Respect of OIE Reference Centre commitments: follow-up actions

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OIE Reference Centres

• OIE Reference Laboratory: to function as a world reference centre of expertise on designated pathogens or diseases;

• OIE Collaborating Centre: to function as a world centre of research, expertise, standardisation of techniques and dissemination of knowledge on a specialty
Network of Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories constitutes the core of OIE scientific expertise and excellence.

In 2014, the OIE has a global network of 247 Reference Laboratories covering 117 diseases or topics in 38 countries, and 49 Collaborating Centres covering 46 topics in 26 countries.
OIE Collaborating Centre Commitments

- **Expert advice**
  - in a particular region
  - applicable to the designated specialty

- **Networking**
  - To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Collaborating Centres

- **Dissemination of information**
  - To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate data and information relevant to the designated specialty

- **Scientific and technical Training**
  - within the designated specialty, to provide training to personnel from OIE Member Countries

To support implementation of OIE standards,
To carry out and/or coordinate scientific and technical studies
OIE Reference Laboratory Commitments

- **Expert advice and promotion**
  - In diagnostic methods according to OIE Standards;

- **Dissemination of the information**
  - To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases; including notification responsibilities

- **Scientific and technical Training**
  - To develop reference material, to store and distribute biological reference products and any other reagents; to recommend the prescribed and alternative tests or vaccines as OIE Standards; new diagnostic procedures etc.

- **Networking**
  - To establish and maintain a network with other OIE Reference Laboratories designated for the same pathogen or disease and organise regular inter-laboratory proficiency testing to ensure comparability of results;
  - To collect, process, analyse, publish and disseminate epizootiological data relevant to the designated pathogens or diseases; including notification responsibilities

and...

- **Networking**
  - within the designated specialty, to provide training to personnel from OIE Member Countries
Quality Assurance requirements

To maintain a system of quality assurance, biosafety and biosecurity relevant to the pathogen and the disease concerned;

To organise inter-laboratory proficiency testing with laboratories other than OIE Reference Laboratories for the same pathogens and diseases to ensure equivalence of results;
Compliance with OIE Rules

• A Reference Laboratory should respect the intellectual property rights on samples received and not use those results, without consent, for more than epidemiological research and to decide about its control disease strategy.

• In the case of positive results for diseases that are reportable to OIE, the Reference Laboratory should immediately inform the Delegate of the OIE Member Country from which the samples originated, as well as the OIE Headquarters.
Compliance with OIE Rules

• The Reference Centre shall provide to the Director General a brief report of activities related to their Terms of Reference at the end of each calendar year, according to the template established by the OIE Headquarters. This report will be made available to all Member Countries.
OIE Reference Centre
Commitments:
Follow-up actions in cases of non-compliance
Compliance with OIE Rules

- The Reference Centre may withdrawn the designation at any time. The designation shall be revoked if the Reference Centre fails to comply with the provisions of the Terms of Reference and the present Rules. In such cases, the Director General of the OIE, after consulting an appropriate Specialist Commission, proposes the withdrawal to the World Assembly of Delegates.
ISA Reference Laboratory case

Independent evaluation of the OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious Salmon Anaemia
Canada, 31 July - 2 August 2012

Main findings

• No evidence for any meaningful Quality System in the OIE-RL
• OIE-RL falls well short of acceptable Quality Standards
• Competent laboratory analyst but lack of comprehensive records of continuing professional training and development
• Lack of contact and networking with other laboratories working on ISA
• Lack of understanding of general philosophy of mutual international support within which OIE operates
Independent Evaluation of the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA: Recommendations

- The OIE should consider, in the light of this report, suspension of the Reference Laboratory status of the ISA laboratory at AVC.

- The panel suggests that OIE should consider very carefully before designating Reference Laboratories in university, rather than government laboratories. It is essential in such cases that clear communication routes are established between the laboratory and official veterinary services.

- Where an OIE-RL is not the National Reference Laboratory for the disease in question, there must be a clear demarcation of responsibilities and a regular dialogue and exchange of materials between the two
DECISION TREE ON HOW TO EVALUATE AND REACT TO UNDER-PERFORMING OR PROBLEMATIC OIE REFERENCE CENTRES

Day 1

- Poor annual report from the laboratory or other source of information
  - Does not fulfil the Terms of Reference
    - Letter sent (copied to OIE Delegate) requesting information or explanations
      - Does not provide a response or it is insufficient
        - Second letter of concern sent
          - Insufficient response
            - Audit or remove
          - Adequate response
            - Maintain status
      - Provides adequate response
        - Maintain status

Day 180

- Provides adequate response
  - Maintain status
Thank You