

Alejandro B Thiermann  
President, Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission  
World Organization for Animal Health



# OIE International standards for FMD control and trade facilitation

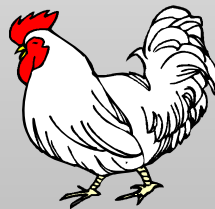
# OIE's WTO mandate

Standard-setting  
organizations

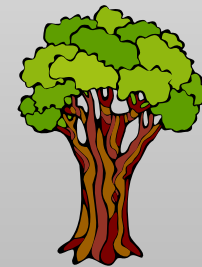
*food safety*  
CODEX



*animal health*  
OIE



*plant health*  
IPPC



Codex = Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission  
OIE = World Organization for Animal Health  
IPPC = International Plant Protection Convention (FAO)

# Measures, according to SPS

- a health measure must be based on an **international standard**, if one exists
  - unless there is scientific justification for a stronger measure
  - or if a country decides it needs a higher level of protection than the standard provides
- in which case, a health measure must be based on a **risk analysis**

# Justified measures

- An OIE measure must not discriminate arbitrarily or unjustifiably between countries where identical or similar conditions exist
- an OIE measure must not be more trade restrictive than necessary to achieve the importing country's desired level of protection
  - taking into account technical and economic feasibility
  - can't just ban imports, when there are other alternatives

# Why standards are necessary

- Enhance **safety of international trade** in animals and animal products
- Encourage **harmonization** of national legislations and control measures
- **Narrow the gap** between rich and poor countries
- Surveillance and control of animal diseases and zoonoses = **International Public Good (IPG)**
  - **IPG is a duty of governments**
  - **International community, international organizations, donors and NGO influence and support**
- **Promote fairer trade (fewer unjustified restrictions on trade)**
- **Public – Private sector contracts**

# Influences on standard setting

- from EXPORTING countries for less restrictions
- from IMPORTING countries for maximum protection (e.g Avian influenza)
- from producers / Consumers / NGOs
- the only basis acceptable to all is good science and a transparent and inclusive process of evaluation.

# OIE international standards

- OIE develops and publishes
  - health standards for trade in animals and animal products
  - biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines
- adopted by OIE Members during General Session each May
  - no other pathway for adoption
- to maximize harmonization of the health aspects of international trade, Veterinary Authorities should base their health measures on OIE standards

# Principles in the Codes

- WTO obligations complied with if Codes used correctly
  - importing country assumed to be free of a specific disease or with a control programme for that disease
  - measures take into account
    - assessment of risk factors in real world situation
    - quality of veterinary services / competent authorities
    - zoning and compartmentalisation
    - disease surveillance and timely notification
- credible health certification for traded commodities

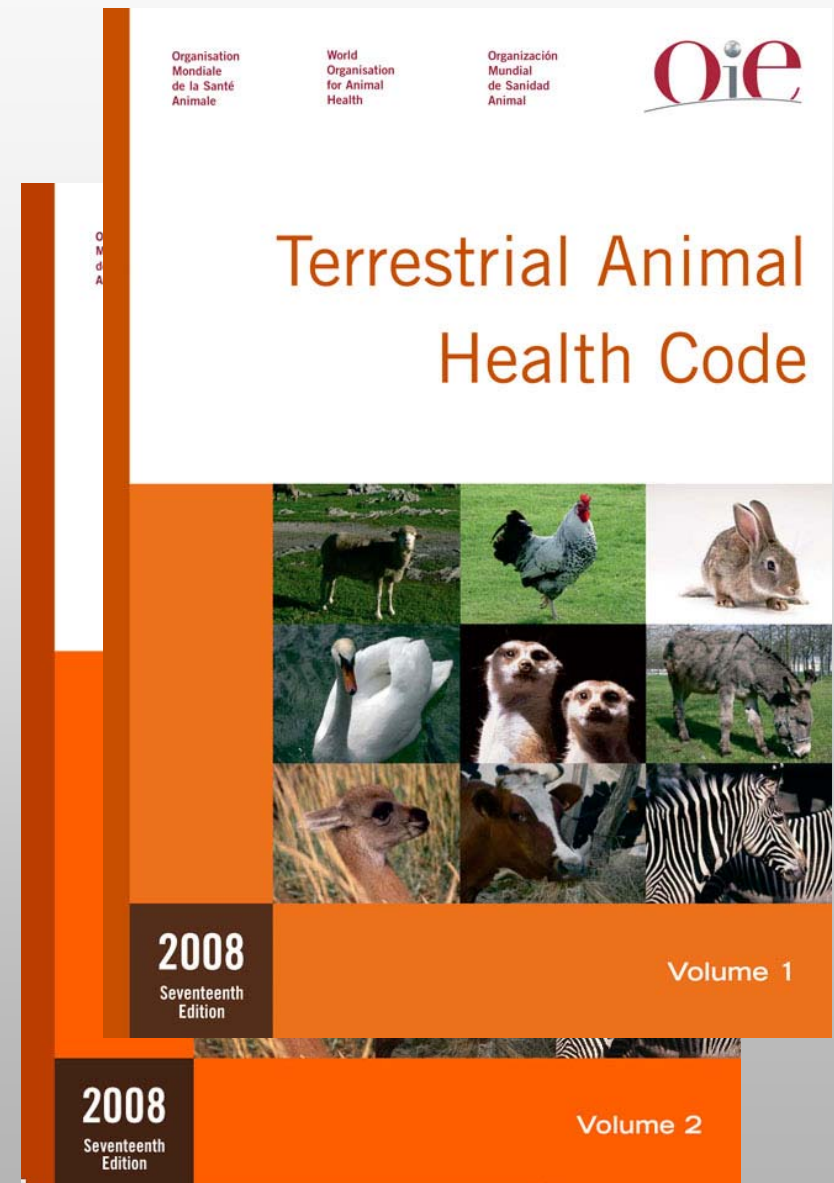


## Generic (horizontal) Chapters

- obligations/ethics in international trade
- disease notification
- import risk analysis methodology
- evaluation of veterinary services
- import/export procedures
- general disease surveillance

## Disease specific Chapters

- description of the pathogen/disease
- determining status of a country, zone or compartment
- 'safe' commodities irrespective of status
- recommendations: live animals/products
- collection and processing of semen/ova
- surveillance procedures
- inactivation of pathogens



# Examples of status in the Code

- FMD **free country** where vaccination **is not** practiced
- FMD **free country** where vaccination **is** practiced
- FMD **free zone** where vaccination **is not** practiced
- FMD **free zone** where vaccination **is** practiced
- FMD **infected** country or zone

# Historic evolution of the Code

## THE NEED FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT

From

To

a strict focus on  
“country freedom”

A risk-based recommendations  
on safe trade

considering the health status of a sub-population

- Zone
- Compartment
- Containment zone
- considering the risk of a specific commodity
- considering inactivation procedures of the pathogen

# Do not apply Code recommendation in isolation

- consider the content of the entire Chapter
- consider the Quality and credibility of the VS
- consider history of transparency and reporting

# Critical uses of the Code

- for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services as an essential baseline for trade
- to establish baseline arguments for equivalence in trade negotiations
- to identify most cost-effective risk mitigation measures for trade
- to scientifically challenge unjustifiable sanitary measures applied by trading partners

# Zoning/Compartmentalisation

- **Zoning** applies to an animal sub-population defined primarily on a **geographical** basis
- **Compartmentalisation** applies to an animal sub-population defined primarily by management and husbandry practices relating to **biosecurity**
- **Containment zone** means a defined zone around and including suspected or infected establishment, taking into account the epidemiological factors and results of investigations, where control measures to prevent the spread of the infection are applied.

# Responsibilities of importing country

- import measures should comply with the national level of protection for animal and human health
  - should not require a higher level of protection on imports than that provided for the same diseases by measures applied within that country or zone
  - should not impose measures against diseases present in the importing country and not subject to any official control programme

# Responsibilities of exporting country

- provide information on relevant regulations and official procedures
- provide details of the country's ability to conduct surveillance and apply measures to control / prevent diseases
- provide up to date and accurate notifications on the animal health situation, based on official surveillance
- provide details of the competencies of Veterinary Services and the authority exercised



# Challenges

- Implementation of and adherence to the international standards by all countries
- Recognition of the quality of VS and the health status of exporting countries
- Control and eradication activities must be regionally oriented
- Aim of VS should be on improvement of animal health governance and NOT on ONE disease eradication
- Trading partners must regulate based on the safety of the product and the credibility of the VS

# Aguiye Peheme

Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

12 rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France - [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int) – [oie@oie.int](mailto:oie@oie.int)

