

# *Recommendations*

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1st June 2000**

**Endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 30 May 2001**

**19th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe  
Jerusalem (Israel), 18-21 September 2000**

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- Recommendation No. 1: Control measures and categorisation of swine vesicular disease
- Recommendation No. 2: Ensuring a limited disease environment for optimal production in the livestock industry
- Recommendation No. 3: OIE categorisation of animal diseases
- Recommendation No. 4: Third Strategic Plan of the OIE 2001-2005

## **Recommendation No. 1**

### **Control measures and categorisation of swine vesicular disease**

#### CONSIDERING THAT

Swine vesicular disease (SVD) is a generally mild but insidious disease with clinical signs that cannot be distinguished from those of foot and mouth disease (FMD),

The similarities between FMD and SVD as well as vesicular stomatitis led to the categorisation of the latter two diseases in the OIE list A,

The majority of Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe consider premature the change of the current categorisation of SVD,

The SVD virus is resistant to many physical and chemical factors and can persist for a long time in the environment, making its eradication particularly difficult,

The diagnostic tests developed and validated in recent years, allow a rapid and reliable differential diagnosis between SVD and FMD, and that reagents for these tests are available in a number of European laboratories, including the OIE and the European Union reference laboratories,

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The current chapter 2.1.3 in the OIE *International Animal Health Code* be revised to take into account the progress made on SVD diagnosis, the most up-to-date knowledge on SVD pathogenicity and epidemiology, and the principle of regionalisation.
2. The current categorisation of SVD as well as of vesicular stomatitis be re-examined in the light of the outcome of the revision of the categorisation of animal diseases and taking into account the availability of rapid diagnostic tools to discriminate between vesicular conditions.
3. OIE Member Countries ensure a high level of awareness amongst the farmers and the veterinarians in order that any vesicular condition be notified and differential diagnosis carried out without delay.
4. OIE Member Countries ensure clinical and serological surveillance as regards SVD, including the use of the most recently developed laboratory tests.
5. The OIE Standards Commission review the chapter 2.1.3. on SVD in the OIE *Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines*, to take into account the progress made in development of new tests, with particular reference to capture-immuno-PCR.

6. Further research on effective and practically applicable disinfectants and on virus virulence factors be encouraged.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 22 September 2000 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)

**Recommendation No. 2**

**Ensuring a limited disease environment for optimal production  
in the livestock industry**

CONSIDERING THAT

The activities of OIE Member Countries regarding non OIE-listed enzootic diseases are considerable and information on the occurrence of such diseases is already available to some extent,

Some Member Countries maintain official, government-managed or government-approved control programmes for non OIE-listed endemic diseases,

The occurrence and management of non OIE-listed diseases including zoonoses may be of public health and/or animal welfare concern,

The occurrence of non OIE-listed endemic diseases and the related risk of introduction into importing countries may be relevant in trade and trade-related risk analyses,

The availability and the use of economic data are limited, even though they are important in the evaluation of the efficiency of control programmes for non OIE-listed enzootic diseases,

There are regional differences between the types of diseases considered and the level and type of involvement of national Veterinary Services,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Emphasis be given to using quantitative methods in the planning and assessment of animal disease control programmes in Member Countries.
2. The OIE facilitate the collection of data and the conduct of analyses in its Member Countries for the evaluation of disease control programmes.
3. Veterinary Services of OIE Member Countries work in close collaboration together with the livestock industry and within their respective legal frames towards the goal of a limited disease environment for optimal livestock production.
4. OIE Member Countries be encouraged to share information regarding diagnostic methods, case definitions, disease occurrence and interventions with the aim of enhancing progress towards a limited disease environment for optimal livestock production.

5. The OIE support Member Countries in sharing information by accepting voluntary reports on the occurrence of non OIE-listed enzootic diseases.
  6. The OIE inform Member Countries on available official models of collaboration between Veterinary Services and the livestock industry.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 22 September 2000 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)

### **Recommendation No. 3**

#### **OIE categorisation of animal diseases**

##### CONSIDERING

That one of the main objectives of the OIE is to collect and redistribute information on the occurrence of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases world-wide and the means of controlling them,

That the current OIE categorisation of lists A and B has not been reviewed recently and therefore shows certain inconsistencies,

The need to concentrate on the importance of the speed of spread of a disease and link this to the reporting procedures,

That the current OIE categorisation of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases should be more flexible and facilitate the inclusion of new emerging animal diseases of significant epidemiological importance,

The need to take into account the growing importance of the potential zoonotic consequences of many animal diseases,

The need to try to clarify and improve the notification of outbreaks of diseases by OIE Member Countries,

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

##### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE envisage revising the current categorisation of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases into a classification of diseases into one list but with two new categories as a long term objective based on a review to be carried out by a suitable panel of experts:
  - animal diseases that require immediate notification (within 24 hours) due to their potential for a rapid spread;
  - animal diseases of periodic notification, at least annually or more often if necessary (see 4 below).
2. The OIE in the shorter term update and also review, in relation to the diseases listed, the chapters in the OIE *International Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code* on the lines indicated in 1 above.
3. The definitions for outbreaks, quarantine and isolation be reviewed in this context, and outbreaks of disease be serially numbered on an annual basis.

4. The OIE raise the awareness of its Member Countries on the fundamental purpose of the listing of animal diseases based on notification obligations, which is to provide rapid and quality information.
  5. Member Countries notify the first outbreak of a listed disease or a new emerging disease in a country or part of a country previously free from that disease (in the context of regionalisation for a particular disease), within 24 hours.
  6. The OIE continue to develop and strengthen its disease databases and provide access to its Member Countries to enable them to obtain up to date and quality information on the animal health status world-wide.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 22 September 2000 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)

#### **Recommendation No. 4**

#### **Third Strategic Plan of the OIE 2001-2005**

##### CONSIDERING

That the time allotted to technical discussions on the Third Strategic Plan were restricted and that certain Delegations wishing to comment during the 68th General Session of the International Committee were unable to do so,

That during the 68th General Session, the International Committee did not adopt a Resolution on the Third OIE Strategic Plan,

That in accordance with the wish expressed by certain Delegations during the said General Session, it is important that the Regional Commissions be formally consulted on the updating of the Strategic Plan,

The importance of this Plan for the future actions to be taken by the OIE, as well as the role and future of the OIE in the international context,

That the OIE's recognition of the animal health status on the basis of the provisions set out by the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission is essential,

That the OIE's role within the framework of the application of the provisions set out in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization is essential, and that it is necessary to correctly fulfil the missions entrusted to the OIE in this field, without which this recognition could again be brought into question.

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

##### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General of the OIE propose a process whereby the Third Strategic Plan can be updated on a regular basis.
2. The Director officially request inputs from the Presidents of the five Regional Commissions in this respect.
3. Comments made by the Delegates during the 19th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe be analysed and taken into account in the Working Programme to be prepared by the Director General based on the general orientation of the Third Strategic Plan, with a view to presenting this Programme during the 69th General Session of the International Committee.
4. The proposal given in the draft Strategic Plan, which foresees delegating to a third party the power to validate the animal health status and the accreditation of Veterinary Services, be reviewed and that it be decided that the Foot and Mouth Disease and Other Epizootics Commission, rather than private organisations, carry out the recognition of the animal health status of Member Countries.

5. The OIE, whilst using the best scientific knowledge as a basis for decision-making, not only be considered as a scientific organisation, but as a strong body for the development of strategies and decisions on an international level in the different fields of animal health and zoonoses, and that in this context, it respect the legislative competence of the Member Countries and the basic OIE texts.
  6. The OIE, as the international organisation best qualified to handle questions relating to animal protection/welfare, create an Ad hoc Group to reflect on this topic.
  7. The role of the OIE concerning the control of animal diseases and zoonoses 'from the stable to the table', including potential link with animal feed and use of veterinary medicinal products on the farm, and the accreditation of Veterinary Services, be significantly strengthened, and that the Director General convene an Ad hoc Group(s) to develop a medium-term strategy in these fields.
  8. The methods for obtaining financial resources for the OIE be reviewed to bring them into line with the increased responsibilities and actions that must be taken by the OIE.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 22 September 2000 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)

**14th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa  
Arusha (Tanzania), 23-26 January 2001**

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- Recommendation No. 1: The role of para-veterinarians and community based animal health workers in the delivery of veterinary services in Africa
- Recommendation No. 2: Antimicrobial resistance
- Recommendation No. 3: OIE categorisation of animal diseases
- Recommendation No. 4: Rift Valley fever



### **Recommendation No. 1**

#### **The role of para-veterinarians and community based animal health workers in the delivery of veterinary services in Africa**

##### CONSIDERING

The need to improve in a sustainable manner the quality of disease surveillance, the control of epizootic diseases and the provision of other animal health needs, in particular in remote areas,

That registered public and private veterinarians are unable to cover all the animal health needs of a country,

The roles that para-veterinarians (animal health assistants with formal training) and/or community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) can play in the overall animal health delivery systems,

The limited ecological and geographical coverage of the case studies on the impact of CBAHWs presented at the meeting,

The absence or insufficiency of regulatory frameworks for animal health assistants and/or CBAHWS in many countries,

The need for more substantive discussion at the national level on the most appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks for each category of animal health service providers,

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

##### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Under the co-ordination of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa and if possible OAU/IBAR, more case studies on the impact and sustainability of CBAHWs and animal health assistants be conducted in different ecological zones and in different production systems according to the demand of national veterinary authorities.
2. Veterinary authorities initiate or continue national debates on the legislation, policy and organisation of veterinary services with a view to defining and accommodating the different categories of animal health service providers in order to improve sanitary coverage.
3. A further discussion on animal health assistants and CBAHWs be included at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa based in particular on the results of new case studies.
4. The OIE and, if need be, the OAU/IBAR, assist in the above mentioned initiatives, including the adaptation of legislation and the finalisation of quality criteria for veterinary services.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)



## **Recommendation No. 2**

### **Antimicrobial resistance**

#### CONSIDERING

That there is a need to preserve therapeutic efficacy of antimicrobials and prolong their use in both animals and humans,

The fact that the use of antimicrobial drugs in humans and animals, and particularly poultry, can select for resistant bacterial populations, which may decrease the efficacy of these drugs,

That the impact of antimicrobial resistant bacteria on human health has become an important international concern, including the possible role that food of animal origin may play in the transmission of resistant strains to humans,

That microbiological methods for the identification and susceptibility testing of bacteria, and residue detection have to be standardised and harmonised in order to generate reliable and comparable data,

That some developed countries have taken or envisage taking measures to prohibit the use of certain antimicrobial substances in animals, and that this may have a negative impact on trade of animals and animal products from countries continuing the use of these substances,

That only very limited scientific information is available on resistance in animal bacteria and their negative impact on human health in countries world-wide,

That the great majority of countries world-wide does not

- know the quantities of antimicrobials commercialised and used in animal livestock production
- have official resistance monitoring systems available for animal and human bacteria, nor residue detection systems for animal products,

That although most countries have microbiological laboratories for testing bacteria, some laboratories do not implement quality assurance and are not officially accredited,

That a large number of countries has limited financial resources at its disposal and that priorities have to be established for veterinary and human public health problems on the basis of an appropriate risk analysis,

That Member Countries in Africa have identified several constraints to the prudent use of antimicrobial drugs,

The responsibility of the Office International des Epizooties in informing governments of the existence and evolution of animal and zoonotic diseases, of measures to be taken for their control in international trade, and of guidelines on methodology to avoid bacterial resistance,

The outcome of the work of the OIE Ad hoc group on Antimicrobial Resistance,

That the importance of the issue justifies continuous follow-up,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

### 1. Member Countries

Actively encourage and participate in the dissemination of information relating to the emergence of resistance and its potential negative impact on animal and human health.

Promote the prudent use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine by:

- implementing the recommendations made by the OIE in this domain
- having an efficient registration procedure of veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials
- ensuring adequate representation of the veterinary profession with regard to the registration of veterinary medicinal products
- having at national or regional level an operational laboratory capable of controlling the quality of veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials and the presence of residues in feed and animal products
- having an efficient control of imported veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials in order to seize any counterfeit or substandard products
- administering veterinary medicinal products containing antimicrobials to animals under the control of veterinarians.

Direct efforts towards the establishment of an officially recognised interest group that includes State Veterinary Services whose terms of reference should include the coordination of a national antimicrobial-resistance management programme. Such a programme should include:

- the implementation of guidelines (from internationally recognised sources or compiled by local professional groups) for the prudent use of antimicrobials, in order to avoid resistance and the presence of residues in animal products,
- the implementation of a permanent antimicrobial resistance monitoring programme,
- the coordination of the collection of data on the quantity of antimicrobial drugs used.

## 2. The Office International des Epizooties

Provide, if necessary, technical assistance to OIE Member Countries, if need be with the help of its Collaborating Centres for Veterinary Medicinal Products by:

- organising conferences on antimicrobial resistance in order to disseminate information on the situation in other Member Countries and to improve awareness of the adverse effects of resistant bacteria to animal and human health as a result of an inappropriate use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine,
- promoting the implementation of the decreed recommendations for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals,
- assisting, if needed, in the methodology for the execution of a specific risk analysis in certain Member Countries, in respect to the impact on human and animal health of resistant animal bacteria associated with the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine. This assistance would be of particular importance when a country envisages taking national measures for the containment of antimicrobial resistance in animal and zoonotic bacteria,

Encourage the OIE's Reference Laboratories to assist, where necessary, OIE Member Countries in setting up microbiological laboratories, and if need be, to ensure that they implement a quality assurance scheme and participate in external proficiency testing, particularly with regard to antimicrobial sensitivity testing.

3. The next **Conference of the Regional Commission for Africa** examines the progress of the issue of antimicrobial resistance and monitoring of residues.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)



### **Recommendation No. 3**

#### **OIE categorisation of animal diseases**

##### CONSIDERING

That one of the main objectives of the OIE is to collect and redistribute information on the occurrence of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases world-wide and the ways and means of controlling them,

That the current OIE categorisation of lists A and B has not been reviewed recently and therefore shows certain inconsistencies,

The need to concentrate on the speed of spread of a disease, its zoonotic and economic importance and link this to the reporting procedures,

The need to categorise new emerging diseases and to re-categorise other diseases, which have assumed greater or less epidemiological, zoonotic and economic importance,

##### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

##### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE envisage revising the current categorisation of animal diseases including aquatic animal diseases by a classification of diseases into one list but with two new categories:
  - animal diseases that require immediate notification (within 24 hours) due to their economic zoonotic and epidemiological significance;
  - animal diseases of periodic notification, at least annually or more often if necessary.
2. The inclusion of any animal disease in the category of immediate notification be based solely on the characteristics mentioned in point 1 and in particular on its potential for dangerous and widespread dissemination (directly or through vectors).
3. The OIE in the short term update and also review, in relation to the diseases listed, the chapters in the OIE *International Animal Health Code* and *Aquatic Animal Health Code* on the lines indicated in 1 above.
4. The OIE continue to develop and strengthen its disease databases and provide access to its Member Countries to enable them to obtain up to date and quality information on the animal health status world-wide.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)



#### **Recommendation No. 4**

##### **Rift Valley fever**

#### CONSIDERING

The importance of livestock trade to the countries in the Horn of Africa with the neighbouring Middle East countries,

The awareness of the zoonotic importance of Rift Valley fever,

The recognition that the prevailing climatic conditions over the last two years have not been favourable for the spread of Rift Valley fever,

That the majority of countries have developed the capacity for surveillance of Rift Valley fever (active disease search and serosurveillance),

That the contribution of international organisations, such as the OAU/IBAR, OIE, FAO, IGAD, in evaluating the Rift Valley fever situation in the Horn of Africa, has been recognised,

The request made by the countries of the Horn of Africa,

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Judicious actions be undertaken rapidly with a view to re-evaluating the epidemiological situation of Rift Valley fever in the Horn of Africa under the auspices of the OIE.
2. The OIE/FAO/IBAR jointly organise a meeting with the countries of the Horn of Africa, in order to confirm the absence of Rift Valley fever in the region.
3. A joint mission of countries concerned be organised to the Middle East countries, in order to ensure that the exporting countries are in full compliance with the OIE animal health regulations.
4. The OIE and FAO take the lead in establishing a regular consultative meeting between the importing and exporting countries in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.
5. Surveillance and control programmes for Rift Valley fever be implemented, or if need be strengthened, in the other Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Africa with the support of the above mentioned organisations.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 January 2001 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 30 May 2001)