

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

OIE QUALITY STANDARD FOR VETERINARY LABORATORIES

P.F. Wright¹ & M.M. Robinson²

1 Fisheries & Oceans Canada, Gulf Fisheries Centre, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

2 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Washington, D.C., United States of America

In order to ensure confidence in test results, at both national and international levels, test methods must be properly validated with respect to their intended application, and they must be performed under appropriate control by proficient laboratory analysts. In short, confidence requires that laboratories operate to a recognised standard of quality.

The OIE *Quality Standard* is an interpretation of the broadly applicable requirements of the International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*. This interpretation specifically addresses requirements for veterinary laboratories conducting tests for infectious disease diagnosis with a special focus on the technical elements. Strong emphasis is given to the validation of test methods with due consideration of the principles outlined in the OIE manuals of diagnostic tests, both terrestrial and aquatic. As it is an interpretation, laboratories that comply with the OIE *Quality Standard* also operate in accordance with the ISO requirements for testing laboratories. Now in its second edition (2008), the *Quality Standard* has garnered notable international recognition since its first publication in 2002. It was adopted by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) as a benchmark in their existing Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory accreditation program. It is also recognized as one of the acceptable quality standards prerequisite for participation in the USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Recently, the American Association of Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) has introduced a Veterinary Laboratory Accreditation Program that incorporates and aligns the OIE *Quality Standard* with the ISO requirements into a single veterinary specialty program.

While emphasis is most often placed on the confidence in test results, operation under a total quality management system also provides added confidence to many other laboratory activities, such as health and safety, biocontainment and biosecurity, as well as, research and development.



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal