceptible species in the disease-specific chapters on infection with epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus, infection with koi herpes virus, infection with abalone herpes virus and infection with *Bonamia exitiosa* were amended after consideration of the work of the ad hoc Groups on Susceptibility of fish and molluscs species to infection with OIE listed diseases

2.5. The online version of the 24th edition (2022) of the [Aquatic Code](#) will soon be available and can be accessed from the OIE public website.

3 OFFICIAL OIE RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL HEALTH STATUS AND CONTROL PROGRAMMES OF MEMBERS

3.1. OIE members can apply to be included in the list of countries with an officially recognised status for the following six priority diseases: bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), foot and mouth disease (FMD), contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), African horse sickness, peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF).

3.2. At the 89th General Session, several countries or zones of countries obtained official recognition of their status:

- Ecuador and Mongolia were officially recognised as being 'free from CBPP';
- Bahrain was officially recognised as being 'free from AHS';
- France was officially recognised as having a 'negligible BSE risk' and Russia as having a 'controlled BSE risk';

- One zone in Russia was officially recognised as 'free from FMD with vaccination'.

3.3. The [full list of countries and their recognised status for AHS, BSE, CBPP, CSF, FMD, and PPR can be accessed online](#) the OIE public website.

4 TECHNICAL ITEM

4.1. The Technical Item for the 89th General Session was '[World Organisation for Animal Health, Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services engagement in global, regional and national Emergency Management Systems](#)'.

4.2. The Technical Item described the current global context and systems for emergency management by identifying and characterising threats as well as planning approaches and tools. The paper introduced the emergency management disciplines as well as the OIE's expanding programmes and services to members to develop emergency management capacities to shape future directions. It highlighted the central role that Veterinary Services play in managing emergencies, particularly in relation to animal health and veterinary public health, and also in response to broader disasters which have cascading impacts. Whilst explaining some of the gaps at international level and the resource challenges faced by OIE members, it highlighted the cost-benefit of investing in emergency management systems.

4.3. Resolution No. 28 'World Organisation for Animal Health, Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services engagement in global, regional and national emergency management systems' was adopted during the General Session. Broadly speaking it recommends continued international collaboration with key partners; adopting an all hazards approach to emergency management, whilst considering emerging hazards; taking a whole of society approach to emergency management; further developing and supporting the OIE's emergency management work programme and service offerings to members; collecting information to understand emergency management capacity of OIE members; developing an OIE Incident Management System (IMS) and supporting members in developing their own IMS; engaging in active discussion with WHO and members to ensure that the process for developing global agreement on a pandemic instrument takes a One Health approach and meets the needs of OIE stakeholders; using risk analysis to prioritise in emergency management planning; working to ensure Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services are engaged in national emergency management systems.

5 GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH SITUATION

5.1. The '[Current animal health situation worldwide: analysis of events and trends](#)' was presented to the World Assembly during the General Session and focused on four areas. The first section focused on members' reporting behaviour and historical trends between 2005 and May 2022. The second section presented the global situation of African swine fever virus infection, HPAI virus infection and SARS-CoV-2 infection in animals. The third section analysed the evolution of the quality of information received on aquatic diseases. The fourth section provided an update on the state of play of the OIE-WAHIS.
