

OIE STANDARDS AND TOOLS FOR THE QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES

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The quality of Veterinary Services (VS) depends on a set of factors, which include fundamental principles of an ethical, organisational and technical nature. The VS shall conform to these fundamental principles, regardless of the political, economic or social situation of their country. These OIE standards, dealt with in Chapter 3.1 of the OIE-*Terrestrial Animal Health Code* 2008 (the *Code*), are highlighted. Compliance with these fundamental principles by the VS of an OIE Member Country is important to the establishment and maintenance of confidence in its international veterinary certificates by the VS of other Member Countries. Evaluation of VS is an important element in the risk analysis process which countries may legitimately use in their policy formulations directly applying to animal health and sanitary controls of international trade in animals, animal-derived products, animal genetic material and animal feedstuffs. Any evaluation of Veterinary Services should be based on the evaluation criteria as contained in Chapter 3.2 of the *Code*, by using the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool). The OIE PVS Tool comprises 4 fundamental components, being (1) Human, physical, and financial resources; (2) Technical authority and capability, (3) Interaction with stakeholders; and (4) Access to markets. For each of these components six to twelve critical competencies have been elaborated. These critical competencies, each having five quantitative levels of advancement, are described and those with special reference to the control of foot-and-mouth disease are discussed.

