FOREWORD

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (hereafter referred to as the Terrestrial Code) sets out standards for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, and for safe international trade in terrestrial animals (mammals, reptiles, birds and bees) and their products. The health measures in the Terrestrial Code should be used by the Veterinary Authorities of importing and exporting countries for early detection, reporting and control of agents pathogenic to terrestrial animals and, in the case of zoonoses, for humans, and to prevent their transfer via international trade in terrestrial animals and their products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade.

The standards in the Terrestrial Code have been formally adopted by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates, which constitutes the organisation’s highest decision-making body. This 26th edition incorporates modifications to the Terrestrial Code agreed at the 85th General Session in May 2017.

This edition includes an updated version of the table of contents and glossary and the revised text in the following chapters:

- Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list (Article 1.2.1.);
- Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE (the preamble of Chapter 1.3.);
- Somatic cell nuclear transfer in production livestock and horses (Article 4.11.4.);
- High health status horse subpopulation (Article 4.16.3.);
- OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (Chapter 5.3.);
- Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems (Article 7.11.6.);
- Welfare of working equids (Chapter 7.12.);
- Infection with avian influenza viruses (Article 10.4.25.);
- Infection with lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.9.);
- Infection with African swine fever virus (Chapter 15.1.).

This edition also includes five new chapters on following titles:

- Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities;
- Prevention and control of Salmonella in bovine commercial production systems;
- Prevention and control of Salmonella in pig commercial production systems;
- Infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex;
- Infection with porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus.

The development of these standards and recommendations is the result of the ongoing work by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereafter referred to as the Code Commission). This Commission, which comprises six elected members, meets twice yearly to address its work programme. The Code Commission draws upon the expertise of internationally renowned specialists to prepare draft texts for new articles of the Terrestrial Code and to revise existing articles. The views of OIE National Delegates are routinely sought through the twice yearly circulation of draft texts. The Code Commission collaborates closely with other Specialist Commissions of the OIE, including the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases, to ensure that the recommendations contained in the Terrestrial Code are based upon the latest scientific information.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (hereafter referred to as the SPS Agreement) formally recognises the role of the OIE as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonotic diseases. According to the SPS Agreement, WTO Members should align their import requirements with the recommendations in the relevant standards of the OIE. Where there are no OIE recommendations or if the country chooses a level of protection requiring measures more stringent than the standards of the OIE, these should be based on an import risk analysis conducted in accordance with Chapter 2.1. The Terrestrial Code is thus a key part of the WTO legal framework for international trade.
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The Terrestrial Code is published annually in the three official OIE languages (English, French and Spanish). An unofficial translation into Russian is also available from the OIE upon request. The Terrestrial Code may be viewed and downloaded from the OIE Web site at http://www.oie.int.

The User's guide, which follows this foreword, is designed to help Veterinary Authorities and other interested parties to use the Terrestrial Code.

We wish to thank the members of the Code Commission, Delegates and the experts participating in Working Groups and ad hoc Groups and other Specialist Commissions for their expert advice. Finally but not least, my thanks go to the staff of the OIE for their dedication in producing this 26th edition of the Terrestrial Code.

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