

**OIE Tool for the
Evaluation of Performance
of Veterinary Services
(OIE PVS Tool)**

Fifth edition, 2010

OIE *Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services*
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CONTENTS

	Introduction	v
	Glossary of terms	ix
CHAPTER I	HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES	1
Section I-1	Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services	3
Section I-2	Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals	5
Section I-3	Continuing education	7
Section I-4	Technical independence	8
Section I-5	Stability of structures and sustainability of policies	9
Section I-6	Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services	10
Section I-7	Physical resources	12
Section I-8	Operational funding	13
Section I-9	Emergency funding	14
Section I-10	Capital investment	15
Section I-11	Management of resources and operations	16
CHAPTER II	TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY	17
Section II-1	Veterinary laboratory diagnosis	19
Section II-2	Laboratory quality assurance	20
Section II-3	Risk analysis	21
Section II-4	Quarantine and border security	22
Section II-5	Epidemiological surveillance	23
Section II-6	Early detection and emergency response	25
Section II-7	Disease prevention, control and eradication	26
Section II-8	Food safety	27
Section II-9	Veterinary medicines and biologicals	29
Section II-10	Residue testing	30
Section II-11	Emerging issues	31
Section II-12	Technical innovation	32
Section II-13	Identification and traceability	33
Section II-14	Animal welfare	35

CHAPTER III	INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS	37
Section III-1	Communications	39
Section III-2	Consultation with stakeholders	40
Section III-3	Official representation	41
Section III-4	Accreditation/authorisation/delegation	42
Section III-5	Veterinary Statutory Body	43
Section III-6	Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes	45
CHAPTER IV	ACCESS TO MARKETS	47
Section IV-1	Preparation of legislation and regulations	49
Section IV-2	Implementation of legislation and regulations and stakeholder compliance	50
Section IV-3	International harmonisation	51
Section IV-4	International certification	52
Section IV-5	Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	53
Section IV-6	Transparency	54
Section IV-7	Zoning	55
Section IV-8	Compartmentalisation	56

INTRODUCTION

In this era of globalisation, the development and growth of many countries, as well as the prevention and control of major biological disasters, depend on the performance of their policies and economies on agriculture, animal health and food and this, in turn, directly relates to the quality of their Veterinary Services (VS). Important roles for VS include veterinary public health – including food-borne diseases – and regional and international market access for animals and animal products. To meet current and future opportunities and challenges, VS should be independent and objective in their activities and decisions should be based on sound science and immune from political pressure. Use of the OIE *Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services* (OIE *PVS Tool*) is a key element in the OIE PVS Pathway. Following this pathway allows countries to support VS in establishing their current level of performance, identifying gaps and weaknesses in their ability to comply with OIE international standards, and forming a shared vision with stakeholders¹ (including the private sector), with the goal of establishing priorities and securing the investments needed to carry out strategic initiatives.

The production of and trade in aquatic animals and their products is of increasing importance and the aquaculture sector is growing fast in response to the strong and growing global demand for high quality protein. In some countries the VS are the competent authority for aquatic animal health but other agencies of government hold this responsibility. Regardless of whether veterinarians are involved in the Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS), the general principles for quality apply. Appropriate legislation and good governance are required for meeting OIE requirements, including for animal disease detection, reporting and control.

In planning and undertaking an evaluation of performance of AAHS (as part of a PVS evaluation of VS, or as an independent exercise), the OIE *PVS Tool for AAHS* should be used.

In the international trade of animals and animal products, the OIE promotes animal health and public health (as it relates to the prevention and control of zoonoses including food-borne diseases of animal origin) by issuing harmonised sanitary standards for international trade and disease control, by working to improve the resources and legal framework of VS / AAHS and by helping Members comply with OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations, consistent with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO)².

The traditional mission of VS was to protect domestic agriculture and most resources were directed towards the prevention and control of diseases that threatened primary production. The services began at the country's borders and were focused on the national domestic context. The prevention and control of major aquatic animal diseases is similarly the basis of AAHS in many countries. The credibility of these services, as viewed by domestic stakeholders and other countries, largely depended on the effectiveness of these domestic programmes, and the response of VS and AAHS to animal disease emergencies.

¹ A person, institution or organisation with a significant interest (technical, legal, financial, etc.) in the activities of the VS.

² All references in this document to WTO SPS obligations apply only to WTO Members.

In light of the growing technical requirements, consumer expectations and opportunities for international trade, the VS / AAHS should adopt an appropriate mandate and vision and provide services that respond to the needs and expectations of stakeholders. This will entail stronger alliances and closer cooperation with stakeholders, trading partners and other countries, national governmental counterparts and relevant intergovernmental organisations (in particular the OIE, the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the WTO SPS Committee).

Under the WTO SPS Agreement each WTO Member has the right to impose SPS measures to protect plant, animal and human life or health but measures should be based on science and risk analysis and implemented transparently. For animal health and zoonoses, the OIE is recognised as the reference organisation for measures relating to international trade in animals and animal products. The implementation of OIE standards, including on quality and evaluation of VS / AAHS, is the best way to facilitate safe and fair international trade.

Effective VS / AAHS have four fundamental components:

- 1) the **human, physical and financial resources** to attract resources and retain professionals with technical and leadership skills;
- 2) the **technical authority and capability** to address current and new issues including prevention and control of biological disasters based on scientific principles;
- 3) the sustained **interaction with stakeholders** in order to stay on course and carry out relevant joint programmes and services; and
- 4) the ability to **access markets** through compliance with existing standards and the implementation of new disciplines such as the harmonisation of standards, equivalence and zoning.

The structure of the OIE *PVS Tool* recognises these four fundamental components.

Fifth edition of the OIE *PVS Tool*

In recognition of the growing expectations of trading partners and consumers, some critical competencies were modified and new critical competencies introduced in the 5th edition of the OIE *PVS Tool*. These modifications primarily involve the competencies dealing with management and resourcing of veterinary services, veterinary legislation, food safety and animal welfare.

Applying the OIE *PVS Tool*

To establish the current level of performance, critical competencies (CC) with five possible levels of advancement are identified for each of the four fundamental components. A higher level of advancement assumes that the services are complying with the preceding (non 1) levels (e.g. level 3 assumes compliance with level 2 criteria). For each CC PVS assessors use a list of suggested indicators that the OIE has developed on the basis of extensive experience with the conduct of evaluations within the PVS framework.

In addition, the OIE has provided a *Manual for Assessors* as well as Guidelines for countries requesting or considering a PVS Evaluation.

Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* provide the legal base for the OIE quality requirements for VS and for the PVS evaluation and follow-up activities.

Chapter 3.1. of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* provides a legal base for the OIE quality requirements for AAHS where these are not covered by the VS.

Relevant definitions from the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* may be found in the Glossary of Terms. The most important *Code* references are quoted under each critical competency.

Using the results

More than a diagnostic instrument, the OIE *PVS Tool* promotes a culture of raising awareness and continual improvement, which can be used either passively or actively depending on the level of interest, priorities and commitment of the VS / AAHS and its stakeholders. In the passive mode, the OIE *PVS Tool* helps to raise awareness and improve the understanding of all sectors including other administrations regarding the fundamental components and critical competencies these services must have in order to function effectively.

The active mode is where the maximum outcomes are realised but this mode requires a sustained commitment on the part of both the public and private sectors, that is, all relevant stakeholders. In this mode, performance is assessed, differences are explored and priorities are established. This mode is where strategic actions will be outlined, investments evaluated and agreed to, and commitments made and implemented. Continuity of this process requires a true partnership between the public and the private sectors. Leadership on the part of the public sector is a fundamental and critical determinant of success.

The benefits and outcomes of using the OIE *PVS Tool* include:

- an indication of overall performance for each of the four components and a relative performance rating within each of the critical competencies;
- a basis for comparing the performance of the VS / AAHS with that of other relevant government services in the region or globally, in order to explore areas for cooperation or negotiation³;
- a basis for a process of verifying compliance with the OIE standards and assessments of VS / AAHS by independent agents accredited by and under the guidelines and auspices of the OIE;
- where gaps in the legislative framework are identified in the course of a PVS Evaluation and, possibly, through the conduct of an OIE Legislation Mission, obtaining an indication of the specific actions needed to update the veterinary legislation in compliance with OIE recommendations;
- through the conduct of OIE PVS Gap Analysis missions, helping countries to identify their priorities, to quantify their needs and to present justifications when applying for national and/or international financial support (loans and/or grants) from national governments or international donors;
- providing a basis for establishing a routine monitoring and follow up mechanism on the overall level of performance of the VS / AAHS over time, through PVS follow-up, using the OIE *PVS Tool* to monitor progress;
- helping to determine the benefits and costs of investing in VS / AAHS and, through the conduct of specific follow up activities, identifying the actions and securing the investments that are needed to help improve compliance with OIE standards for Good Governance.

³ OIE standards provide a framework for importing countries to conduct audits of exporting countries and in particular to check the compliance of exporting countries with OIE standards on quality and evaluation of VS / AAHS.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(Terms defined in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* that are used in this publication are reprinted here for reference.)

Border post

means any airport, or any port, railway station or road check-point open to *international trade of commodities*, where import veterinary inspections can be performed.

Compartment

means an animal *subpopulation* contained in one or more *establishments* under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific *disease* or specific *diseases* for which required *surveillance*, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purposes of *international trade*.

Competent Authority

means the *Veterinary Authority* or other Governmental Authority of a Member, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

Emerging disease

means a new *infection* resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known *infection* spreading to a new geographic area or *population*, or a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.

Equivalence of sanitary measures

means the state wherein the *sanitary measure(s)* proposed by the *exporting country* as an alternative to those of the *importing country*, achieve(s) the same level of protection.

International veterinary certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2., describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported *commodities*.

Laboratory

means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The *Veterinary Authority* approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to the diagnostic tests required for *international trade*.

Notifiable disease

means a *disease* listed by the *Veterinary Authority*, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of this *Authority*, in accordance with national regulations.

Official control programme

means a programme which is approved, and managed or supervised by the *Veterinary Authority* of a country for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or *disease* by specific measures applied throughout that country, or within a *zone* or *compartment* of that country.

Official Veterinarian

means a veterinarian authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of *commodities* and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Official veterinary control

means the operations whereby the *Veterinary Services*, knowing the location of the *animals* and after taking appropriate actions to identify their owner or responsible keeper, are able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required. This does not exclude other responsibilities of the *Veterinary Services* e.g. food safety.

Risk analysis

means the process composed of *hazard identification*, *risk assessment*, *risk management* and *risk communication*.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various Chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member from *risks* arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a *hazard*.

Surveillance

means the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken.

Terrestrial Code

means the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Veterinarian

means a person registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising *veterinarians*, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in *the Terrestrial Code* in the whole territory.

Veterinary para-professional

means a person who, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, is authorised by the *veterinary statutory body* to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of *veterinary para-professional*) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a *veterinarian*. The tasks for each category of *veterinary para-professional* should be defined by the *veterinary statutory body* depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

Veterinary Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and *welfare* measures and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* in the territory. The *Veterinary Services* are under the overall control and direction of the *Veterinary Authority*. Private sector organisations, *veterinarians*, *veterinary paraprofessionals* or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the *Veterinary Authority* to deliver the delegated functions.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous authority regulating *veterinarians* and *veterinary para-professionals*.

CHAPTER I - HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Institutional and financial sustainability as evidenced by the level of professional/technical physical and financial resources available.

Critical competencies:

Section I-1	Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services
Section I-2	Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals
Section I-3	Continuing education
Section I-4	Technical independence
Section I-5	Stability of structures and sustainability of policies
Section I-6	Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services
Section I-7	Physical resources
Section I-8	Operational funding
Section I-9	Emergency funding
Section I-10	Capital investment
Section I-11	Management of resources and operations

----- Terrestrial Code References:

Points 1-7, 9 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity / Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: "Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation... than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services".

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial / Administrative / Technical.

Points 3 and Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance / In-Service training and development programme for staff.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-5 and 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Financial management information / Administration details / Laboratory services / Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-1 Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services	Levels of advancement
The appropriate staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.	1. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are not occupied by appropriately qualified personnel.
A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualification)	2. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at central and state / provincial levels.
	3. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at local (field) levels.
	4. There is a systematic approach to defining job descriptions and formal appointment procedures for <i>veterinarians</i> and other professionals.
	5. There are effective management procedures for performance assessment of <i>veterinarians</i> and other professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity.

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.

B. Veterinary para-professionals and other technical personnel	Levels of advancement
	1. The majority of technical positions are not occupied by personnel holding technical qualifications.
	2. The majority of technical positions at central and state / provincial levels are occupied by personnel holding technical qualifications.
	3. The majority of technical positions at local (field) levels are occupied by personnel holding technical qualifications.
	4. The majority of technical positions are effectively supervised on a regular basis.
5. There are effective management procedures for formal appointment and performance assessment of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> .	

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity.

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.

I-2 Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to efficiently carry out their veterinary and technical functions; measured by the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and technical positions ⁴ .	1. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a variable standard that usually allow for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
A. Professional competencies of veterinarians	2. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a uniform standard that usually allow for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	3. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. epidemiological surveillance, early warning, public health, etc.).
	4. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking specialized activities as may be needed by the VS.
	5. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are subject to regular updating, or international harmonisation, or evaluation.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity.

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.

⁴ Not all professional positions require an academic degree. Nonetheless, the proportion of academic degrees serves as an indicator of professional excellence within the VS.

B. Competencies of veterinary para-professionals	Levels of advancement
	1. The majority of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> have no formal entry-level training.
	2. The training of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> is of a very variable standard and allows the development of only limited animal health competencies.
	3. The training of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> is of a uniform standard that allows the development of only basic animal health competencies.
	4. The training of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> is of a uniform standard that allows the development of some specialist animal health competencies (e.g. meat inspection).
	5. The training of <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> is of a uniform standard and is subject to regular evaluation and/or updating.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity.

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.

I-3 Continuing education (CE) ⁵	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel in terms of relevant information and understanding; measured in terms of the implementation of a relevant training programme.	1. The VS have no access to continuing veterinary, professional or technical CE.
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external programmes) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.
	3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, but it is implemented only for some categories of the relevant personnel.
	4. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and it is implemented for all categories of the relevant personnel.
	5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented for all relevant personnel and is submitted to periodic evaluation of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 1, 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / General organisation / Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: In-service training and development programme for staff.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

⁵ Continuing education includes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for veterinary, professional and technical personnel.

I-4 Technical independence	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS to carry out their duties with autonomy and free from commercial, financial, hierarchical and political influences that may affect technical decisions in a manner contrary to the provisions of the OIE (and of the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>	1. The technical decisions made by the VS are generally not based on scientific considerations.
	2. The technical decisions take into account the scientific evidence, but are routinely modified to conform to non-scientific considerations.
	3. The technical decisions are based on scientific evidence but are subject to review and possible modification based on non-scientific considerations.
	4. The technical decisions are based only on scientific evidence and are not changed to meet non-scientific considerations.
	5. The technical decisions are made and implemented in full accordance with the country's OIE obligations (and with the country's WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 2 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Independence.

I-5 Stability of structures and sustainability of policies	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS structure and/or leadership to implement and sustain policies over time.</p>	<p>1. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in lack of sustainability of policies.</p>
	<p>2. The organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS is substantially changed each time there is a change in the political leadership and this has negative effects on sustainability of policies.</p>
	<p>3. Significant changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS occur rarely, but this stability does not have a positive impact on the sustainability of policies.</p>
	<p>4. Some changes occur in the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS following a change in the political leadership, but these have little or no negative effect on sustainability of policies.</p>
	<p>5. The organisational structure and leadership of the public sector of the VS are generally stable. Modifications are based on an evaluation process, with positive effect on the sustainability of policies.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 1 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.
- Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-6 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services	Levels of advancement
<p data-bbox="188 394 659 450">A. Internal coordination (chain of command)</p> <p data-bbox="188 495 659 712">The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer), to the field level of the VS in order to implement all national activities relevant for OIE <i>Codes</i> (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programs).</p>	1. There is no formal internal coordination and the chain of command is not clear.
	2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.
	3. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for some activities.
	4. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command at the national level for most activities.
	5. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for all activities and these are periodically reviewed/audited and updated.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

B. External coordination	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) at all levels with other relevant authorities as appropriate, in order to implement all national activities relevant for OIE Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programs).</p> <p>Relevant authorities include other ministries and competent authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions.</p>	1. There is no external coordination.
	2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.
	3. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements for some activities and/or sectors.
	4. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements at the national level for most activities, and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country.
	5. There are national external coordination mechanisms for all activities and these are periodically reviewed and updated.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Points 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Procedures and standards.
- Article 3.2.2. on Scope.
- Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.
- Point 4 of Article 3.2.10 on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-7 Physical resources	Levels of advancement
The access of the VS to relevant physical resources including buildings, transport telecommunications, cold chain, and other relevant equipment (e.g. computers).	1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at the national (central) level and at some regional levels, and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, regional and some local levels and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained.
	5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, sub-national and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced and sophisticated items become available.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: "Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation... than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services".

Points 2 and 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Administrative / Technical.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.

I-8 Operational funding	Levels of advancement
The ability of the VS to access financial resources adequate for their continued operations, independent of political pressure.	1. Funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined but depends on resources allocated irregularly.
	2. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, but is inadequate for their required base operations (i.e. disease surveillance, early detection and rapid response and veterinary public health).
	3. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, and is adequate for their base operations, but there is no provision for new or expanded operations.
	4. Funding for new or expanded operations is on a case-by-case basis, not always based on <i>risk analysis</i> and/or cost benefit analysis.
	5. Funding for all aspects of VS activities is adequate; all funding is provided under full transparency and allows for full technical independence, based on <i>risk analysis</i> and/or cost benefit analysis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Human and financial resources.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.

I-9 Emergency funding	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or emerging issues; measured by the ease of which contingency and compensatory funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made available when required.</p>	<p>1. No contingency and compensatory funding arrangements exist and there is no provision for emergency financial resources.</p>
	<p>2. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for expected emergency situations (including emerging issues).</p>
	<p>3. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources for emergencies may be approved but approval is through a political process.</p>
	<p>4. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established, but in an emergency situation, their operation must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.</p>
	<p>5. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with stakeholders.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Human and financial resources.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.

I-10 Capital investment	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to access funding for basic and additional investments (material and non material) that lead to a sustained improvement in the VS operational infrastructure.	1. There is no capability to establish, maintain or improve the operational infrastructure of the VS.
	2. The VS occasionally develops proposals and secures funding for the establishment, maintenance or improvement of operational infrastructure but this is normally through extraordinary allocations.
	3. The VS regularly secures funding for maintenance and improvements of operational infrastructure, through allocations from the national budget or from other sources, but there are constraints on the use of these allocations.
	4. The VS routinely secures adequate funding for the necessary maintenance and improvement in operational infrastructure.
	5. The VS systematically secures adequate funding for the necessary improvements in operational infrastructure, including with participation from stakeholders as required.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Human and financial resources.
- Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial.
- Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.

I-11 Management of resources and operations	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to document and manage their resources and operations in order to analyze, plan and improve both efficiency and effectiveness.	1. The VS have some records or documented procedures, but these do not provide for adequate management of resources and operations.
	2. The VS routinely use records and/or documented procedures in the management of resources and some operations, but these do not provide for adequate management, analysis, control or planning.
	3. The VS have comprehensive records, documentation and management systems and they regularly use records and documented procedures in the management of resources and operations, providing for the control of effectiveness and the conduct of analysis and planning.
	4. The VS have adequate management skills, including the capacity to analyse and improve efficiency and effectiveness.
	5. The VS have fully effective management systems, which are regularly audited and permit a proactive continuous improvement of efficiency and effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 7, 11 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Documentation / Human and financial resources.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources.

Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

CHAPTER II - TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY

The authority and capability of the VS to develop and apply sanitary measures and science-based procedures supporting those measures.

Critical competencies:

Section II-1	Veterinary laboratory diagnosis
Section II-2	Laboratory quality assurance
Section II-3	Risk analysis
Section II-4	Quarantine and border security
Section II-5	Epidemiological surveillance
Section II-6	Early detection and emergency response
Section II-7	Disease prevention, control and eradication
Section II-8	Food safety
Section II-9	Veterinary medicines and biologicals
Section II-10	Residue testing
Section II-11	Emerging issues
Section II-12	Technical innovation
Section II-13	Identification and traceability
Section II-14	Animal welfare

----- *Terrestrial Code* References:

Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General Organisation / Procedures and standards.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.

Points 2 and 57 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Laboratory services / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.

Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.

Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.

Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea.

Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land.

Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air.

Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals.

Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to identify and record pathogenic agents, including those relevant for public health, that can adversely affect animals and animal products.</p>	<p>1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with laboratory diagnostic capability being generally unavailable.</p>
	<p>2. For major zoonoses and diseases of national economic importance, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.</p>
	<p>3. For other zoonoses and diseases present in the country, the VS have access to and use a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis.</p>
	<p>4. For diseases of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but known to exist in the region and/ or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis.</p>
	<p>5. In the case of new and <i>emerging diseases</i> in the region or world, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference laboratories (e.g. an OIE Reference Laboratory) to obtain a correct diagnosis.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.

II-2 Laboratory quality assurance	Levels of advancement
<p>The quality of laboratories (that conduct diagnostic testing or analysis for chemical residues, antimicrobial residues, toxins, or tests for, biological efficacy, etc.) as measured by the use of formal QA systems and participation in relevant proficiency testing programmes.</p>	1. No laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	2. Some laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	3. All laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	4. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA systems.
	5. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA programmes that meet OIE, ISO 17025, or equivalent QA standard guidelines.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.
- Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.
- Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.
- Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.

II-3 Risk analysis	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management decisions on a scientific assessment of the risks.</p>	1. Risk management decisions are not usually supported by scientific risk assessment.
	2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to systematically assess risks. Some risk management decisions are based on scientific risk assessment.
	3. The VS can systematically compile and maintain relevant data and carry out risk assessment. Scientific principles and evidence, including risk assessment, generally provide the basis for risk management decisions.
	4. The VS systematically conduct risk assessments in compliance with relevant OIE standards, and base their risk management decisions on the outcomes of these risk assessments.
	5. The VS are consistent in basing sanitary decisions on <i>risk analysis</i> , and in communicating their procedures and outcomes internationally, meeting all their OIE obligations (including WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.

II-4 Quarantine and border security	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to prevent the entry and spread of diseases and other hazards of animals and animal products.</p>	<p>1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for animals or animal products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.</p>
	<p>2. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures; however, these are generally based neither on international standards nor on a <i>risk analysis</i>.</p>
	<p>3. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures based on international standards, but the procedures do not systematically address illegal activities⁶ relating to the import of animals and animal products.</p>
	<p>4. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address legal pathways and illegal activities.</p>
	<p>5. The VS work with their neighbouring countries and trading partners to establish, apply and audit quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address all risks identified.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.

Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

⁶ Illegal activities include attempts to gain entry for animals or animal products other than through legal entry points and/or using certification and/or other procedures not meeting the country's requirements.

II-5 Epidemiological surveillance	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations under their mandate.</p> <p>A. Passive epidemiological surveillance</p>	1. The VS have no passive surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct passive surveillance for some relevant diseases and have the capacity to produce national reports on some diseases.
	3. The VS conduct passive surveillance in compliance with OIE standards for some relevant diseases at the national level through appropriate networks in the field, whereby samples from suspect cases are collected and sent for laboratory diagnosis with evidence of correct results obtained. The VS have a basic national disease reporting system.
	4. The VS conduct passive surveillance and report at the national level in compliance with OIE standards for most relevant diseases. Appropriate field networks are established for the collection of samples and submission for laboratory diagnosis of suspect cases with evidence of correct results obtained. Stakeholders are aware of and comply with their obligation to report the suspicion and occurrence of notifiable diseases to the VS.
	5. The VS regularly report to stakeholders and the international community (where applicable) on the findings of passive surveillance programmes.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the *Veterinary Services* / Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to *Veterinary Services* / Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:... or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

B. Active epidemiological surveillance	Levels of advancement
	1. The VS have no active surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct active surveillance for some relevant diseases (of economic and zoonotic importance) but apply it only in a part of susceptible populations and/or do not update it regularly.
	3. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations but do not update it regularly.
	4. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases, apply it to all susceptible populations, update it regularly and report the results systematically.
	5. The VS conduct active surveillance for most or all relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations. The surveillance programmes are evaluated and meet the country's OIE obligations.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the *Veterinary Services* / Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to *Veterinary Services* / Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:... or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

II-6 Early detection and emergency response	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to detect and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency (such as a significant disease outbreak or food safety emergency).	1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
	2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether or not a sanitary emergency exists, but lack the necessary legal and financial support to respond appropriately.
	3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies, but the response is not coordinated through a chain of command.
	4. The VS have an established procedure to make timely decisions on whether or not a sanitary emergency exists. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through a chain of command. They have national contingency plans for some exotic diseases.
	5. The VS have national contingency plans for all diseases of concern through coordinated actions with all stakeholders through a chain of command.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.

II-7 Disease prevention, control and eradication	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to actively perform actions to prevent, control or eradicate OIE listed diseases and/or to demonstrate that the country or a zone are free of relevant diseases.	1. The VS have no authority or capability to prevent, control or eradicate animal diseases.
	2. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with little or no scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	3. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	4. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for all relevant diseases but with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency of some programmes.
	5. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for all relevant diseases with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency consistent with relevant OIE international standards.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.

II-8 Food safety	Levels of advancement
<p>A. Ante- and post-mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises (e.g. meat boning, cutting establishments and rendering plants)</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to implement and manage the inspection of animals destined for slaughter at abattoirs and associated premises, including for assuring meat hygiene and for the collection of information relevant to livestock diseases and zoonoses. This competency also covers coordination with other authorities where there is shared responsibility for the functions.</p>	1. Ante- and post-mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Ante- and post-mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards only at export premises.
	3. Ante- and post-mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for major abattoirs producing meat for distribution throughout the national market.
	4. Ante- and post-mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for all abattoirs producing meat for distribution in the national and local markets.
	5. Ante- and post-mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including family and on farm slaughtering) and are subject to periodic audit of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.

B. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution of products of animal origin	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to implement, manage and coordinate food safety measures on collection, processing and distribution of products of animals, including programmes for the prevention of specific food-borne zoonoses and general food safety programmes. This competency also covers coordination with other authorities where there is shared responsibility for the functions.</p>	1. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes.
	3. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national market.
	4. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national and local markets.
	5. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are undertaken in full conformity with international standards for products at all levels of distribution (including on farm-processing and farm gate sale).

[Note: This critical competency primarily refers to inspection of processed animal products and raw products other than meat (e.g. milk, honey, etc.). It may in some countries be undertaken by an agency other than the VS.]

 Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.

II-9 Veterinary medicines and biologicals	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals, i.e. the authorisation, registration, import, production, labelling, distribution, sale and use of these products.</p>	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise administrative control over veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	3. The VS exercise effective administrative control and implement quality standards for most aspects of the regulation of veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory control of veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	5. In addition to complete regulatory control, the VS systematically monitor for adverse reactions (pharmacovigilance) and take appropriate corrective steps. The control systems are subjected to periodic audit of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards.

Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.

Sub-point a) ii) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health: Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation.

Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.

II-10 Residue testing	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to undertake residue testing programmes for veterinary medicines (e.g. antimicrobials and hormones), chemicals, pesticides, radionuclides, metals, etc.	1. No residue testing programme for animal products exists in the country.
	2. Some residue testing programme is performed but only for selected animal products for export.
	3. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and some for domestic use.
	4. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and/or internal consumption.
	5. The residue testing programme is subject to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation.

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the VS.]

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.

Sub-points b) iii) and iv) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.

Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.

II-11 Emerging issues	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to identify in advance, and take appropriate action in response to likely emerging issues under their mandate relating to the sanitary status of the country, public health, the environment, or trade in animals and animal products.</p>	1. The VS do not have procedures to identify in advance likely emerging issues.
	2. The VS monitor and review developments at national and international levels relating to emerging issues.
	3. The VS assess the risks, costs and/or opportunities of the identified emerging issues, including preparation of appropriate national preparedness plans. The VS have some collaboration with other agencies (e.g. human health, wildlife and environment) and with stakeholders on emerging issues.
	4. The VS implement, in coordination with stakeholders, prevention or control actions due to an adverse emerging issue, or beneficial actions from a positive emerging issue. The VS have well-developed formal collaboration with other agencies (e.g. human health, wildlife and environment) and with stakeholders on emerging issues.
	5. The VS coordinate actions with neighbouring countries and trading partners to respond to emerging issues, including audits of each other's ability to detect and address emerging issues in their early stages.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Procedures and standards.
 Point 1 of Article 3.2.7. on Functional capabilities and legislative support: Animal health and veterinary public health.

II-12 Technical innovation⁷	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to keep up-to-date with the latest scientific advances and to comply with the standards of the OIE (and Codex Alimentarius Commission where applicable).	1. The VS have only informal access to technical innovations, through personal contacts and external sources.
	2. The VS maintain a database of technical innovations and international standards, through subscriptions to scientific journals and electronic media.
	3. The VS have a specific programme to actively identify relevant technical innovations and international standards.
	4. The VS incorporate technical innovations and international standards into selected policies and procedures, in collaboration with stakeholders.
	5. The VS systematically implement relevant technical innovations and international standards.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.

Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

⁷ Technical innovation includes new disease control methods, new types of vaccines and diagnostic tests, food safety technologies, and connections to electronic networks on disease information and food emergencies.

II-13 Identification and traceability	Levels of advancement
<p data-bbox="185 378 654 421">A. Animal identification and movement control</p> <p data-bbox="185 472 654 640">The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with stakeholders, to identify animals under their mandate and trace their history, location and distribution for the purpose of animal disease control, food safety, or trade or any other legal requirements under the VS/OIE mandate.</p>	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify animals or control their movements.
	2. The VS can identify some animals and control some movements, using traditional methods and/or actions designed and implemented to deal with a specific problem (e.g. to prevent robbery).
	3. The VS implement procedures for animal identification and movement control for specific animal sub-populations as required for disease control, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS implement all relevant animal identification and movement control procedures, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS carry out periodic audits of the effectiveness of their identification and movement control systems.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

B. Identification and traceability of products of animal origin	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with stakeholders, to identify and trace products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify or trace products of animal origin.
	2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin to deal with a specific problem (e.g. products originating from farms affected by a disease outbreak).
	3. The VS have implemented procedures to identify and trace some products of animal origin for food safety, animal health and trade purposes, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS have implemented national programmes enabling them the identification and tracing of all products of animal origin, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS periodically audit the effectiveness of their identification and traceability procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

II-14 Animal welfare	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to implement the animal welfare standards of the OIE as published in the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> .	1. OIE standards are generally not implemented.
	2. Some of OIE standards are implemented, e.g. primarily for the export sector.
	3. All of OIE standards are implemented but this is primarily for the export sector.
	4. All of OIE standards are implemented, for the export and the domestic sector.
	5. OIE standards are implemented and implementation is periodically subject to independent external evaluation.

[Note: At this time this competency covers only chapters 7.1. to 7.6. inclusive.]

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.
- Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea.
- Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land.
- Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air.
- Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals.
- Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

CHAPTER III - INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve stakeholders in the implementation of programmes and activities.

Critical competencies:

Section III-1	Communications
Section III-2	Consultation with stakeholders
Section III-3	Official representation
Section III-4	Accreditation / authorisation / delegation
Section III-5	Veterinary Statutory Body
Section III-6	Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7, 9 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Communication.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 4, 7 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details / Animal health and veterinary public health controls / Sources of independent scientific expertise.

III-1 Communications	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS to keep stakeholders informed, in a transparent, effective and timely manner, of VS activities and programmes, and of developments in animal health and food safety.	1. The VS have no mechanism in place to inform stakeholders of VS activities and programmes.
	2. The VS have informal communication mechanisms.
	3. The VS maintain an official contact point for communications but it is not always up-to-date in providing information.
	4. The VS contact point for communications provides up-to-date information, accessible via the Internet and other appropriate channels, on activities and programmes.
	5. The VS have a well developed communication plan, and actively and regularly circulate information to stakeholders.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication.
- Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.
- Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.

III-2 Consultation with stakeholders	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS to consult effectively with stakeholders on VS activities and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety.</p>	1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with stakeholders.
	2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with stakeholders.
	3. The VS maintain a formal consultation mechanism with stakeholders.
	4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with stakeholders.
	5. The VS actively consult with and solicit feedback from stakeholders regarding proposed and current activities and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, interventions at the OIE (Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable), and ways to improve their activities.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 4 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details and on Sources of independent scientific expertise.

III-3 Official representation	Levels of advancement
<p>The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate in, coordinate and provide follow up on relevant meetings of regional and international organisations including the OIE (and Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable).</p>	1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings of regional or international organisations.
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings and/or make a limited contribution.
	3. The VS actively participate ⁸ in the majority of relevant meetings.
	4. The VS consult with stakeholders and take into consideration their opinions in providing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings.
	5. The VS consult with stakeholders to ensure that strategic issues are identified, to provide leadership and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities.
 Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.

⁸ *Active participation* refers to preparation in advance of, and contributing during the meetings in question, including exploring common solutions and generating proposals and compromises for possible adoption.

III-4 Accreditation / authorisation / delegation	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians and <i>laboratories</i>), to carry out official tasks on its behalf.</p>	<p>1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector to carry out official tasks.</p>
	<p>2. The public sector of the VS has the authority and capability to accredit / authorise / delegate to the private sector, but there are no current accreditation / authorisation / delegation activities.</p>
	<p>3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes for certain tasks, but these are not routinely reviewed.</p>
	<p>4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, and these are routinely reviewed.</p>
	<p>5. The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and stakeholders.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Point 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

III-5 Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)	Levels of advancement
<p>A. VSB authority</p> <p>The <i>VSB</i> is an autonomous authority responsible for the regulation of the <i>veterinarians</i> and <i>veterinary para-professionals</i>. Its role is defined in the <i>Terrestrial Code</i>.</p>	1. There is no legislation establishing a <i>VSB</i> .
	2. The <i>VSB</i> regulates <i>veterinarians</i> only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or does not systematically apply disciplinary measures.
	3. The <i>VSB</i> regulates <i>veterinarians</i> in all relevant sectors of the veterinary profession and applies disciplinary measures.
	4. The <i>VSB</i> regulates functions and competencies of <i>veterinarians</i> in all relevant sectors and <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> according to needs.
	5. The <i>VSB</i> regulates and applies disciplinary measures to <i>veterinarians</i> and <i>veterinary para-professionals</i> in all sectors throughout the country.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.
- Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.
- Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

B. VSB capacity	Levels of advancement
The capacity of the VSB to implement its functions and objectives in conformity with OIE standards.	1. The VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.
	2. The VSB has the functional capacity to implement its main objectives.
	3. The VSB is an independent representative organisation with the functional capacity to implement all of its objectives.
	4. The VSB has a transparent process of decision-making and conforms to OIE standards.
	5. The financial and institutional management of the VSB are submitted to external auditing.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

III-6 Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes	Levels of advancement
The capability of the VS and stakeholders to formulate and implement joint programmes in regard to animal health and food safety.	1. Producers and other stakeholders only comply and do not actively participate in programmes.
	2. Producers and other stakeholders are informed of programmes and assist the VS to deliver the programme in the field.
	3. Producers and other stakeholders are trained to participate in programmes and advise of needed improvements, and participate in early detection of diseases.
	4. Representatives of producers and other stakeholders negotiate with the VS on the organisation and delivery of programmes.
	5. Producers and other stakeholders are formally organised to participate in developing programmes in close collaboration with the VS.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Points 6 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Communication.
- Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.
- Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

CHAPTER IV - ACCESS TO MARKETS

The authority and capability of the VS to provide support in order to access, expand and retain regional and international markets for animals and animal products.

Critical competencies:

Section IV-1	Preparation of legislation and regulations
Section IV-2	Implementation of legislation and regulations and stakeholder compliance
Section IV-3	International harmonisation
Section IV-4	International certification
Section IV-5	Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements
Section IV-6	Transparency
Section IV-7	Zoning
Section IV-8	Compartmentalisation

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities.

Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.

Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.

IV-1 Preparation of legislation and regulations	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations in domains that are under their mandate, in order to warranty its quality with respect to principles of legal drafting and legal issues (internal quality) and its accessibility, acceptability, and technical, social and economical applicability (external quality).</p>	<p>1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, which result in legislation that is lacking or is outdated or of poor quality in most fields of VS activity.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations and can largely ensure their internal quality, but the legislation and regulations are often lacking in external quality.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations with adequate internal and external quality in some fields of activity, but lack formal methodology to develop adequate national legislation and regulations regularly in all domains.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations with a relevant formal methodology to ensure adequate internal and external quality, involving stakeholder participation in most fields of activity.</p>
	<p>5. The VS regularly evaluate and update their legislation and regulations to maintain relevance to evolving national and international contexts.</p>

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.

IV-2 Implementation of legislation and regulations and stakeholder compliance	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to ensure that stakeholders are in compliance with legislation and regulations under the VS mandate.	1. The VS have no or very limited programmes or activities to ensure stakeholder compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
	2. The VS implement a programme or activities comprising inspection and verification of compliance with legislation and regulations and recording instances of non-compliance, but generally cannot or do not take further action in most relevant fields of activity.
	3. Veterinary legislation is generally implemented. As required, the VS have a power to take legal action / to prosecute in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.
	4. Veterinary legislation is implemented in all domains of veterinary competence and the VS work with stakeholders to minimise instances of non-compliance.
	5. The compliance programme is regularly subjected to audit by the VS or external agencies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.

IV-3 International harmonisation	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to be active in the international harmonisation of regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> and to ensure that the national legislation and regulations under their mandate take account of relevant international standards, as appropriate.</p>	1. National legislation, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> under the mandate of the VS do not take account of international standards.
	2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national legislation, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.
	3. The VS monitor the establishment of new and revised international standards, and periodically review national legislation, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> with the aim of harmonising them, as appropriate, with international standards, but do not actively comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
	4. The VS are active in reviewing and commenting on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
	5. The VS actively and regularly participate at the international level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards ⁹ , and use the standards to harmonise national legislation, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> .

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities.

Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.

⁹ A country could be active in international standard setting without actively pursuing national changes. The importance of this element is to promote national change.

IV-4 International certification¹⁰	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to certify animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate, in accordance with the national legislation and regulations, and international standards.	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify animals, animal products, services or processes.
	2. The VS have the authority to certify certain animals, animal products, services and processes, but are not always in compliance with the national legislation and regulations and international standards.
	3. The VS develop and carry out certification programmes for certain animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	4. The VS develop and carry out all relevant certification programmes for any animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	5. The VS carry out audits of their certification programmes, in order to maintain national and international confidence in their system.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.

Sub-point b) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.

¹⁰ Certification procedures should be based on relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.

IV-5 Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to negotiate, implement and maintain equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to negotiate or approve equivalence or other types of sanitary agreements with other countries.
	2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.
	3. The VS have implemented equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on selected animals, animal products and processes.
	4. The VS actively pursue the development, implementation and maintenance of equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on all matters relevant to animals, animal products and processes under their mandate.
	5. The VS actively work with stakeholders and take account of developments in international standards, in pursuing equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

IV-6 Transparency	Levels of advancement
The authority and capability of the VS to notify the OIE of their sanitary status and other relevant matters (and to notify the WTO SPS Committee where applicable), in accordance with established procedures.	1. The VS do not notify.
	2. The VS occasionally notify.
	3. The VS notify in compliance with the procedures established by these organisations.
	4. The VS regularly inform stakeholders of changes in their regulations and decisions on the control of relevant diseases and of the country's sanitary status, and of changes in the regulations and sanitary status of other countries.
	5. The VS, in cooperation with their stakeholders, carry out audits of their transparency procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

IV-7 Zoning	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free zones, as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>	1. The VS cannot establish disease free zones.
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with distinct health status suitable for zoning.
	3. The VS have implemented biosecurity measures that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	4. The VS collaborate with their stakeholders to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free zones and can gain recognition by trading partners that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.
 Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

IV-8 Compartmentalisation	Levels of advancement
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free <i>compartments</i> as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>	1. The VS cannot establish disease free <i>compartments</i> .
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with a distinct health status suitable for compartmentalisation.
	3. The VS have implemented biosecurity measures that enable it to establish and maintain disease free <i>compartments</i> for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	4. The VS collaborate with their stakeholders to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free <i>compartments</i> for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free <i>compartments</i> and can gain recognition by other countries that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).

Terrestrial Code reference(s):

- Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.
- Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.
- Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.