

# ***Recommendations***

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2014**

**Endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE  
on 28 May 2015**

**26th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Bern, Switzerland, 22 to 26 September 2014

[Recommendation No. 1:](#)      Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism

[Recommendation No. 2:](#)      Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible  
threat for Europe

Recommendation No. 1

**Animal health in the light of natural disasters and bioterrorism**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Disasters of all types have profound impacts on human and animal health, economy and trade, and societies;
2. Disaster management and risk reduction in animal health and welfare is a multifunctional responsibility involving multiple stakeholders;
3. Animals and animal related issues are part of disaster management and risk reduction due to their economic, health and welfare, and social aspects;
4. International frameworks including the Rio+20, Hyogo Framework for Action, and Millennium Development Goals all address disaster management, disaster risk reduction, and resilience;
5. Veterinary Services are highly variable in their disaster management and disaster risk reduction legal authorities, capabilities and capacities;
6. Knowledge of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals on disaster management and disaster risk reduction is not optimal;
7. OIE has a strong global leadership role in animal health and welfare and veterinary public health;
8. OIE has already established an *ad hoc* Group on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health; and
9. According to the results of a questionnaire-based survey conducted among Member Countries in the Region, the vast majority of responding countries agreed that there are actions or activities by OIE that would assist Member Countries to better plan and respond to animal health and welfare in disaster and bioterrorism events.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries foster the development of collaborative mutual support to augment the capacity of Member Countries to prepare for and respond to disasters;
2. The Member Countries assess and share lessons learned and best practices on animal disaster related events;
3. OIE identify and engage strategic partners in disaster management and disaster risk reduction;

4. OIE convene a Global Conference on Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health in disasters;
  5. OIE support the development of trainings for Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health in disasters including regional workshops, on line training, and table top exercises, considering existing tools such as the Livestock Emergency Guidelines Standards (LEGS) tools ;
  6. The OIE evaluate the inclusion of awareness of disaster management and disaster risk reduction in the OIE Recommendations on the Competencies of Graduating Veterinarians (Day 1 Graduates) and on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum;
  7. The OIE continue to develop guidelines on the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health disasters including bioterrorism and evaluate including these within the *Terrestrial Code*, taking into account existing relevant guidelines;
  8. The OIE explore the possibility to include the capability of management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health disasters including bioterrorism into the OIE PVS Tool;
  9. The OIE evaluate the creation of a database of lessons learned and best practices on the management of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters; and
  10. The OIE evaluate the establishment of a Collaborating Centre and/or a virtual network of expertise in the Europe Region on animal health and welfare and veterinary public health in disasters including bioterrorism to give Member Countries in the Region easier access to a source of capacity building in this field.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 26 September 2014  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

**Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea: current global situation and possible threat for Europe**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. At the present time, the emerging form of porcine epidemic diarrhoea, as notified by Canada, the United States of America, and other Member Countries (hereafter “PED”) has not been identified in Europe, and that its emergence poses a possible threat to Europe given the considerable impact on naive swine populations;
2. A collaborative approach between the Veterinary Services and the swine sector as well as proactive education and awareness programmes have already shown success for detecting and controlling PED in OIE Member Countries;
3. PED is a viral disease of pigs with no risk to human health or to food safety;
4. The disease can be transmitted directly or indirectly, often by contaminated faeces;
5. It is important to understand the PED epidemiological situation in the affected countries;
6. PED is not included on the OIE List but is notifiable as an emerging disease by all Member Countries;
7. Some European OIE Member Countries may not have the laboratory capability to confirm the clinical diagnosis of the disease;
8. Strict implementation of high biosecurity measures and surveillance at farm level has proved to be the best defence against PED; and
9. The OIE has convened an *ad hoc* Group to provide expert advice and is publishing a Technical Fact Sheet on PED.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of Member Countries adopt a collaborative approach to PED by proactively engaging with the swine sector and the various other relevant stakeholders to prevent the introduction in Europe of, or where appropriate control, PED;
2. Member Countries direct their efforts to building and enhancing the laboratory capability and capacity for rapid PED diagnosis in Europe;
3. Member Countries include PED in their animal disease education and awareness programmes with relevant stakeholders so as to assist with early detection of PED;

4. Member Countries emphasise the development and implementation of high biosecurity measures at all levels of the pig sector, including producers, processors, transporters, the feed industry, and border inspection posts;
  5. Where appropriate, Member Countries notify detections of PED to the OIE as an emerging disease;
  6. Member Countries minimise disruption to trade by adopting appropriate and proportionate protective mitigating measures when facing emerging diseases such as PED;
  7. The OIE, through its network of Reference Centres, encourage scientific research on routes of transmission of PED, such as feed, aerosols and contacts, and on the development of effective vaccines; and
  8. The OIE continue to provide guidance on PED and other emerging diseases to its Members as new scientific evidence becomes available.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 26 September 2014  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

**22nd Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Guadalajara, Mexico, 10 to 14 November 2014

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#)      Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#)      Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives





Recommendation No. 1

**Veterinary education in aquatic animals and its impact on aquatic animal disease control strategies in the region**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Rising global demand for food has led to exponential growth in aquaculture worldwide, especially in the Americas, where production growth over the past ten years reached 22% – the world's highest recorded increase;
2. Increasing demand for intensive aquaculture production systems increases the disease risk of such animals;
3. According to the answers to the questionnaire, less than half of the competencies recommended by the OIE are covered by either initial veterinary education or continuing education in the area of aquatic animal health in Member Countries in the region;
4. According to the answers to the questionnaire, more than half the Member Countries (51.8%) believe that Aquatic Animal Health Services do not have the skills required to control aquatic animal diseases; and
5. It is vital to strengthen the capacity of Veterinary Services, including the education of veterinarians based on the minimum competencies recommended by the OIE, given that veterinarians and animal health professionals from Aquatic Animal Health Services are responsible for the early detection of and rapid response to aquatic animal diseases.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries in the region include among their priorities the strengthening of initial and continuing veterinary education for aquatic animal health professionals, taking into account the OIE recommendations on the competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') and the OIE guidelines on a veterinary education core curriculum;
2. Member Countries in the region establish minimum requirements for the continuing education of professionals working in public and private Veterinary Services in the area of aquatic animal health, based on the OIE recommendations on the basic competencies;
3. Member Countries in the region improve communication among themselves in the area of aquatic animal health by such means as strengthening the Inter-American Committee on Aquatic Animal Health and strengthening the current regional network of National Focal Points for aquatic animals;

4. Member Countries in the region conduct simulation exercises to address emergency prevention, preparedness, and response to aquatic animal diseases;
  5. Member Countries seek opportunities for undertaking Twinning projects relevant to Aquatic Animal Health;
  6. Member Countries take advantage of the publication of the first edition of *OIE PVS Tool: Aquatic* (2013) to request PVS evaluation missions of Aquatic Animal Health Services;
  7. The OIE continue to support Member Countries in the region through the OIE PVS Pathway, including for Aquatic Animal Health Services, and make any relevant adjustments to the *OIE PVS Tool: Aquatic*, in light of experience gained from evaluating the Aquatic Animal Health Services of some Member Countries;
  8. The OIE strengthen the training of National Focal Points for aquatic animals in the area of veterinary education;
  9. The OIE continue to support capacity-building of Member Countries in the region in the area of aquatic animal health via the training programme for Focal Points for aquatic animals and prioritise the competencies least covered, which were identified when analysing the answers to the questionnaire such as: risk analysis; organisation of Veterinary Services; pharmaceuticals, certification procedures, and communication skills;
  10. The OIE promote the importance of veterinary education at the forthcoming OIE Global Conference on Aquatic Animal Health, to be held in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) on 20-22 January 2015; and
  11. The creation of an OIE Collaborating Centre for veterinary education on aquatic animal health in the region, with the ability to organise training courses, be considered. As well, to better use the existing OIE Collaborating Centres of the region, such as those dedicated to the capacity building of the Veterinary Services.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 14 November 2014  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

**Implementation of the compartmentalisation concept: practical experience and perspectives**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE main mandate is to adopt standards and make recommendations on the prevention, detection, notification, control and eradication of diseases of importance to animal health, veterinary public health and trade, including zoonoses;
2. The challenges that Member countries face in achieving the eradication of transboundary animal diseases from the national territory and that the failure of one country to control disease presents a risk not only to countries in the region but also to the global community;
3. No country can exclude the entry of wild birds carrying avian influenza viruses and it may be very difficult, in certain situations, to eradicate diseases such as CSF, ASF and some aquatic animal diseases from wild animal populations. For diseases that have wildlife reservoirs, compartmentalisation can be used among others to mitigate the disease risks that arise from the exposure of domestic and captive wild animals to wild populations;
4. The globalisation of trade, the intensification of animal and human movements, climate change and other environmental and socioeconomic factors contribute to the spread of pathogens and vectors worldwide;
5. The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code (*Terrestrial Code*) and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code (*Aquatic Code*) set out standards for the quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services;
6. The *Terrestrial Code* and the *Aquatic Code* indicate that the establishment of an animal sub-population of defined, favourable health status (using the concepts of zoning or compartmentalisation) is a tool in the prevention and control of diseases and can also be used to facilitate international trade in countries that experience disease outbreaks or endemic diseases situation;
7. A majority of Member Countries have made a strong commitment to strengthening the capacities of national Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services by inviting the OIE to make an independent evaluation of quality using the OIE PVS Tool and that the PVS Tool includes Critical Competencies on the use of zoning and compartmentalisation;
8. The OIE grants official recognition of free country or zones in the case of foot and mouth disease, african horse sickness, peste des petits ruminants, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and classical swine fever, as well as risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy; and has developed procedures for self-declaration of disease free compartments;

9. While zoning is used rather commonly, but the use of compartmentalisation is less common and exporting countries generally face difficulties to obtain the recognition of compartments by trading partners for the purposes of international trade;
10. The Region of the Americas has been very actively involved in the use of zoning and compartmentalisation in comparison with other OIE Regions;
11. Compartmentalisation is potentially relevant to all species but to date the use of compartments has mainly been in poultry and swine production and it is rarely used in aquatic animals; and
12. The veterinary legislation of many Member Countries does not currently recognise the concept of compartmentalisation for domestic purposes nor for international trade (importation and exportation).

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries consider the use of compartmentalisation as a trade facilitating measure and as a tool to safeguard animal health through improved biosecurity and to reduce the likelihood and impact of disease outbreaks in infected countries as well as in countries free of specific diseases;
2. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services increase collaboration with the private sector, including the livestock and aquaculture sectors, and promote the sharing of information on disease prevention and control, including the results of applied research, so to facilitate compartmentalisation;
3. Governments review the national veterinary legislation as appropriate and establish a legal framework, based on standards and guidelines of the OIE, for the use of compartmentalisation within the country and for the recognition of compartments established in the country and by trading partners;
4. Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services involve the private sector in the development and revision of animal health programmes, including consideration of the possible use of compartmentalisation;
5. In order to support the implementation of compartmentalisation, the Veterinary Authority and the Competent Authority for aquatic animal health ensure that they have legal authority to accredit or provide specific delegation of legal powers to private veterinarians, aquatic health professionals and diagnostic laboratories according to OIE standards and guidelines;
6. Member Countries of the Region of the Americas contribute to improve global knowledge on compartmentalisation by sharing information on experiences and best practices in its use;
7. Member countries continually strive to maintain and strengthen their Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, including through participation in the OIE PVS Pathway for Terrestrial and Aquatic sectors, as a basis to support the negotiation of export markets using zoning, compartmentalisation and other approaches endorsed by the OIE;

8. Member Countries and regional organisations consider a harmonised approach to the use of compartmentalisation as a mean to promote the recognition from trading partners;
  9. The OIE encourage the use by Member Countries of compartmentalisation, including by sharing information on their experiences on the use of this tool via publication in the OIE Bulletin and on the OIE website;
  10. The OIE make provision for expanded uses of compartmentalisation, by
    - including the concept in individual disease chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* (as appropriate);
    - the development of new approaches (e.g. the application of compartmentalisation to artificial breeding establishments and competition horses);
    - providing more guidance on its implementation in the aquatic sector;
  11. The OIE continue its work of supporting Member Countries by means of programmes such as the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services using the OIE PVS Tool, and other mechanisms and initiatives identified in the PVS Pathway, especially in the context of compartmentalisation; and
  12. The OIE continue to organise capacity building programmes directed to Delegates and National Focal Points and include compartmentalization in some of the programmes.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 14 November 2014  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)



**21st Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Rabat, Morocco, 16 to 20 February 2015

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) The role of cross-border movement of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa





Recommendation No. 1

**Impact of animal diseases on animal productivity and public health in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal diseases have important impacts on animal productivity, animal welfare, and on human health and wellbeing;
2. Little has been done to measure the impact of livestock diseases in Africa and credible estimates of the cost of animal diseases and their control are required to persuade policy makers to fund animal health control programmes ahead of other competing demands for public expenditure;
3. Antimicrobial resistance is an ever-increasing threat to both human and animal health and that Veterinary Services have the responsibility to ensure a responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials agents in animals in order to prevent the development of antimicrobial resistance in both animals and humans;
4. The control of transboundary animal diseases requires a coordinated regional approach;
5. Early notification, to the OIE, of changes in national disease situation is of great benefit to other countries, including trading partners;
6. Surveillance data is often incomplete and the prevalence of many important animal diseases, including zoonoses, is still not well known for many countries in the Africa Region;
7. Early detection and control of animal diseases requires cooperation of farmers as partners in disease control and improved productions;
8. The impacts on food security, public health, smallholders and pastoralists are the most important consideration points when Veterinary Services decide on overall priorities;
9. The most important drivers of change in the epidemiology of diseases are considered to be climate change and trade of animals and products of animal origin; and
10. The proportion of animals slaughtered in *approved slaughterhouses* is low, suggesting that large numbers of pathogens are not detected.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Member Countries consider the methodology published by the OIE as well as economic analyses in the prioritisation and planning of animal disease control and eradication programmes;

2. The Member Countries improve the monitoring of the production, importation, distribution and use of veterinary medicines, including antimicrobial agents, for different livestock sectors, including aquaculture;
  3. The Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway, and especially the PVS Gap Analysis, to advocate for proper allocation of resources to Veterinary Services;
  4. The OIE and Member Countries explore options, including public-private partnerships, for increasing the participation of farmers as well as all the stakeholders of the livestock sector in disease surveillance and control;
  5. The OIE and Member Countries explore how to best improve the safety of food of animal origin, including those produced and sold in the informal sector;
  6. The OIE continue to advocate, at high level, on the economic benefit of animal disease control;
  7. The OIE strengthen its commitment, in particular with National Focal Points, to improve, among others, the notification of animal diseases;
  8. The OIE support Member Countries to develop contingency plans for important diseases that are present or could be introduced and also encourage sharing them between Member Countries; and
  9. The OIE continue, in collaboration with other organisations involved, to facilitate cooperation between the Member Countries to enhance early warning, rapid response and regional disease control.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 20 February 2015  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

Recommendation No. 2

**The role of cross-border movement of animals and animal products in the epidemiology of animal disease in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. There are several justifications for cross-border movement of animals which is a reality difficult to quantify due to its structured and complexed nature influenced by economic and socio-cultural practice in many African countries and presenting sanitary risks and non-sanitary constraints;
2. Unregulated cross-border movement of livestock and products of animal origin represents a major pathway for the spread of animal disease. Their impacts on the epidemiology of animal diseases, particularly transboundary animal diseases, and on public health, deserve the full attention of the governments, international organisations concerned, and Regional Economic Communities (REC);
3. In the Sahel and West Africa, transhumant pastoralism is a major component of livestock systems, accounting for an estimated 70%-90% of all cattle, 30%-40% of small ruminants, and a small percentage of dromedaries, and specialists agree that this practice preserves the environment, is profitable and competitive, and creates seasonal jobs;
4. Transboundary animal diseases often have serious consequences for farmers' livelihoods, which are often precarious, for public health, and for the economies of the countries concerned, whether they are the origin, transit or destination countries of the animals;
5. Many diseases are common to both wild and domestic animals and can be transmitted from one to the other in either direction;
6. The ability of Veterinary Services to manage the impact of cross-border livestock movements on health is often hampered by various factors. These constraints are mainly inadequate human and material resources, insufficient disease control infrastructure, the absence of national animal identification systems, and an often inappropriate or irrelevant regulatory framework;
7. Animal identification is a fundamental tool for monitoring livestock movement, surveillance of animal diseases and managing sanitary risks. It makes trade safer and ensures the traceability of animals and animal products;
8. Insufficient regional collaboration, the absence of common, harmonised strategies, and inappropriate, deficient or unwieldy laws regulating cross-border movements of livestock make it difficult to implement strategies of disease surveillance and control, and encourage informal and illegal practices;
9. African demand for products of animal origin is increasing rapidly and could be met by intra-African trade. This could become a lever of development in Africa if sanitary risks and non-sanitary constraints are lifted and all stakeholders, at national and regional level, make the appropriate contribution;

10. There are health risks at livestock-wildlife interface;
11. Some Member Countries in the Africa Region may benefit from the OIE recognition of their national official control programme or their sanitary status; and
12. Management of the cross-border movements of livestock and associated sanitary risks should be harmonised while taking into account regional characteristics and the animal health status of all the countries in the region.

#### THE REGIONAL COMMISSION OF THE OIE FOR AFRICA

#### RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Member Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Africa Region initiate or pursue their efforts towards long-term bilateral and regional collaboration, based on complementarity, harmonisation and adaptation of tools to control animal diseases and cross-border livestock movements, in accordance with existing OIE standards;
2. The Member Countries and the RECs in the Africa Region, taking into account the characteristics and factors common to the countries of each region, adopt common and harmonised approaches to:
  - the implementation of common strategies to prevent and control animal diseases associated with movements of livestock and their products in order to improve the animal health situation, make trade safer, and combat illegal practices;
  - the strengthening or establishment of networks of disease surveillance based on a regional approach to design operations, tools and mechanisms of disease monitoring and evaluation and animal health information exchange;
  - the creation of incentives to involve private sector veterinarians and other actors more fully in surveillance and control of transboundary animal diseases through innovative participatory approaches;
  - the implementation of national animal identification and traceability systems that can meet the need for regional harmonisation and facilitate management of livestock movements and sanitary risks;
  - the adaptation and update of the regulations on transhumance and trade based on sanitary risks;
  - the implementation of existing sanitary and non-sanitary standards and procedures governing trade in animals and products of animal origin.
3. The Member Countries in the Africa Region progress along the OIE PVS Pathway, particularly by requesting PVS Evaluation follow up missions, Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, and support to laboratories;
4. Through the PVS Pathway, the OIE continue to build the capacity of the Veterinary Services of the Member Countries in the Africa Region;
5. Through the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, the OIE facilitate the modernisation of the legislative instruments of the Member Countries and the RECs in the Africa Region to improve prevention and control of transboundary animal diseases so as to assist the Veterinary Services to comply with the standards of the organisation;

6. The OIE continue to provide technical assistance and support for actions to improve the animal health status of the countries and regions with regard to the main transboundary animal diseases;
  7. The OIE encourage the Member Countries in the Africa Region to apply for the endorsement of their official national disease control programme, with regard to foot-and-mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and peste des petits ruminants, followed by official recognition of disease-free status;
  8. The Member Countries, the OIE, the relevant RECs and other stakeholders pay special attention to the role of livestock movements in the emergence and re-emergence of contagious bovine pleuropneumonia in various sub-regions of the African continent that is reaching worrying proportion; and
  9. The OIE, through partnership with relevant international and regional organisations, initiate collaboration to study developments and trends in livestock systems, including transboundary movements of animals, and their epidemiological impacts with a view to anticipate the best strategic sanitary and budgetary choices.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 20 February 2015  
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 28 May 2015)

