Developments in the Code; Implications for the Manual

Third Global Conference of OIE Reference Centres
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Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

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

http://www.oie.int/
Terrestrial Animal Health Code

• Recommends health measures to be used by veterinary authorities or other competent authorities
  • to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
  • while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions
• The Code does not specify tests; it refers to the Manual
Approach in the Code

• Generic (horizontal) chapters
  • general definitions
  • obligations and ethics in international trade
  • import risk analysis methodology
  • evaluation of veterinary services
  • import/export procedures
Approach in the Code

• Specific chapters on diseases for
  • live animals
  • genetic material
  • products of animal origin (meat, milk, hides and skins)
Approach in the Code

- Chapter articles on
  - description of pathogen or disease, case definition, epidemiologically significant host species
  - determining status of a country, zone or compartment
  - ‘safe’ commodities irrespective of status (if possible)
  - recommendations for ‘unsafe’ commodities
Biological Standards Commission

Establishes or approves methods for:

- diagnosis of 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

http://www.oie.int/
The *Terrestrial Manual* covers infectious and parasitic diseases of mammals, birds and bees.

Aims to facilitate international trade in animals and animal products and to contribute to the improvement of animal health services world-wide.

Target readership is:
- laboratories carrying out veterinary diagnostic tests and surveillance
- vaccine manufacturers
- regulatory authorities in Member Countries

The objective is to provide internationally agreed diagnostic laboratory methods and requirements for the production and control of vaccines and other biological products.
Updating Code standards

PROBLEM

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Review

Advice of experts or other Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1

2

ASSEMBLY

Adoption

OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Comments

DELEGATES
Developments in the Code with implications for the Manual

- Criteria for listing diseases notifiable to the OIE
- Pathogen-based approach
- Inclusion of wildlife
Criteria for listing diseases

• proven international spread

• at least one country with susceptible population demonstrated free from the disease, infection or infestation

• AND
  • proven transmission to humans with severe consequences, OR
  • has shown significant morbidity or mortality in domestic livestock, OR
  • has shown significant morbidity or mortality in wild animals

• reliable means of detection and diagnosis and precise case definition
Criteria for listing diseases

• Diseases may be added to the list
• Diseases may be removed from the list
  • Swine vesicular disease (May 2014)
  • Vesicular stomatitis (May 2014)
• Member Countries may strongly resist delisting
  • Trade advantages
  • Other motives
• Chapters for delisted diseases may be retained in the Manual
• What priority to update Manual chapters for delisted diseases?
Pathogen-based approach

• A decision of the World Assembly
• Chapter titles now in the form; “Infection with [pathogen]”
  • “Bovine brucellosis”, “caprine and ovine brucellosis” and “porcine brucellosis” become a single chapter; “Infection with Brucella abortus, B. melitensis and B. suis”
  • “Echinococcosis/hydatidosis” becomes two chapters; “Infection with Echinococcus granulosus” and “Infection with Echinococcus multilocularis”
• Chapter titles in the Manual must follow the same convention as those in the Code
Pathogen-based approach

• Case definitions are published in the *Code*

• The *Manual* must refer to the *Code* for case definitions, just as the *Code* refers to the *Manual* for diagnostic tests
  • The *Manual*: “Newcastle disease is defined as an infection of *birds*...”
  • The *Code*: “Newcastle disease is defined as an infection of *poultry*...”
Inclusion of wildlife

• A decision of the World Assembly
• Disease notification requirements are prescribed in the disease-specific chapters of the *Code*
• Epidemiologically significant host species are being incorporated into the disease chapters as they are revised
• Few diagnostic tests have been adequately validated in wildlife
Inclusion of reptiles?

• Member Countries have asked the TAHSC to include reptiles in the *Code*
  • Animal welfare at slaughter
  • Sanitary measures for trade
• Not a decision for the TAHSC
• A decision of the World Assembly
• Sanitary measures for trade would require diagnostic tests
• Implications for the *Manual*
The **Code and the Manual**

- The international standards of the OIE
- Recognised by the WTO
- There must be no contradictions between the *Code* and the *Manual*
- The *Code* refers to the *Manual* for diagnostic tests
- The *Manual* refers to the *Code* for case definitions
- The *Code* publishes the OIE’s recommendations on risk management
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