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## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 17–26 September 2013

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 17 to 26 September, 2013. The list of participants is attached as [Annex I](#).

The Code Commission thanked the following Member Countries for providing written comments of draft texts circulated after the Commission's February meeting: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Ecuador, Japan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United States of America (USA), Member States of the European Union (EU), and African Member Countries through the African Union–Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). Comments were also received from the Comité Veterinario Permanente del Cono Sur (CVP) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In addition, the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS), the International Poultry Council (IPC), the International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and the International Natural Sausage Casings Association (INSCA) submitted written comments.

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments that had been submitted by 16 August 2013 and amended texts in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by 'double underline' and '~~striketrough~~' and may be found in the Annexes to the report. In Annexes XII (Chapter 6.10.), XIII (Chapter 7.5.), XIV (Chapter 7.6.) and XVII (Chapter 12.1.), amendments made at the September 2013 meeting are highlighted with a coloured background in order to distinguish them from those made previously. All Member Countries' comments were considered by the Code Commission. However, because of the very large volume of work, the Commission was not able to draft a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not every proposal received. Member Countries are reminded that if comments are resubmitted without modification or new justification, the Commission will not, as a rule, repeat previous explanations for decisions. The Commission encourages Member Countries to refer to previous reports when preparing comments on longstanding issues. The Commission also draws the attention of Member Countries to those instances where the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has addressed Member Countries' comments and proposed amendments. In such cases the rationale for such amendments is described in Scientific Commission's report and the Code Commission encourages Member Countries to review this report together with that of the Scientific Commission.

Member Countries should note that texts in Part A of this report are presented for comment, and that all comments received will be addressed during the Commission's meeting in February 2014. The reports of meetings (Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups) and other related documents are attached for information in Part B of this report.

The Code Commission again strongly encourages Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments on this report. Comments should be submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Proposed deletions should be indicated in '~~striketrough~~' and proposed additions with 'double underline'. Member Countries should not use the automatic 'track-changes' function provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the process of collating Member Countries' submissions into the Commission's working documents.

Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters **by 10 January 2014** to be considered at the February 2014 meeting of the Code Commission. All comments should be sent to the OIE International Trade Department at: [trade.dept@oie.int](mailto:trade.dept@oie.int).

## **A. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

The Code Commission met Dr Bernard Vallat, the Director General of the OIE, on 17 September 2013 to discuss several key topics as follows.

### **1. Coordination among Specialist Commissions**

Dr Alejandro Thiermann noted that the participation of the Code Commission members as observers in relevant *ad hoc* Group meetings has proven very useful in ensuring early alignment of the work of *ad hoc* Groups with the needs of the Code Commission. Dr Vallat agreed, and also noted the importance of the Specialist Commissions working and making decisions and proposals according to their prescribed mandates. Dr Vallat reminded the Code Commission that all *ad hoc* Groups are appointed by the Director General and their function is to prepare advice for the Specialist Commissions, who are the bodies elected to decide which proposals within their respective mandates go forward in the standard setting process.

It was also agreed that the welcome return to scheduling overlapping Scientific and Code Commission meetings to enable joint meetings in both February and September 2014 will enable greater cohesion and alignment of the work of both Commissions.

### **2. High health status horse subpopulation**

Dr Vallat outlined the background to the current work programme with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA). The draft chapter prepared for the Code Commission's review aims to establish the concept and principles for temporary movement of high health status horses based on the existing standards for identification, compartmentalisation and certification. The expectation is that once the concept and principles are adopted, they can be expanded as needed. The Code Commission members welcomed this approach and agreed with the importance of highlighting and applying existing standards to facilitate temporary movement of these high health status horses.

### **3. Definition of emerging diseases**

Further to discussions within OIE Headquarters and between the Presidents of the Scientific, Aquatic Animals and Code Commissions, the Director General agreed with the Code Commission that the removal of reference to emerging diseases from Article 1.2.2. (the listing criteria) would clarify much of the previous confusion.

## **B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The adopted agenda of the meeting is attached as [Annex II](#).

## **C. REPORT ON JOINT MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CODE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION (4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February)**

The President of the Code Commission and International Trade Department staff met the Scientific Commission on 5<sup>th</sup> September to discuss various issues of mutual interest. The minutes of this joint meeting are attached as [Annex III](#).

## **D. EXAMINATION OF MEMBER COUNTRY COMMENTS AND WORK OF RELEVANT EXPERT GROUPS**

### **Item 1. General comments of Member Countries**

Comments were received from EU.

Under this item, the Code Commission noted Member Countries' endorsement of the proposals in the report of the February 2013 meeting, and addressed specific comments in the individual chapters reviewed.

**Item 2. Horizontal issues****User's Guide**

Comments were received from Argentina, EU, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and AU-IBAR.

In response to these comments the Code Commission made a number of minor amendments to clarify or simplify the text, and maintain consistency with established Code format.

The revised User's Guide is presented as Annex IV for Member Countries' comment.

**Item 3 Glossary**

Comments were received from Argentina, Belarus, Chile, Kazakhstan, Russia and OIE Headquarters.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's correction to the Spanish version of 'stamping out policy', and the proposal to remove a superfluous phrase from the definition in all languages.

In response to Member Countries' comments on the definition of 'veterinarian', the Code Commission noted that the current definition had just been agreed in May 2013, and proposed that these latest suggestions be held for consideration in February 2014 along with the recommendations from the December 2013 OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education and the Role of the Veterinary Statutory Body.

The revised Glossary is attached as Annex V for Member Countries' comment.

**Item 4 Notification of diseases, infections, infestations and epidemiological information****a) Notification of diseases, infections, infestations and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)**

Comments were received from Switzerland, the Aquatic Animals Commission, and OIE Headquarters.

In response to the comments received, the Code Commission amended the text to harmonise language between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)*, and improve clarity and grammar.

**b) Notification of 'emerging disease'**

With respect to Member Countries' suggestions to clarify the definition and reporting expectations for emerging diseases, the Code Commission proposed to remove the requirement for reporting emerging diseases from Article 1.1.3., re-arranged Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.5. and inserted new Article 1.1.3.bis to the requirements for notification of emerging diseases. Additional minor amendments were made to harmonise with the *Aquatic Code*.

The Code Commission reviewed a proposal from OIE Headquarters to amend the definition of emerging disease, and restructured the definition to improve clarity.

The revised Chapter 1.1. is attached as Annex VI for Member Countries' comment.

**Item 5 Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)**

Comments were received from Australia, EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and AU-IBAR

The Code Commission noted a Member Country's comment suggesting that greater clarity was needed for the term 'significant morbidity and mortality'. As noted in the February 2013 report, the Code Commission considered that the structured process of listing diseases, first by an expert group whose conclusions are documented and circulated for Member Countries' review and comment, then consideration by the World Assembly of Delegates before final adoption, is sufficiently rigorous and transparent.

In response to Member Countries' comment to remove to the words 'honey bees' from the listed disease names in point 8 of Article 1.2.3., the Code Commission preferred to retain the current format to distinguish those diseases that affect honey bees from conditions that affect hives.

In relation with the modification of Chapter 1.1. concerning notification of emerging diseases, the Code Commission proposed to delete point 5 of Article 1.2.2. In response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission agreed not to include any chart in the chapter, since it is a duplication that adds no new information to the article text.

In response to Member Countries' scientifically structured comments based on the criteria in Chapter 1.2., the report of the September 2013 meeting of the Scientific Commission, and the absence of any Member Country comments providing scientific argument against the delisting of vesicular stomatitis and swine vesicular disease, the Code Commission deleted the words 'under study' from Article 1.2.3.

Member Countries' requests for addition of new diseases to Article 1.2.3. were referred to the Director General for consideration. The Code Commission noted that an *ad hoc* Group will meet in October 2013 to consider the listing of Schmallenberg virus against the criteria in Chapter 1.2.

In response to a Member Country comment on the difficulty in understanding the notification obligations with respect to influenza A viruses, the Code Commission made an editorial change in point 6 of Article 1.2.3.

The revised Chapter 1.2. is attached as Annex VII for Member Countries' comment.

#### **Item 6 Animal health surveillance (Chapter 1.4.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the Scientific Commission on Article 1.4.6. concerning historical freedom and decided to add this item to the agenda of the next joint meeting with the Scientific Commission in February 2014.

#### **Item 7 Import risk analysis (Chapter 2.1.)**

Comments received from the Aquatic Animals Commission.

The Code Commission accepted the suggestion from the Aquatic Animals Commission to remove paragraph 4 from the introduction of Article 2.1.1. as it is covered in Chapter 5.3. and to harmonise with the *Aquatic Code*.

The revised Chapter 2.1. is attached as Annex VIII for Member Countries' comment.

#### **Item 8 Support for Veterinary Services**

##### **a) Veterinary legislation (Chapter 3.4.)**

Comments were received from Mexico and AU-IBAR

The Code Commission reviewed all Member Country comments. Where no supporting rationale was provided and there was no clear improvement to the current text from the suggestions offered, the Code Commission left the current text unchanged.

In response to a Member Country comment, the Spanish version of Article 3.4.10. was corrected.

##### **b) Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation**

The Code Commission reviewed and endorsed the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group in April 2013.

The report is attached as Annex XXVII for Member Countries' information.

#### **Item 9 Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and horses (Chapter 4.7.)**

Comments were received from Australia.

The Code Commission agreed with the suggestion to seek the scientific rationale for recommendations from the IETS and to share these with Member Countries when amendments to the *Terrestrial Code* are proposed on the basis of IETS recommendations.

## **Item 10 General principles for animal disease control (Draft Chapter 4.X.)**

Comments were received from China, Chinese Taipei, EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA and AU-IBAR.

Numerous comments from Member Countries reinforced earlier concerns of the Code Commission that this draft chapter duplicated several aspects of disease control already addressed in a number of *Terrestrial Code* chapters. After further discussion with the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission decided to remove the draft chapter from further consideration for inclusion in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission asked the Director General to consider the review of the existing text on the OIE website, taking account of the many constructive comments received from Member Countries on this subject.

## **Item 11 Antimicrobial resistance**

### **a) Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.6.)**

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, EU and Switzerland.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission, taking into account Member Country comments.

A Member Country requested to have an explicit reference to the concept of “One Health” in the chapter. The Code Commission supported the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group that the concept was already covered in paragraph 4 of Article 6.6.1.

Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure, and format. In most instances the rationale for the changes made can be found in the report of the *ad hoc* Group.

The revised Chapter 6.6. is attached as Annex IX for Member Countries’ comment.

### **b) Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes (Chapter 6.7.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, EU, USA and Switzerland.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission, taking into account Member Country comments. Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure and format. In most instances the rationale for the changes made can be found in the report of the *ad hoc* Group, which is annexed to the report of the September 2013 meeting of the Scientific Commission.

A Member Country’s comment requesting a change to the formatting used for *Salmonella* serovars in the current *Code* text was rejected as the current text follows the internationally accepted convention.

Member Countries’ comments requesting the addition of specific examples of bacteria were not accepted because they did not add sufficient value.

The revised Chapter 6.7. is attached as Annex X for Member Country comment.

### **c) Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Chapter 6.9.)**

Comments were received from Argentina, EU and USA.

The Code Commission reviewed the text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission, taking into account Member Country comments. Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure, and format.

A Member Country’s comments requesting the deletion of reference to the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH) guidelines was rejected because these guidelines are relevant to this chapter. Other editorial comments were rejected because they did not add sufficient value.

The revised Chapter 6.9. is attached as Annex XI for Member Countries' comment.

**d) Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals (Chapter 6.10.)**

Comments were received from Canada, EU, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, USA and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission, taking into account Member Countries' comments. Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure and format. In most instances the rationale for the changes made can be found in the report of the *ad hoc* Group which is annexed to the report of September 2013 meeting of the Scientific Commission.

In this chapter on risk assessment, the Code Commission noted the preference to refer to 'microorganisms' rather than 'bacteria' because antimicrobial drugs may be used against pathogens other than bacteria and the scope of the resistance problem goes beyond bacteria alone.

The Code Commission drew Member Countries' attention to the explanation concerning the use of the term 'determinant' in the Group report, which they endorse.

The Code Commission agreed to a Member Country's requests to amend the Spanish translation of several clauses in this chapter to align with the English text.

The revised Chapter 6.10. is attached as Annex XII for Member Countries' comment.

**Item 12 Animal Welfare**

**a) Draft new chapter on animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems (Draft Chapter 7.X.)**

Comments were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA, AU-IBAR and ICFAW.

Many comments were received on this draft chapter, but unfortunately many had no supporting rationale which made them difficult for both the Code Commission and the *ad hoc* Group to evaluate. The Code Commission identified those for which expert advice should be sought, and recommended the Director General reconvene an *ad hoc* Group to address them. The Code Commission will address the remaining comments at their February 2014 meeting when they expect to have received the specialist advice sought.

**b) Restructuring of Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.**

Slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5.)

Comments were received from Australia, Bangladesh, China, EU, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and USA.

The Code Commission agreed with requests from Member Countries and the Animal Welfare Working Group to retain the tables and figures in Chapter 7.5.

The Code Commission accepted an expert's advice to provide separate figures for non-penetrative and penetrative stunning of cattle, for animals stunned mechanically (mechanical device) and for those stunned by other methods and accepted proposals to improve the diagrams for stunning of sheep, goats and horses.

On the basis of an expert's advice and Member Countries' comments the Code Commission added new text on electrical stunning of poultry, which recognises that acceptable performance parameters for alternating current electrical stunning systems are different from those for direct current electrical stunning systems.

The Code Commission rejected Member Countries' requests for greater detail on several points as unnecessary because there was insufficient or no supporting rationale.

The revised Chapter 7.5. is attached as Annex XIII for Member Countries' comment.

Killing of animals for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.6.)

Comments were received from Australia, China, EU, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand and USA.

The Code Commission agreed with requests from Member Countries and the Animal Welfare Working Group to retain the tables and figures in Chapter 7.6.

In response to a Member Country's comment the Code Commission inserted a new point 7 in Article 7.6.1. noting that death must be confirmed before disposal of carcasses.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's referenced proposal to replace and expand point 'd' of Article 7.6.5. with two new points labelled 'd' and 'e'.

On the basis of Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission added new chapeau text to Figures 1 to 4, and replicated in Chapter 7.6. the changes proposed to the figures and captions for cattle, sheep and goats in Chapter 7.5.

The Code Commission noted a Member Country's observation that this chapter includes no recommendations for killing of horses, and requested the Director General seek expert advice to develop new text on this matter.

On the basis of Member Countries' comments the Code Commission amended the wording of Article 7.6.6. and point 2b)v) Article 7.6.12. to improve clarity. The Code Commission also introduced the new point 2c) to Article 7.6.9. as an additional requirement for effective use of two stage application of electrical current.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to add 'free bullet' to Article 7.6.17. point 1a).

The Code Commission considered and rejected Member Countries' requests for greater detail on several other points in this chapter as unnecessary. Many of these comments also lacked any supporting rationale.

The revised Chapter 7.6. is attached as Annex XIV for Member Countries' comment.

**c) Member Country comments on existing chapters (Chapters 7.8. and 7.10.)**

Use of animals in research and education (Chapter 7.8.)

Comments were received from Switzerland.

All the Member Country's comments were examined, but the Code Commission considered they were minor and did not add sufficient value to the adopted text to warrant amendment of the chapter.

Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems (Chapter 7.10.)

Comments received from EU, USA, IPC, and ICFAW.

In response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission made minor language changes to Article 7.10.3. to improve clarity and the logical order of the subject matter included in the article. They also amended the language of the second sentence of Article 7.10.4. point 2a) to more clearly cover adjustments that may be considered for maintaining the thermal environment and avoiding extremes of heat, humidity and cold.

The Code Commission rejected a request to add reference to ascites as a useful indicator to Article 7.10.3. point 5 because the opening statement 'ill health regardless of cause' is all embracing and the previous deletion of language in this point was made in response to Member Countries' comments.

The text on choice of broiler strain in point 2k) of Article 7.10.4. that was left under study when this chapter was adopted at the 2013 General Session was re-examined taking into account the discussion at the General Session and subsequent comments received from Member Countries and an international organisation. The Code Commission amended the first sentence of point k accordingly. With this amendment, the words 'under study' are also deleted.

A request to delete language from Article 7.10.3. point 8 with inadequate justification was rejected.

The Code Commission also rejected Member Countries' request to delete 'breast blisters' from Article 7.10.4. point 2f) having accepted a request from the same Member Countries' to include breast blisters in the criteria and measurables of Article 7.10.3.

The revised Chapter 7.10. is attached as Annex XV for Member Countries' comment.

**d) Disaster Management and Preparedness**

In response to a request from the Animal Welfare Working Group, OIE Headquarters developed minor new text amendments for inclusion in Chapters 3.1., 3.2., and 3.3. to address expectations of Veterinary Services with respect to animal health and welfare disaster management and preparedness.

The Code Commission reviewed and amended this new draft text to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure, and format. The proposed amendments are as follows:

Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.1.)

New text is added to point 7 of Article 3.1.2., and a new point d is inserted in point 9 of the same article.

Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

New text is added to point 1 of Article 3.2.7., and Article 3.2.14. point 6a)i).

Communication (Chapter 3.3.)

New text is added to Article 3.3.2. point 2 and a new point iv) is added to Article 3.3.4. point 4a).

The revised Chapters 3.1., 3.2., and 3.3. are attached as Annex XVI for Member Countries' comment.

**e) Animal Welfare Working Group Meeting Report**

The Code Commission noted the Animal Welfare Working Group review of a paper on the humane killing of reptiles, and recommended the Director General should seek advice from the OIE Council on how the OIE should address the broader issue of health and welfare of reptiles. The Code Commission considers it should not embark on any work on reptiles until the OIE as a whole comes to a decision.

The report of the Animal Welfare Working Group was approved and is provided for Member Countries' information as Annex XXVIII for information.

**Item 13 Vector borne diseases**

**a) Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1)**

Comments were received from Australia, EU and Nigeria.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission taking into account Member Country comments.

In response to Member Countries' comment to address inconsistencies between points 2 and 3 of Article 12.1.2. the Code Commission amended the text. Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Code* content, structure, and format.

The Code Commission noted the absence of an article on safe commodities for trade with respect to African horse sickness, and recommended that this be addressed in a future iteration of the chapter because of significant international trade in equid meat and hides.

The draft text is attached in Annex XVII for Member Country comments.



**b) Infection with bluetongue virus (Chapter 8.3.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Chile, EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission taking into account Member Countries' comments.

The Code Commission deleted the words 'except for BTV8 (Under study)' from point 5 of Article 8.3.2. as since the adoption of the revised chapter, no evidence has been provided to show that BTV8 is transmitted by embryos, and the IETS already recognises bovine embryos as a safe commodity with respect to bluetongue virus.

**c) Harmonisation of three vector borne diseases (bluetongue, epizootic haemorrhagic disease and African horse sickness)**

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission taking into account Member Country comments.

The Code Commission noted that significant inconsistency remained between the proposed revised chapters on bluetongue, epizootic haemorrhagic disease and African horse sickness with no supporting rationale on the following key points:

Disease freedom variably defined as 'freedom from infection' for African horse sickness and 'freedom from transmission' for bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease. Further, the associated surveillance requirements for proving freedom from epizootic haemorrhagic disease appear to demonstrate freedom from infection in some articles and freedom from virus transmission in others.

Historical freedom is considered for African horse sickness but not bluetongue or epizootic haemorrhagic disease.

Bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease free status may be maintained in the presence of infected animals and Culicoides provided undefined ongoing surveillance is maintained, but no similar provision is available for African horse sickness.

Seasonal freedom continues to be recognised for bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease, but not for African horse sickness.

Control of Culicoides is required in African horse sickness and epizootic haemorrhagic disease, but in bluetongue only competent Culicoides vectors must be controlled. (The Code Commission also noted as a fact that it can only be demonstrated that a Culicoides species is not a competent vector in the presence of the virus in question).

The Code Commission recommended the Director General seek further specialist advice with supporting justification on the extent of harmonisation of these three chapters with respect to the above points before further draft revisions of chapters on bluetongue and epizootic haemorrhagic disease are prepared for Member Country review.

**Item 14 Zoonotic parasites**

**a) Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* (Chapter 8.4.)**

Comments were received from EU.

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments. In view of the advice provided by a country that has successfully eradicated *Echinococcus granulosus* they decided to retain the treatment interval specified in point 2b) of Article 8.4.3.

**b) Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.14.)**

Comments were received from Australia and EU.

The Code Commission noted that the absence of *Terrestrial Code* text documenting the requirements for freedom from one or more species of *Trichinella* does not preclude a Member Country from self-declaring freedom of its territory or a zone within it. Further, experts of the *ad hoc* Group advised that they had been unable to develop plausible globally applicable conditions to be fulfilled to support a claim for country or zone freedom from *Trichinella* spp.

In response to a request to change the number of species, the Code Commission noted that the text is harmonised with the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and the request to change the number of species will be referred to the Biological Standards Commission. The Code Commission agreed with the suggestion to add the words 'and should not be fed to pigs' to Article 8.14.3. point 1 b.

In response to Member Countries' comments on the application of the compartmentalisation concept, the Code Commission saw no need to change Article 8.14.5. to more precisely define compartments for trichinellosis, because the procedure for establishment and recognition of compartments must allow Veterinary Authorities to take into account the epidemiology of the disease in question and other factors. In the case of trichinellosis there may be no epidemiological link between different herds within a compartment.

Member Countries' suggestion to delete point 2b in Article 8.14.7. was not accepted as the Code Commission understands this is on the current work programme of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

The Code Commission agreed with Member Countries which commented on the importance of the OIE continuing to work in close collaboration with the CAC.

The revised Chapter 8.14. as attached in [Annex XVIII](#) is presented for Member Countries' comments.

#### **c) Collaboration with Codex Alimentarius Commission**

The Code Commission noted that draft guidelines for control of *Trichinella* spp. in meat were under development by the CAC and acknowledged the ongoing collaboration between the OIE and the CAC. The Code Commission reiterated the importance of the coordination at national level between the relevant focal points of the two organisations.

#### **Item 15 Foot and mouth disease (Chapters 8.6. and 1.6.)**

Comments were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Chinese Taipei, Ecuador, EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Switzerland, USA, AU-IBAR and SADC.

The Code Commission reviewed the extensive Member Countries' comments, and identified those for which expert technical advice is required. The Code Commission will address the remaining comments when they have received the specialist technical advice.

#### **Item 16 Infection with Rift valley fever virus (Chapter 8.12.)**

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission. Further amendments were made to improve clarity, and maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure, and format.

The revised Chapter 8.12. is attached as [Annex XIX](#) for Member Countries' comment.

#### **Item 17 Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis* (Chapter 8.X.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China, Ecuador, EU, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, USA and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission reviewed the extensive Member Countries' comments and identified those for which expert technical advice is required. The Code Commission addressed the remaining comments and modified the text accordingly to facilitate expert review. The Code Commission will report on these together with the expert's comments in its February 2014 meeting report.

**Item 18 Infection with avian influenza viruses (Chapter 10.4.)**

Comments were received from South Africa.

In response to the Member Country's request to revert to use of the term 'notifiable avian influenza' in Chapter 10.4., the Code Commission recalled that the World Assembly of Delegates took the decision to delete the term 'notifiable avian influenza' from the *Terrestrial Code* in May 2013 and, further, as provided for in Article 10.4.2., avian influenza remains a notifiable disease.

On the basis of expert advice obtained from the Scientific Commission<sup>1</sup>, the Code Commission inserted new text detailing procedures for virus inactivation in Articles 10.4.21., 10.4.22., and 10.4.23., and deleted the words 'under study' from these articles.

The same additions on virus inactivation were incorporated in Chapter 10.9. (Newcastle disease)

The revised Chapters 10.4. and 10.9. are attached as Annex XX and Annex XXI for Member Countries' comments.

**Item 19 Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapters 11.8. and 1.6.)**

The Code Commission reviewed new Article 11.8.18. and associated Article 1.6.X. for an OIE endorsed official control programme for CBPP developed by the Scientific Commission. Amendments were made to maintain consistency with existing *Terrestrial Code* content, structure, and format.

The revised Chapters 11.8. and 1.6. are attached as Annex XXII for Member Countries' comments.

**Item 20 Equine diseases****a) Infection with equine arteritis virus (chapter 12.9.)**

Comments were received from EU.

In response to Member Countries' comments, and after having sought expert advice, the Code Commission amended the heading of Article 12.9.5. to limit it to *in vivo* embryos, and included the new point 3 in this article.

The revised Chapter 12.9. is attached as Annex XXIII for Member Countries' comments.

**b) The high health status horse subpopulation (draft Chapter 4.X.)**

The Code Commission reviewed the chapter drafted by an *ad hoc* Group and examined by the Scientific Commission. They edited the draft to include cross references to existing *Code* text, improve clarity, and align the new draft chapter with existing *Code* content, structure, and format.

The Code Commission noted that the OIE, FEI, and IFHA are working together to develop the biosecurity guidelines referred to in Article 4.X.3.

The proposed new draft Chapter 4.X. is attached as Annex XXIV for Member Countries' comments.

**c) Infection with equid herpesvirus type 1 (Equine rhinopneumonitis) (Chapter 12.8.)**

As a consequence of the removal of equid herpesvirus type 4 (EHV-4) from Article 1.2.3. (OIE listed diseases) at the 2013 General Session, the Code Commission amended the title of this chapter, and amended the chapter to remove all references to EHV-4.

The revised Chapter 12.8. is attached as Annex XXIX for Member Countries' information.

<sup>1</sup> ISBARN S. *et al.* Inactivation of avian influenza virus by heat and high hydrostatic pressure. *Journal of Food Protection*. 70 (2007). 667-673.

LU H. *et al.* Investigation of H7N2 avian influenza outbreaks in two broiler breeder flocks in Pennsylvania 2001-02. *Avian Diseases*. 48 (2004). 26-33.

**Item 21 Infection with *Chlamydomphila abortus* (Chapter 14.5.)**

Comments were received from Chile.

The Code Commission did not agree with the Member Country's request to delete the requirement for absence of clinical sign in Article 14.5.4. because it is common to many chapters as a general condition for trade and therefore should remain. No amendments to the chapter are proposed.

**Item 22 Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Chapter 14.8.)**

Comments were received from the EU.

In response to Member Countries' suggestions, the Code Commission added a new clause c to Article 14.8.3. point 1 to include the requirement that vaccination against PPR be prohibited in PPR free countries or zones and revised the language of points 2a) and 2b) and the final paragraph of Article 14.8.3. to improve clarity.

The superfluous words 'with or without vaccination' were deleted from Article 14.8.7., and the words 'affected animal' were replaced with 'case' to align with Article 14.8.3.

Several clauses of Article 14.8.10. were re-arranged to improve clarity.

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestion to add a new point 3 to Article 14.8.14. and 14.8.15. to address male donor requirements.

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestion to amend Article 14.8.26. on procedures for inactivation of PPRV in casings of sheep and goats to more accurately incorporate recent scientific data, and improve clarity.

In response to Member Countries' suggestion to include reference to susceptible wildlife in Article 14.8.27. the Code Commission noted that wildlife is dealt with in article 14.8.30. (Surveillance in wildlife).

The revised Chapter 14.8. is attached as Annex XXV for Member Countries' comment.

**Item 23 Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.2.)**

Comments were received from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, EU, New Zealand and CVP.

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments, including the request for inclusion of an article on historical freedom at the General Session, and decided to discuss these at the joint meeting with the Scientific Commission in February 2014, before the modified text is presented for Member Country comment.

**Item 24 Update of the Code Commission work programme**

Comments were received from Argentina, Canada, EU and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission reviewed and updated its work programme, taking account of Member Countries' comments within the Code Commission's scope, and work completed. Consideration of development of a horizontal *Terrestrial Code* chapter on vaccination was identified as an item for discussion at the February 2014 meeting.

In response to specific Member Countries' requests the Code Commission noted:

- The request for amendment to Article 5.2.4. electronic certification will be considered at the February 2014 Code Commission meeting.
- The Director General will be asked to seek expert technical advice to prepare a case definition of dourine for inclusion in Chapter 12.3., that the Code Commission can consider at their February 2014 meeting.

- The Director General will be asked to seek expert technical advice on updating Article 10.5.2. (avian mycoplasmosis) on the conditions for determining the free status of an establishment, that the Code Commission will consider when available.
- Review and update of Chapter 15.1. (African swine fever) is currently on the Scientific Commission's work programme, and an *ad hoc* Group on this subject is scheduled to meet in early 2014. This will be included on the Code Commission meeting agenda when the *ad hoc* Group report is available. The Commission also noted that INSCA has requested that requirements for inactivation of the virus in casings be included in this chapter. The Commission decided to review this comment after the *ad hoc* Group update the chapter.
- Member Countries' request to review the scrapie chapter has been forwarded to the Director General for consideration.
- Harmonisation and collaboration on animal production food safety between OIE and the CAC is ongoing.

The Code Commission discussed the use of on line commenting systems by the International Plant Protection Convention and CAC, and recommended the Trade Department seek more information on how such a system could be used in the OIE, and report back to the Code Commission.

The revised work programme is attached as Annex XXVI for Member Countries' comments.

#### **Item 25 Review of applications for recognition as an OIE collaborating centre**

Joint Collaborating Centre for Food Safety (Singapore and Japan)

The Code Commission reviewed the dossier proposing to expand the present Japanese OIE Collaborating Centre for Food Safety by forming a new Joint Collaborating Centre with the Veterinary Public Health Centre of Singapore and the Division of Health and Environmental Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Rakuno Gakuen University, Japan.

The Code Commission recognised that the proposed new partners to the Joint Collaborating Centre would strengthen and add complementary skills to the existing Collaborating Centre, and recommend that OIE accept this proposal to form a Joint Collaborating Centre for Food Safety.

#### **Item 26 Proposed dates for 2014 meetings**

The 2014 meetings are scheduled for February 11–20, and September 9–18.

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.../Annexes