

Second Global Conference of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Paris (France), 21-23 June 2010

OIE *MANUALS AND CODES*: ROLE OF OIE REFERENCE LABORATORIES AND COLLABORATING CENTERS IN DEVELOPING AND UPDATING OIE STANDARDS

B. Schmitt

Vice-President, OIE Biological Standards Commission, 1920 Dayton Ave, Ames, Iowa, United States of America

OIE Reference Laboratories (RL) and Collaborating Centres (CC) are an integral part of the process of developing and updating OIE standards.

The mandate for both entities plainly outlines these responsibilities. The OIE has a clear but flexible process for updating its standards. Suggested changes to existing standards or recommendations for new standards can come from a variety of sources, such as country delegates, scientists, other international bodies or OIE *ad hoc* and working groups. These recommendations are directed to the pertinent experts at the OIE RLs and CCs for comment. RLs and CCs may also be asked for supporting documentation containing the latest scientific information. This information will assist the various OIE Commissions in their decision-making process. Finally, networks of RLs can use their expertise in a specific disease to better advise the OIE on suggested standards or changes to standards.

It is clear that OIE RLs and CCs are an invaluable resource to the OIE in its mission to facilitate trade between Members and to improve animal health worldwide.



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal