



Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale

World Organisation for Animal Health

Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

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REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

Paris, 7–9 November 2006

The OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety (hereinafter referred to as the Working Group) met for the sixth time at the OIE Headquarters from 7 to 9 November 2006.

The members of the Working Group and other participants are listed at [Appendix A](#). The Agenda adopted is given at [Appendix B](#). The report of the fifth meeting of the Working Group was adopted unchanged.

The Director General of the OIE, Dr B. Vallat, welcomed all the members on behalf of the 167 OIE Member Countries and congratulated the Chairmen and the other members of the Working Group for the excellent work accomplished. He stressed the importance of this Working Group in bridging the gap between animal health and public health by advising the OIE on how to improve its cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

1. Update on OIE, Codex, FAO and WHO activities

Dr Alex Thiermann, the President of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code Commission), reported on the relevant progress made in the October 2006 meeting of the Terrestrial Code Commission:

- The revision of the definitions of veterinary services, veterinary authority, veterinary administration and competent authority and the consequent revision of the usage of these terms throughout the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter referred to as the *Terrestrial Code*) with the aim to simplify the use of these terms. This work was initiated at the request of the Working Group.
- With the intent to assist Member Countries in the evaluation of their national veterinary services, the OIE is developing the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument. The Terrestrial Code Commission discussed the future development of this instrument and next steps in the development of a Handbook and Indicators for conducting evaluations. The PVS Instrument, the Handbook and the Indicators will not form part of the *Terrestrial Code*. Rather, they will be published by the OIE as an official tool for use in the evaluation of veterinary services.

- In the continuous effort of clarifying the concepts of zoning and compartmentalisation, the Terrestrial Code Commission is preparing guidelines with examples of practical implementation in relation to avian influenza.
- The Chapter on paratuberculosis is under revision in collaboration with the OIE Biological Standards Commission and will provide updated guidelines on diagnostic tools.
- The draft revised Chapter on bovine brucellosis will be addressed by an *ad hoc* Group, under the supervision of the OIE Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (hereinafter referred to as the Scientific Commission), in relation to the Member Countries' comments received. One member of the Working Group could be invited to the *ad hoc* Group to provide an input on the public health issues.
- For the work on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), an expert prepared a supporting document that collects all the relevant scientific justifications for the current recommendations.
- The table on the inactivation time and temperatures for avian influenza has been updated.
- More details on the ongoing work on animal identification and traceability, ante-mortem and post-mortem meat inspection and the revision of model certificates are provided below under the relevant agenda items.

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), provided a report on recent developments in CAC since the last meeting of the Working Group; he notably informed the other Members about:

- The 29th Session of the CAC, where the Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification System (with the addition of references to OIE and IPPC texts) were adopted, as well as the Principles and Guidelines for Imported Food Inspection based on Risk. The CAC decided to establish a Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance; its first session is foreseen in September/October 2007 (the terms of reference highlight the need for close cooperation with the OIE). The CAC agreed to defer any decision to resume work on animal feeding until 2008.
- The Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS) was discussing the Proposed draft Revision of the Guidelines for Generic Official Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates.
- The Codex Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology will meet at the end of November 2006. An update on the OIE activities in this field would be welcomed. The task force will also consider a discussion paper on Safety Assessment of Foods Derived from Animals Exposed to Protection against Disease through Gene Therapy or Recombinant-DNA Vaccines, prepared by Kenya.
- The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene will meet in December 2006 and, among other issues, it will address the Draft Revision of the Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products and the Proposed Draft Guidelines for the Validation of Food Hygiene Control Measures.

Dr Joseph Domenech, Chief of the Animal Health Service (AGAH) of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), presented an update on plans for FAO reforms, which will be discussed at the next Council Meeting in November 2006. Dr Domenech highlighted four main points of interest to the Working Group:

- The planned establishment of a new Division EMPRES (Emergency Prevention for animal and plant health) will not take place and the Divisions Animal Production and Health (AGA) and Plant Production and Health (AGP) will remain as they are with their capacity for a multidisciplinary holistic approach unchanged.
- The Food and Nutrition Division (AGN) has become part of the Agriculture, Biosecurity, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Department since January 2006, facilitating pursuance of a food chain approach within a single department, together with AGA and AGP.
- The creation of a Crisis Management Centre (CMC) under the direct authority of the Head of the Agriculture, Biosecurity, Nutrition and Consumer Protection Department. The CMC will comprise three parts: animal health (under the responsibility of the CVO and in collaboration with the OIE), plant health (under the responsibility of the Chief of the AGPP Service) and food safety (under the responsibility of the Chief of the AGNS Service).
- In this context of grouping the three different dimensions of the food chain including the CMC for emergency responses to crisis, the FAO is developing its transversal programmes for producer to consumer approach.

A summary of these activities will be presented during the next meeting of the Working Group.

Dr Jørgen Schlundt, Director of the Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases of WHO, informed the Working Group about the upcoming election of the new WHO Director General and said that an update will be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group.

2. Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance through Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection

The Working Group expressed its satisfaction with the adoption of Appendix 3.10.1. (Guidelines for the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante-mortem and post-mortem meat inspection) of the *Terrestrial Code* in May 2006 and emphasised that this work was an excellent example of complementarity between the OIE and the Codex texts. It addressed the recommendation of the Terrestrial Code Commission by reviewing the comments of the Delegates of New Zealand and France (speaking on behalf of the European Community) raised during the 74th General Session. It agreed with both comments, notably the suggestion to involve other stakeholders to share responsibility throughout the food chain. It considered it useful to involve the agri-food private sector, but clarified that the final responsibility should lie under the relevant competent authorities and should be linked to the veterinary services.

The Working Group would welcome suggestions from the European Community to insert this concept in Appendix 3.10.1.

3. Role and functions of veterinary services in food safety throughout the food chain

The Director General expressed the view that the development of guidelines on the role and functions of veterinary services in relation to the food chain was necessary to provide guidance to Member Countries on how to address the continuum of the food chain from the farm to the final consumer. He explained that it is important that such texts do not give recommendations on how Member Countries should structure the national administrative organisation, since this pertains to their sovereign right, although there could be some specific recommendations for some particular circumstances.

The Working Group acknowledged that there were several successful examples of how national administrations rearranged their public health and animal health services in order to better address the hazards arising from the food chain. It made reference to a FAO report of the 19th session of the Committee on Agriculture (13-16 April 2005) on ‘FAO’s Strategy for a Safe and Nutritious Food Supply’ that also acknowledged that it was a sovereign right of Member Countries to set up the structures of their national systems according to their needs, constitutional and administrative arrangements.

The Working Group noted the ongoing work by the Terrestrial Code Commission on the revision of the current definitions of veterinary services, and competent authority and their use throughout the *Terrestrial Code* (see above). It considered that this clarification work would need to be reflected in the development of the guidelines on the role and functions of veterinary services in relation to the food chain. The Working Group also considered that it would be useful to start by defining the regulatory functions necessary to reach the objectives in animal production food safety at the national level and then provide guidance on how the veterinary services should contribute to reaching these objectives.

The Working Group recommended the development of a paper to clarify how the veterinary services should cooperate with other authorities in the food chain continuum to ensure the protection of both animal and public health without providing details on the organisation of national administrations; this paper should be developed in the framework of *Terrestrial Code* chapters on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services. The Working Group recommended an *ad hoc* Group be asked to draft such a document.

4. Guide to Good Farming Practices

The Working Group was informed of the exchange of correspondence between OIE and FAO on this matter to coordinate their work to further develop the document ‘Guide to good farming practices’ drafted by the Working Group. FAO will shortly nominate a focal point on this topic.

The Working Group looked forward to the further development of this document.

5. Animal Identification and Traceability

The Working Group complimented the *ad hoc* Group on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals for preparing the General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals that have been adopted in May 2006. It noted the two reports of the *ad hoc* Group (which met in February and July 2006) and highlighted the fact that it had provided, through electronic consultation, comments to both reports.

In addressing the comments made by the Terrestrial Code Commission at its October 2006 meeting, the Working Group noted the comments from Member Countries on the preliminary Guidelines for Animal Identification and Traceability. There were different opinions from Member Countries as to whether there should be more or less detail in these guidelines and what the final destination of this text would be. The Working Group requested the *ad hoc* Group to address these comments.

The Working Group considered that these guidelines should not be too prescriptive, since they had to be applicable to all Member Countries. At the same time, it was felt that in the absence of guidelines on this topic individual Member Countries might develop their own guidelines without consulting trading partners and thus give rise to trade issues. Therefore, OIE guidelines were seen as useful in providing a common reference for all (developing and developed) Member Countries.

In order to provide Member Countries with sufficient detailed information on good animal identification and traceability systems, the OIE should provide (outside the OIE international standards, e.g. on the OIE webpage) examples of how such systems have been implemented.

The Working Group proposed to clarify the wording of principle 9 to read as follows: “The equivalent outcomes **based on** performance criteria, rather than identical systems **based on** design criteria, should be the basis for comparison of animal identification systems and animal traceability.”

The Working Group recommended that these guidelines be revised taking into account the views of the Terrestrial Code Commission and also:

- a) Ensuring that principle 9 is taken into account; and that therefore performance criteria should be highlighted wherever possible. The Working Group noted that, in some places, the draft guidelines reflected the use of design criteria associated with current technologies and provision should be made for technological development.
- b) Ensuring that principle 2 is taken into account; therefore, the animal identification and traceability system should be integrated in the food safety system for an optimal exchange of information.

The Working Group agreed with the opinion of the Terrestrial Code Commission that the guidelines were intended as an Appendix to the *Terrestrial Code* and that the guidelines would indeed set out principles and general approaches, rather than prescribing specific standards.

6. Animal Feed

The Working Group reviewed the report of the *ad hoc* Group on animal feeding and complimented it for its excellent work. It addressed the specific issues raised by the *ad hoc* Group as well as the draft Guidelines for the Control of Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance in Animal Feed.

The Working Group considered that the *ad hoc* Group should address all animal health issues, including zoonoses, related to feed. This should be done in such a way as to avoid duplication with the work of Codex. The *ad hoc* Group should also include chemical hazards in its scope.

The issue of animal welfare should not be addressed because this topic is dealt with elsewhere.

Regarding the subjects related to religious concerns and growth promoters in animal feeding, these should not be addressed because they do not constitute a proven hazard to health within animal feeding and/or would most likely be covered under the Codex remit.

The Working Group agreed that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are an important issue that should be mentioned in the general principles but that it is not within the OIE mandate to pursue any further work in relation to GMOs in animal feed.

The guidelines should address all elements relevant to prevention and detection of contamination (early detection, rapid notification, control systems) which are essential in dealing with natural, accidental and intentional contamination events, in a holistic manner.

The Working Group recommended that the text on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point principles be strengthened as these principles are widely used in commercial feed production.

The Working Group made minor modifications to the principles proposed by the *ad hoc* Group as shown in Appendix C and recommended this text be submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission with a view to circulating it to Member Countries for comments.

The Working Group recommended that an *ad hoc* Group on Animal Feeding be convened to continue this work after receiving a feedback from Member Countries.

7. Revision of OIE model certificates

The Working Group addressed the report of the electronic meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates, the comments made by the Terrestrial Code Commission and the proposed terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group.

The Working Group welcomed the approach taken and requested the *ad hoc* Group to consider if a “sanitary certificate” (rather than a veterinary certificate) would be appropriate for pasteurized milk and dairy products (see also discussion under point 9).

The Working Group emphasised the importance of taking into account the ongoing work in the CAC on certification.

A proposed revised version of the terms of reference is presented at [Appendix D](#) for consideration by the Terrestrial Code Commission.

8. Salmonellosis

In its last meeting, the Working Group had recommended that the Director General of the OIE appoint an *ad hoc* Group to draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. Therefore, the OIE Secretariat had drafted Terms of Reference for such an OIE *ad hoc* Group.

The Working Group discussed the scope of these terms of reference and agreed that animal health issues related to *Salmonella gallinarum* and *S. pullorum* should not be treated by this *ad hoc* Group. The draft terms of reference focus on on-farm methods for detection, control and prevention of *S. typhimurium* and *S. enteritidis* in laying hens; the Working Group agreed that this should encompass both hens laying eggs for human consumption (including egg products used in the food industry) as well for their breeding stock to cover the entire pyramid of egg production.

The Working Group discussed if eradication measures should be included in the terms of reference. There was some sympathy for including eradication at the flock level, as proposed by Dr Schlundt (WHO). However, the Working Group considered that it would be premature to do so at this initial stage. This issue could be reconsidered at a later stage.

In the opinion of the Working Group, the work on salmonella in laying hens should be followed by work on salmonella in broilers and on other pathogens, such as *Campylobacter* spp.

The Working Group recommended that the terms of reference should also require that the risk assessment already performed by JEMRA and other expert groups be taken into account. These amended terms of reference are attached at [Appendix E](#).

9. Tuberculosis

The work related to food safety done by the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis was presented to the Working Group.

Firstly, the *ad hoc* Group proposed to expand the scope of Chapter 2.3.3. on bovine tuberculosis to include domestic (permanently captive and owned free-range) bovines including cattle (*Bos Taurus*, *B. indicus* and *B. grunniens*), water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and wood bison (*Bison bison* and *B. bonasus*).

Secondly, in Article 2.3.3.9. on meat and meat products, the *ad hoc* Group proposed to change the existing reference to the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat to a reference to the new OIE *Terrestrial Code* Appendix 3.10.1. on meat inspection.

Thirdly, the *ad hoc* Group considered the notion in the report from the March 2005 meeting of the Working Group that an international sanitary certificate could serve, instead of a veterinary certificate, for products for human consumption. However, the *ad hoc* Group was of the opinion that an international veterinary certificate for meat and meat products and for milk and milk products can only be issued by an Official Veterinarian; this is already reflected in the text of the *Terrestrial Code* chapter on tuberculosis.

Finally, the *ad hoc* Group considered the request made by the Bureau of the Scientific Commission that the *ad hoc* Group explain the scientific basis for recommendations based on Codex codes of practice. The *ad hoc* Group considered that it was not necessary to provide additional scientific justification for references to Codex codes (e.g. the Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products, CAC/RCP 57), because it considered that Codex texts are scientifically based international standards subjected to international scrutiny. Therefore, no additional scientific rationale is warranted when a reference is made to a Codex text.

The Working Group agreed with the first two proposals and with the last proposal. As regards the third proposal, the Working Group had a lengthy discussion about the use of an international sanitary certificate instead of a veterinary certificate for dairy products subjected to pasteurization or other equivalent treatments (see CAC/RCP 57, Appendix B). It decided to ask the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of the OIE Model Certificates to address this point in its work on the certification of milk and milk products. The Working Group expressed its appreciation for the valuable work of the *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis.

The Working Group recommended that the approach used for the revision of the chapter on brucellosis should be consistent with the approach used for the revision of the one on tuberculosis, i.e. in regard to the certification of products for human consumption.

10. Use of the terms “risk-based”

The Working Group addressed a discussion paper prepared by Dr Andrew McKenzie, Executive Director of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, on the use of the terms “risk-based”. He explained that this paper aimed at clarifying the difference between a “risk-based” and “hazard-based” approach to standard setting. He said that many countries focused on eliminating hazards rather than focusing on risks and with increasing levels of sensitivity of diagnostic techniques were creating unnecessary problems in trade. He said that it was important to be able to evaluate a standard in relation to a given risk rather than presence or absence of a hazard. He informed the Working Group that a similar paper was being developed by New Zealand and would be submitted at the upcoming Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) in April 2007.

The Working Group recognised that the *Terrestrial Code* used a risk-based approach and the Chapter on bovine spongiform encephalopathy was given as an example. The Working Group noted that some Member Countries applied more stringent sanitary measures than the OIE risk-based standards thereby creating trade problems.

The Working Group agreed that OIE should continue to base its standards on risk rather than on hazards when the scientific information allowed this. The Working Group agreed to follow the discussions held in CCGP in April 2007 on the same topic.

The Working Group noted that the IPPC had undertaken work of guidelines for the application of the concept of the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) to phytosanitary issues and recommended that OIE should follow the development of the ongoing work on this topic in IPPC.

11. OIE activities on modern biotechnologies

Dr Elizabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, joined the meeting for this agenda item. She briefed the Working Group on the activities of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Biotechnology.

The *ad hoc* Group met at the OIE headquarters in Paris twice, in April and in October 2006. During the first meeting, three subgroups worked on Reproductive Animal Biotechnologies, on Vaccines and on Nanotechnology. The *ad hoc* Group also revised the draft chapter from the OIE “Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals” on Principles of veterinary vaccine production. For the second meeting, the objectives of the *ad hoc* Group, which had been revised, were to develop guidelines on the animal health risks arising from somatic cell nuclear transfer cloning of production animals, to develop guidelines for new vaccine technologies, to monitor developments on nanotechnology and to advise the OIE on suitable procedures for the identification and tracing of animals and animal products resulting from biotechnology interventions. The main focus of the meeting in October was to develop the “Guidelines for Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer in Production Livestock and Horses” according to the new terms of reference. She informed the Working Group on the organisation of the international symposium on ‘Animal Genomics for Animal Health’ which will take place at OIE headquarters from 23 to 25 October 2007.

She explained that the *ad hoc* Group took the decision not to address the ethical issues related to biotechnology. As for the recommendation to use the existing definitions used by the CAC and in the Cartagena Protocol, this was the work plan of the *ad hoc* Group.

12. Work Programme for 2007

The Working Group amended its work programme for 2007; the new version is shown at [Appendix F](#).

13. Next meeting

The Working Group decided that its next meeting would be held from 6 to 8 November 2007.

.../Appendices

MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**Paris, 7–9 November 2006****List of participants****MEMBERS OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP****Dr Stuart Slorach (chair)**

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MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY WORKING GROUP**Paris, 7–9 November 2006**

Adopted agenda

1. Welcome from the Director General of the OIE
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the previous Working Group meeting
4. Update on OIE / Codex Alimentarius activities
 - 4.1. General update on OIE/Codex Alimentarius activities
5. Control of Hazards of Public Health and Animal Health Importance Through Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Meat Inspection
 - 5.1. Comments received from Member Countries
6. Role and functions of Veterinary Services in food safety throughout the food chain
7. Guide to Good Farming Practices
8. Animal identification and traceability
 - 8.1. Reports of the meetings of the *ad hoc* Group
 - 8.2. Comments received from Member Countries
9. Animal feed
 - 9.1. Draft report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group
10. Revision of OIE model certificates
 - 10.1. Report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group
11. Salmonellosis
 - 11.1. Terms of reference for the *ad hoc* Group
12. Tuberculosis
13. Use of the terms “risk-based”
14. OIE activities on modern biotechnologies
15. Work programme for 2006
16. Any other business
17. Next meeting

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF HAZARDS OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE IN ANIMAL FEED

PART 1

INTRODUCTION

Animal feed is a critical component of the food-chain that has a direct impact on animal health and welfare and also on food safety and public health.

Historically, the OIE primarily addressed animal feed as an important pathway for the entry and spread of contagious epidemic diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, swine vesicular disease and avian influenza. In recent years, the role of feed as a vector for disease agents, including zoonotic organisms, was a focus of standards development in regards to bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Animal feed and feed ingredients are widely traded internationally and trade disruptions have the potential to impact economies in both developed and developing countries. Since 2002 the OIE has expanded its zoonotic disease mandate to encompass animal production food safety, working in collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) and other international organisations. In 2006 the International Committee resolved that the OIE should develop guidance on foodborne zoonoses and animal feeding, complementing relevant CAC texts.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this OIE guideline is to provide guidance on animal feeding in relation to animal health and to complement the guidance provided by the Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004) which deals primarily with food safety.

This guideline aims at ensuring the control of animal and public health hazards through adherence to recommended practices during the production (procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution) and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients for food producing animals.

SCOPE

This guideline applies to the production and use of all products destined for animal feed and feed ingredients at all levels whether produced commercially or on farm. It also includes grazing or free-range feeding, forage crop production and water for drinking. Swill feeding is a particular aspect of on-farm practice that is specifically addressed because of its recognised role in disease transmission.

This guideline deals with feed for food-producing animals other than aquatic animals (i.e. livestock and poultry).

DEFINITIONS

Hazard

means a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of, feed or a feed ingredient with the potential to cause an adverse effect on animal or public health.

Feed

means any material (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed directly to food-producing animals.

Appendix C (contd)

Feed additives

means any intentionally added ingredient not normally consumed as feed by itself, whether or not it has nutritional value, which affects the characteristics of feed or animal products. Microorganisms, enzymes, acidity regulators, trace elements, vitamins and other products fall within the scope of this definition depending on the purpose of use and method of administration. This excludes veterinary drugs.

Medicated feed

means any feed which contains a veterinary drug administered to food producing animals, for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes or for modification of physiological functions.

Feed ingredient

means a component part or constituent of any combination or mixture making up a feed, whether or not it has a nutritional value in the animal's diet, including feed additives. Ingredients are of plant, animal or aquatic origin, or other organic or inorganic substances.

Undesirable substance

means a contaminant or other substance which is present in and/or on feed and feed ingredients and which constitute a risk to animal or public health.

Commercial feed

means all materials that are sold and distributed as feed, or to be mixed with feed, for animals except: unmixed seed, whole, processed, or unprocessed; straw, stover, silage, cobs, husks, and hulls; or individual chemical compounds not mixed with other ingredients.

Cross contamination

means contamination of a material or product with another material or product containing a component that is potentially harmful for animal or public health or restricted under the regulatory framework.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Roles and responsibilities

The Competent Authority has the legal power to set and enforce regulatory animal feeding requirements, and has final responsibility for verifying that these requirements are met. The Competent Authority may establish regulatory requirements for relevant parties to provide it with information and assistance. Refer to Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

Those involved in the production and use of animal feed and feed ingredients have the responsibility to ensure that these products meet regulatory requirements¹. All personnel involved in the manufacture, storage and handling of feed and feed ingredients should be adequately trained and aware of their role and responsibility in preventing the spread of animal health and public health hazards. Appropriate contingency plans should be developed. Equipment should be maintained in good working order and in a sanitary condition.

It is a particular responsibility of Veterinary Services to set and enforce the regulatory requirements pertaining to the use of veterinary drugs, animal disease control and the food safety aspects that relate to the management of live animals on farm.

¹ If at the national level, there are specific food-safety or animal health regulations related to genetically modified organisms, these should be taken into account in relation to feed and feed ingredients as these products form an important part of the food-chain.

Those providing specialist services to producers and to the feed industry (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories) may be required to meet specific regulatory requirements pertaining to the services they provide (e.g. disease reporting, quality standards, transparency).

Regulatory safety standards

All feed and feed ingredients should meet regulatory safety standards. In defining limits and tolerances for hazards, scientific evidence, including the sensitivity of analytical methods and on the characterisation of risks, should be taken into account.

Risk analysis (risk assessment, risk management and risk communication)

Internationally accepted principles and practices on risk analysis (Section 1.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*; and relevant Codex texts) should be used in developing and applying the regulatory framework.

Application of a generic framework should provide a systematic and consistent process for managing all biosecurity risks, while recognising the different risk assessment methodologies used in animal and public health.

Good practices

Where national guidelines exist, good agricultural practices and good manufacturing practices (including good hygienic practices) should be followed. Countries without such guidelines are encouraged to develop them.

Where appropriate, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point² (HACCP) principles should be followed to control hazards that may occur in feed.

Geographic and environmental considerations

Land and facilities used for production of animal feed and feed ingredients and water sources should not be located in close proximity to sources of hazards for animal health or food safety. Animal health considerations include factors such as disease status, location of quarantined premises and existence of zones/compartments of specified health status. Food safety considerations include factors such as industrial operations that generate pollutants and waste treatment plants.

Zoning and compartmentalisation

Feed is an important component of biosecurity and needs to be considered when defining a compartment or zone in accordance with Chapter 1.3.5. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

Sampling and analysis

Sampling and analytical protocols should be based on scientifically recognized principles and procedures.

Labelling

Labelling should be clear and informative as to how the feed and feed ingredients should be handled, stored and used and should comply with regulatory requirements.

See Codex Code of practice on good animal feeding (CAC/RCP 54-2004).

² Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, as defined in the Annex to the Recommended International Code of Practice on General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969).

Appendix C (contd)

Design and management of inspection programmes

In meeting animal and public health objectives prescribed in national legislation or required by importing countries, Competent Authorities contribute through the direct performance of some tasks or through the auditing of animal and public health activities conducted by other agencies or the private sector.

Feed and feed ingredients business operators and other relevant parts of industry should practice self-regulation to secure compliance with required standards for procurement, handling, storage, processing, distribution and use. Operators have the primary responsibility for implementing systems for process control. Where such systems are applied, the Competent Authority should verify that they achieve all regulatory requirements.

Assurance and certification

Competent Authorities are responsible for providing assurances domestically and to trading partners that regulatory requirements have been met. For international trade in animal product based feeds, *Veterinary Services* are required to provide international veterinary certificates.

Hazards associated with animal feed

Biological hazards

Biological hazards that may occur in feed and feed ingredients include agents such as bacteria, viruses, prions, fungi and parasites.

Chemical hazards

Chemical hazards that may occur in feed and feed ingredients include naturally occurring chemicals (such as mycotoxins and gossypol), industrial and environmental contaminants (such as dioxins and PCBs), residues of veterinary drugs and pesticides and also radionuclides.

Physical hazards

Physical hazards that may occur in feed and feed ingredients include foreign objects (such as pieces of glass, metal, plastic or wood).

Cross contamination

It is important to avoid cross-contamination during the manufacture, storage, distribution (including transport) and use of feed and feed ingredients and relevant provisions should be included in the regulatory framework. Scientific evidence, including the sensitivity of analytical methods and on the characterisation of risks, should be drawn upon in developing this framework.

Procedures, such as flushing, sequencing and physical clean-out, should be used to avoid cross-contamination between batches of feed or feed ingredients.

Antimicrobial resistance

Concerning the use of antimicrobials in animal feed refer to Section 3.9. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

Management of information

The Competent Authority should establish clear requirements for the provision of information by the private sector as this relates to regulatory requirements.

Appendix C (contd)

Records should be maintained in a readily accessible form regarding the production, distribution and use of feed and feed ingredients. These records are required to facilitate the prompt trace-back of feed and feed ingredients to the immediate previous source, and trace-forward to the next subsequent recipients, to address identified animal health or public health concerns.

Animal identification and *animal traceability* are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses), and food safety risks arising from animal feed (see Section 3.5. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*; Section 4.3. of CAC/RCP 54-2004).

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE
REVISION OF THE OIE MODEL CERTIFICATES**

1. Simplify the certification process by drafting templates with identical headings (information on exporting country, responsible person, identification of the commodity, address of the consignee, etc.), for all model certificates and prepare different attestations as appropriate to the commodity addressed
 2. Address certificates for live animals identified individually and for animals identified in groups
 3. Address products of animal origin that are not already covered (e.g. products for museums, hides and skins, feathers)
 4. Address milk certificates considering the ongoing work in the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products
 5. Provide for linkages between livestock and commodity certificates
 6. Produce harmonised certificates taking into account different requirements for the various species and commodities
 7. Consider the recommendations of the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (endorsed by the Terrestrial Code Commission)
 8. If possible, take an approach that is consistent with that of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (notably Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems)
 9. Ensure compatibility with electronic certification systems
 10. Make recommendations on the use of new technologies on security for avoiding fraud in certification.
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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON SALMONELLOSIS**

1. Using up to date scientific information, draft a Chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* that addresses on-farm methods for the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Salmonella enteritidis* in laying hens
 2. Take into account risk assessments carried out by JEMRA and other expert groups
 3. Take into account standards developed and under development by relevant international organisations, in particular the CAC, seeking complementarity
 4. Provide scientific justification and risk basis for all recommendations.
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WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2007

The Working Group discussed issues identified at its previous meeting and which still needed to be addressed at some stage in the work programme. The following priorities for 2006/2007 were agreed:

1. Horizontal issues

- a) Animal identification and traceability – underway through an OIE *ad hoc* Group
- b) Certification – Terrestrial Code Commission to update the current OIE model certificates – underway with Working Group to follow up
- c) Antimicrobial resistance – Working Group to follow up Codex (Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance), FAO, WHO and OIE developments
- d) Alternative approaches in risk management of zoonoses – listing (*ad hoc* Group on disease notification) or alternative approaches (*ad hoc* Group on emerging zoonoses, tripartite FAO/OIE/WHO GLEWS mechanism)
- e) Good farming practices – *ad hoc* Group jointly with the FAO to advance the document including the use of veterinary drugs and animal feeding
 - Subtopic: reduction of chemical hazards of public and animal health significance at the farm level
- f) Guidelines for animal feeding addressing the animal health issues and complementing the existing CAC international standards – underway through an OIE *ad hoc* Group

2. Disease-specific OIE texts

- a) Chapters of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* on brucellosis – underway for possible adoption
- b) Foodborne zoonoses (starting with salmonellosis) – convene an *ad hoc* Group to address on-farm issues complementary to Codex (CCFH) and WHO work on risk reduction – underway through an OIE *ad hoc* Group

3. Continue to strengthen relationship between OIE and Codex by:

- a) Encouraging enhanced OIE input into Codex texts
- b) Developing a method for the most effective utilisation of Codex expertise in the work of OIE *ad hoc* Groups.

4. Development of new texts

Develop a document on the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety in order to describe the involvement of Veterinary Services in food safety activities which encompasses both public and animal health objectives – underway through an OIE *ad hoc* Group.

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