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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 19–28 February 2013

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 19 to 28 February 2013. The list of participants is attached as [Annex I](#).

The Code Commission thanked the following Member Countries for providing written comments: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, the European Union (EU), Guatemala, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States of America (USA). Comments were also received from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). In addition, the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS), International Poultry Council (IPC) and the International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare (ICFAW) submitted written comments.

The Code Commission reviewed comments that Member Countries had submitted by 18 January 2013 and amended texts in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by 'double underline' and '~~strike through~~' and may be found in the Annexes to the report. The amendments made at the February 2013 meeting are highlighted with a coloured background in order to distinguish them from those made at the September 2012 meeting.

All Member Countries' comments were considered by the Code Commission. However, because of the very large volume of work, the Commission was not able to prepare a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not every proposal received. Member Countries are reminded that if comments are resubmitted without modification or new justification, the Commission will not, as a rule, repeat previous explanations for decisions. The Commission encourages Member Countries to refer to previous reports when preparing comments on longstanding issues. The Commission also draws the attention of Member Countries to those instances where the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) has addressed Member Countries' comments and proposed amendments in several chapters. In such cases the rationale for such amendments are described in their report and the Code Commission encourages Member Countries to review this report together with the report of the Scientific Commission.

Member Countries should note that texts in Part A of this report are proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013. Texts in Part B are presented for comment by Member Countries and all comments received will be addressed during the Commission's meeting in September 2013. The reports of meetings (Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups) are also attached in Part B of this report for information.

The Commission strongly encourages Member Countries to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments on this report. Comments should be submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Proposed deletions should be indicated in '~~strike through~~' and proposed additions with 'double underline'. Member Countries should not use the automatic 'track-changes' function provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the process of collating Member Countries' submissions into the Commission's working documents.

Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters **by 16 August 2013** to be considered at the September 2013 meeting of the Code Commission. However, considering that Member Countries' comments on Chapters 7.5 and 7.6. (Annex XXXVI) as well as new draft chapter on animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems (Annex XXXVII) should be reviewed by the Working Group on Animal Welfare prior to the next Code Commission meeting, Member Countries are kindly requested to submit their comments on these chapters **by 3 June 2013**.

All comments should be sent to the OIE International Trade Department at: trade.dept@oie.int.

A. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The Code Commission met Dr Bernard Vallat, the Director General of the OIE, on 25 February 2013 to discuss several key topics as follows. Dr Karim Ben Jebara (Head of OIE Animal Health Information Department) and Dr Manuel Sanchez (Deputy Head of OIE Animal Health Information Department) joined the discussion on point 3 below.

1. Coordination among Specialist Commissions

Dr Alejandro Thiermann (President of the Code Commission) noted that a Member Country had requested better coordination between Specialist Commissions to harmonise the use of terminology in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual*). He suggested this could be achieved by nominating a Commission responsible for initiating specific areas of work and inviting the other Commissions align with once adopted (see Part D Item 1). Dr Vallat agreed with the approach.

2. User's guide

Dr Thiermann commended Dr Etienne Bonbon's initiative in revising the current User's Guide of the *Terrestrial Code* with a view to clarify the role, scope and correct use of the *Terrestrial Code* as requested by Member Countries. He informed Dr Vallat that both the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission reviewed the revised User's Guide and it would be circulated for Member Country comments.

3. Notification of emerging diseases

Dr Ben Jebara explained that there was an urgent need to clarify the definition of 'emerging disease' and notification requirement for them. Thus an internal task force in the OIE Headquarters reviewed the definition of emerging disease in the Glossary and Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* and proposed revised texts to the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission for their consideration. While acknowledging the initiative of the task force to address this important issue, Dr Thiermann noted that both Commissions were of the view that this issue would need a careful consideration and undertook to discuss this issue jointly at the next meeting in September 2013.

Dr Ben Jebara also noted the difficulty in notifying OIE listed disease in wildlife due to the ambiguity of the case definition of some diseases. He suggested applying standard case definitions to all OIE listed diseases. Dr Thiermann replied that the notification obligations for domestic and wildlife species are based in the recommendations of each disease specific chapter. The wildlife issue would be progressively addressed jointly by the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission on a chapter by chapter basis, clarifying each case definition by including epidemiologically important species including wildlife. He highlighted that the Scientific Commission had already taken that approach in reviewing some disease chapters, including that for foot and mouth disease.

4. Review of the OIE listed diseases

Dr Thiermann noted that the Code Commission decided to propose to delist swine vesicular disease, vesicular stomatitis and infection with equid herpes virus 4 on the grounds that Member Countries had not based their opposition to the deletion of these diseases on the listing criteria in Chapter 1.2.

In light of the significant number of Member Countries' comments on the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents, the Code Commission suggested that the Director General convene an *ad hoc* group to re-examine the other diseases proposed for delisting using a structured, scientifically-rigorous method, and allow more time for experts to adequately review the relevant literature, apply the criteria of Article 1.2.2., and consistently document the justification for their recommendations.

5. Definition of ‘veterinarian’ in the Glossary

Dr Vallat noted the need to ensure sufficient education for a veterinarian to be considered suitably and asked the Code Commission the outcome of their consideration of a proposed revision of the definition of ‘veterinarian’. Dr Thiermann explained that the Code Commission had revised the definition of ‘veterinarian’ to incorporate education factors while recognising that OIE’s recommendations for ‘Day 1 competencies’ of veterinarians had been already referred to in Chapter 3.2. (Evaluation of Veterinary Services).

6. Foot and mouth disease

Dr Thiermann informed Dr Vallat that the Code Commission agreed with the total revision of the chapter made by the Scientific Commission and an *ad hoc* Group and decided to present it with additional changes for Member Countries’ comment.

7. Disease specific chapters proposed for adoption

Dr Thiermann noted that with close collaboration between the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission, several important disease chapters had been updated in terms of both scientific content and clarity of text, and these are proposed for adoption in May 2013. Such chapters include classical swine fever, peste des petits ruminants, rabies and African horse sickness.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Adopted agenda of the meeting is attached as Annex II.

C. REPORT ON JOINT MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CODE COMMISSION AND THE SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION (4th and 8th February)

The President and the Vice-president of the Code Commission met the Scientific Commission on 4th and 8th February to discuss various issues of mutual interest. The minutes of this joint meeting are attached as Annex III.

D. EXAMINATION OF MEMBER COUNTRY COMMENTS AND WORK OF RELEVANT EXPERT GROUPS

Item 1. General comments of OIE Member Countries

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, African Union – Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR).

A Member Country’s comment on the need for better coordination between the OIE Specialist Commissions was noted. The need for harmonised use of terminology (host species taxonomy, ‘index screening test’) in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Terrestrial Manual* were referred to the Biological Standards Commission (the Laboratories Commission).

In addition, the Code Commission suggested that OIE should nominate a Commission responsible for initiating specific categories of work and invite the other Commissions to align with it once adopted by the OIE Member Countries. The Commission proposed as follows:

- Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission): scientific information (e.g. taxonomy, new scientific evidence for certain animal diseases)
- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission): case definitions, trade related recommendations for terrestrial animals
- Biological standards Commission (the Laboratories Commission): diagnostic tests, vaccines and other issues related to laboratory
- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animals Commission): case definitions, trade related recommendations, diagnostic tests for aquatic animals.

Rather than duplicating texts from the lead Commission, other Commissions should restrict their own texts to making cross-references. An example was noted of an extensive quote in the *Terrestrial Manual* from an old edition of the *Terrestrial Code*. Case definitions of diseases should be deleted from the *Terrestrial Manual* and reference should be made to the *Terrestrial Code*, as the *Terrestrial Code* does with the diagnostic and vaccines recommendations in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The Commission noted repeated requests from Member Countries for expanded explanations for accepting or rejecting Member Countries' comments. While undertaking to give more explanation, Dr Thiermann noted that a considerable amount of information was already provided in the Scientific Commission reports and associated *ad hoc* Group reports and invited Member Countries to consult those reports together with the Code Commission reports. In this regard, the Code Commission highlighted again the desirability of providing reports of the Scientific Commission to the OIE Delegates in MS Word format to facilitate the review of texts by national experts, as is currently done for the Code Commission and the Laboratories Commission reports.

A Member Country's comment on the use of the WAHIS was referred to the OIE Information Department.

In response to a Member Country's comment on the need to review Chapters 7.2. to 7.6. on animal welfare, the Code Commission noted that this was already on the agenda of the Working Group on Animal Welfare (AWWG).

In response to a comment from a regional organisation requesting the OIE to address the issue of the interface between wildlife and livestock in a consistent manner, it was noted that this is being addressed by both the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission on disease by disease basis, as existing chapters are reviewed and new ones drafted.

Item 2 Horizontal issues

a) User's Guide

Dr Thiermann appreciated the initiative taken by Dr Etienne Bonbon to revise the User's Guide with a view to address Member Countries' request for clarification on the role, scope and correct use of the *Terrestrial Code*. It was noted that the draft was reviewed by both the Scientific Commission and the OIE Headquarters. The Code Commission closely reviewed the document and made amendments as appropriate.

The revised User's Guide is presented as Annex XXXII for Member Country comments.

b) 'Standards' versus 'guidelines' and 'recommendations'

Dr Thiermann noted that there had been confusion among Member Countries regarding the terms 'standards', 'guidelines' and 'recommendations'. While recognising that the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization does not make a legal distinction between these terms, the Commission considered that there should be clear differentiation when they are used in the OIE texts: 'standards' means any texts which have been subjected to the official procedure of the OIE for adoption by the World Assembly of Delegates, and thus are found in Codes and Manuals, while 'guidelines' and 'recommendations' are used for other texts published officially by the OIE Headquarters.

Item 3 Glossary

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Chile, the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland, the USA, AU-IBAR and the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe.

In response to a Member Country's request for inclusion of reptiles in the definition of '*animal*', the Code Commission invites the Member Country to first submit a request for the addition of reptile diseases to the work programme of the Code Commission. Such a request would be addressed by the OIE Council and eventually the World Assembly of Delegates.

In response to a Member Country's comment on the improvement in translation from English to other OIE official languages, Dr Thiermann noted that the OIE continues its efforts towards the improvement of the quality of translations.

In response to Member Countries' comments on the definition of 'good manufacturing practices', the Code Commission agreed to include 'recognised by the Competent Authority' in order to avoid an arbitrary definition of 'good manufacturing practices'. However, the Commission did not accept the text 'developed by the public or private sector concerned' because it was not considered necessary to specify who had developed the practices.

In response to a Member Country's comment on the definition of 'veterinary medicinal product' suggesting replacing 'protective' with 'preventative' the Code Commission considered 'prophylactic' would be more suitable to cover vaccines in the definition.

The Code Commission disagreed with a regional organisation's comment on the definition of 'veterinary statutory body' because the proposed text is sufficiently explanatory without giving a synonym for 'statutory'.

The Code Commission reviewed a definition of 'veterinarian' received from a regional organisation of veterinarians. The Commission agreed to include a reference to education to recognise its importance in the qualification of a veterinarian.

The revised Glossary is attached as Annex IV for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 4 Notification of diseases, infections, infestations and epidemiological information

a) Notification of diseases and epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, South Africa, Switzerland, the EU and AU-IBAR.

To align with other *Terrestrial Code* Chapters, the construct "and/or" was replaced by "or" or 'and' throughout the chapter, as appropriate, and the words "or infestation" were added after "infection" throughout Article 1.1.3.

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to insert "and their aetiological agents" after diseases where appropriate throughout Chapter 1.1.

They also accepted Member Countries' suggestions to improve the clarity and precision of the language of point 4 of Article 1.1.2., and points 1 and 2 of Article 1.1.3.

A Member Country's comment to clarify WAHIS procedures was referred to the OIE Headquarters.

In response to Member Countries' suggestions to clarify reporting expectations for animal health events of epidemiological significance that are not listed or emerging diseases, a new clause was added to the end of Article 1.1.3.

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to remove the words "or compartment" from points 2 and 4 of Article 1.1.4.

The Code Commission also accepted a Member Country's suggestion to reinstate Article 1.1.5., and updated the text to align it with the other articles of Chapter 1.1., and current reporting practice.

b) Notification of 'emerging disease'

With respect to Member Countries' suggestions to clarify the definition and reporting expectations for emerging diseases, the Code Commission noted that a task force in the OIE Headquarters had drafted a proposal to amend the definition of 'emerging disease' in the Glossary, and this had been presented to the Scientific Commission. In line with the Scientific Commission's views (see the minutes of Joint meeting as attached in Annex III) the Code Commission considered this issue needs more thorough examination, and this will be done by the two Commissions during the joint meeting in September 2013.

The revised Chapter 1.1. is attached as Annex V for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 5 Criteria for listing diseases

a) Criteria for listing diseases (Chapter 1.2.)

A comment was received from Australia.

In response to the Member Country's comment to improve the numbering of Article 1.2.2., the Code Commission considered this should be best dealt with by the decision tree diagram proposed as new Article 1.2.2. bis.

b) Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Notification of Animal Diseases and Pathogenic Agents and report of an electronic *ad hoc* Group on the Listing of Porcine Cysticercosis (*Taenia solium*)

Comments were received from Australia, Argentina, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Guatemala, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland and the EU. The Code Commission also reviewed the report of an electronic *ad hoc* Group on the Listing of Porcine Cysticercosis (*Taenia solium*).

The Code Commission noted a Member Country's comment suggesting greater clarity was needed for the term 'significant morbidity and mortality'. The Code Commission considered that the structured process of listing diseases, first by an expert group whose conclusions are circulated for Member Countries' review and comment then consideration by the World Assembly of Delegates before final adoption, is sufficiently rigorous and transparent.

The Code Commission also noted that the placement of the reference to emerging diseases in Article 1.1.3. (point e)) will be considered along with the definition of emerging disease in the joint meeting with the Scientific Commission in September 2013.

Proposal to delist diseases:

The Code Commission noted extensive comments and concerns from many Member Countries on the proposal to delist 16 diseases. Many comments questioned the procedures used, the application of the listing criteria, and inconsistencies in the documentation of justification, and thus challenged the arguments for delisting.

Recalling that the Code Commission asked Member Countries to justify arguments for or against the proposed for delisting in September 2012, the Commission proposed delisting the following diseases on the basis that no Member Countries presented arguments against delisting based on the listing criteria in Chapter 1.2.:

- Swine vesicular disease
- Vesicular stomatitis
- Equine rhinopneumonitis (EHV-4).

On the same basis, the Code Commission recommends amending the listing of equine rhinopneumonitis to 'infection with equid herpes virus 1 (EHV-1)'.

In response to a Member Country's detailed justification for listing of chronic wasting disease of cervids (CWD) against the criteria of Article 1.2.2., the Code Commission recommended this disease be reconsidered for listing.

The Code Commission recommended that in the future the OIE limit the number of diseases to be examined at any one *ad hoc* Group meeting and allow more time for experts to adequately review the relevant literature, apply the criteria of Article 1.2.2., and consistently document justification for their recommendations to list and delist diseases.

In response to Member Countries' comments on the proposed delisting of some diseases on the basis that vector transmission was not included among the factors for international spread, the Code Commission proposed adding "vector" to point 1 of Article 1.2.2.

The revised Chapter 1.2. is attached as Annex VI for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013. In accordance with the proposed delisting mentioned above, the Code Commission proposed to delete Chapters 8.15. (Vesicular stomatitis) and 15.4. (Swine vesicular disease), as attached in Annex VI, for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

The report of the electronic *ad hoc* Group on the Listing of Porcine Cysticercosis (*Taenia solium*) is attached as Annex XXXIII for Member Countries' information.

Item 6 Support for Veterinary Services

a) Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Chapter 3.2.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, the EU, New Zealand and Switzerland.

In response to a Member Country's general comment requesting a close editing of this chapter, the Code Commission suggested that the OIE forward the chapter to the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services for formatting.

A Member Country's comment on the reference to a National Reference Laboratory in point 3 b) of Article 3.2.6. was not accepted because the use of the word 'may' means that the sentence does not imply that the existence of a National Reference Laboratory would necessarily result in higher standards.

Point 1 c) of Article 3.2.12. was amended based on a Member Country's suggestion for improved clarity.

As far as point 2 c) of Article 3.2.12. is concerned, the Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to add the words "and competence" to this clause. By this amendment, another Member Country's comment was addressed as the revised text became more neutral than the previous text.

The title of point 4 of Article 3.2.12. was revised in response to a Member Country's comment for improved clarity.

As far as point 7 of Article 3.2.12. is concerned, the Code Commission noted a Member Country's comment requesting further clarification of this clause, but decided to leave the new text unchanged as it incorporates the key points of the previous text more concisely.

The revised Chapter 3.2. is presented as attached in Annex VII for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

b) Veterinary legislation (Chapter 3.4.)

Comments were received from the EU and FAO.

The Code Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation had reviewed comments from Member Countries and the international organisation. The Code Commission endorsed the *ad hoc* Group's review with additional amendments as follows:

The Code Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group had sought the Commission's advice on the definition of veterinary legislation. The Code Commission deleted the definition of 'veterinary legislation' in the chapter because the term is already defined in the glossary.

The Code Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation reviewed comments received from an international organisation, which had suggested that Article 3.2.7. be moved or combined with relevant Articles in Chapter 3.4. The Code Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group's suggestion that this comment should be dealt with by experts on evaluation of Veterinary Services so as not to undermine the integrity and narrative style of the current Chapter 3.2. The Code Commission suggested the OIE forward this comment to the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services for consideration.

The revised Chapter 3.4. is presented as attached in Annex VIII for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

c) Report of the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Legislation

The Code Commission reviewed and approved the report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group in September 2012. The report is attached as Annex XXXIV for Member Countries' information.

d) Update on OIE's work for strengthening Veterinary Services

Dr Dietrich Rassow (OIE International Trade Department) updated the Code Commission on the OIE's work for strengthening Veterinary Services including the workshop held in Kazakhstan in November 2012 and forthcoming OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education in Brazil in December 2013.

Item 7 Semen and embryos

a) Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.6.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Canada, the EU, Norway and Switzerland.

A Member Country's comment on point 3 of Article 4.6.7. requesting to add 'frozen' before 'semen' in the title was accepted for clarity.

A Member Country's comment on point 4 of Article 4.6.7. requesting to delete the requirement for permanent identification was not accepted because the identification of straws containing sex-sorted sperm was required to ensure sanitary conditions are met, given that a straw might contain seminal plasma from more than one animal.

b) Collection and processing of *in vivo* derived embryos from livestock and equids (Chapter 4.7.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), the EU, Norway and International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS).

Regarding a Member Country's comment on point 2 of Article 4.7.5. requesting to revert the Note as a new sub-point e) was accepted for consistency.

A comment from the IETS on point 3b) of Article 4.7.14. suggesting to add atypical scrapie as a category 3 disease was accepted in line with the decision to reflect the IETS decisions on the safety of embryos in this article.

The revised Chapters 4.6. and 4.7. are attached as Annex IX for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 8 Biosecurity procedures in poultry production (Chapter 6.4.)

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU, Norway and Switzerland.

The Commission decided to keep for future consideration Member Countries' comments on texts other than those on point 1 f) of Article 6.4.5., which was the only new text proposed at the Code Commission meeting in September 2012. In response to Member Countries' comments on point 1 f) of Article 6.4.5., the Commission agreed to delete the reference to Chapter 6.11., as this article does not address the topic.

The revised Chapter 6.4. is attached as Annex X for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 9 Antimicrobial resistance

a) Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance (Chapter 6.6.)

b) Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes (6.7.)

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU and Switzerland on Chapter 6.6. and from Australia, Canada, the EU, Switzerland and the USA on Chapter 6.7.

The Code Commission decided to defer the review of these comments due to lack of time.

c) Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Chapter 6.9.)

Comments were received from: Australia, Canada, Chile, Chinese Taipei, the EU, South Africa, Switzerland, USA and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission noted the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance had reviewed the Member Countries' comments and amended the text as appropriate and the Scientific Commission had endorsed the changes.

Points 1 through 4 of Article 6.9.3. were combined into a single point in response to Member Countries' requests for improving the clarity of the text and a reference to adulterated products was added to the first paragraph of new point 1.

A Member Country's previous comment suggesting to delete the reference to broadening the spectrum of activity in point 2 b) of Article 6.9.6. was not accepted as there are situations in which it can be demonstrated scientifically to be correct.

Point 1 of Article 6.9.8. was amended following a Member Country's suggestion to put primary focus on prescription by a veterinarian.

Elsewhere throughout the chapter the Code Commission accepted a number of Member Countries' suggestions to improve clarity and avoid ambiguity. Several suggestions to include declarative statements were rejected as inappropriate for inclusion in a standard. Several Member Countries' suggestions to make minor text changes without supporting rationale were rejected because the Code Commission did not see how the suggestions would improve the text.

The Code Commission rejected specific mention of WHO's list of critical antimicrobial agents because the OIE's own list is regularly updated and takes into consideration the WHO's list.

The revised Chapter 6.9. is attached as Annex XI for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

d) Risk assessment for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals (Chapter 6.10.)

Member Countries' comments were examined by the *ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and reviewed by the Scientific Commission, and the Code Commission decided to circulate the revised chapter for Member Countries' comment.

The revised Chapter 6.10. is presented as Annex XXXV for Member Countries' comments.

Item 10 Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates (Chapter 6.11.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, the EU, the USA and Switzerland.

A Member Country's comment seeking the follow-up of its intervention at the 80th General Session regarding the list of tests in the chapter was referred to the Laboratories Commission.

Member Countries' comments suggesting to clarify the testing method for other bacterial pathogens in the table after Article 6.11.4. was not accepted as the Code Commission was of the view that current text is sufficient to complement what is described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The revised Chapter 6.11. is attached as Annex XII for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 11 Animal welfare

a) Draft new chapter on animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems (Chapter 7.X.)

Comments were received from Australia, Argentina, Chinese Taipei, the EU, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, the USA, International Poultry Council (IPC), International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and an Animal Welfare Working Group expert

Many comments were received on this chapter, and all were reviewed by the Code Commission. Numerous amendments are proposed on the basis of those comments.

However, comments with inadequate or no supporting rationale were rejected. Suggestions to add new text already covered elsewhere in the chapter were also rejected.

Throughout the chapter, the Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to improve clarity and to consistently use the terms 'completely outdoors systems', 'humanely killed' '*day-old bird(s)*' and 'broilers'.

As this text is now presented for adoption, all citations have been removed.

Article 7.X.2. Scope

Point 1 Completely housed system

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to remove the reference to stocking density as an unnecessary detail in the definition.

Article 7.X.3. Criteria or measurables for the welfare of broilers

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to align this text with that used in Article 7.9.4. (beef cattle).

Point 1 Mortality (dead and culled) and morbidity

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to amend the text to distinguish culling from mortality.

Point 3 Contact dermatitis

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to add the word "wet" before the words "litter" and "flooring" to improve clarity; and the addition of the words "for use in a *slaughterhouse/abattoir*" to give specificity to the second clause.

Point 4 Feather condition

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to expand explanations for plumage dirtiness and insert text indicating times when assessments of plumage dirtiness can be made.

Point 6 Behaviour

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to include text that "validated methods have been developed for evaluating fearfulness."

Subpoint c) Panting and wing spreading

The Code Commission re-instated "high levels of ammonia" at the end of the first sentence on the basis of the reference supplied. It also accepted an organisation's suggestion to add the word "excessive" to the beginning of the second sentence.

Point 12 Vocalisation

The Code Commission added text suggested by an organisation to expand the context of this clause.

Article 7.X.4. Recommendations

Point 1 Biosecurity and animal health

In response to a Member Country's comment, the Code Commission aligned this text with existing text in Chapter 7.9.

The Code Commission also accepted a Member Country's suggestion to delete duplicative text, to use the generic term 'veterinarian' rather than 'poultry veterinarian' or 'qualified veterinarian', and to add gait to the list of outcome based measurables.

Point 2. Environment and management

Subpoint a) Thermal environment:

In response to a Member Country's suggestion, the Code Commission changed 'Thermal Heat Index' to 'heat index', which is a more commonly used term.

The Code Commission accepted an expert's suggestion to revise the wording of the text on unacceptable environmental conditions to a recommendation, and they accepted advice that ventilation does not control relative humidity and therefore deleted the clause.

The Code Commission also accepted a Member Country's comment for outcome based rather than prescriptive language, and revised the relevant clause accordingly.

Subpoint b) Lighting

The Code Commission was unable to reconcile several Member Countries' comments for greater specificity in a variety of circumstances, and concluded that the current text adequately describes the outcome required for all situations.

The Code Commission agreed to a Member Country's suggestion to delete the second sentence, which was inconsistent with established Code format.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's comment to generalise the reference to light intensity, by deleting the words: "in the first few days".

Based on scientific references provided, the Code Commission accepted an NGO's suggestions to reinstate eye conditions in the list of relevant outcome based measurables, and also expanded the text on eye conditions in point 10 of Article 7.X.3 to include abnormal eye development associated with low light intensity. The scientific references provided are:

Deep A., Schwean-Lardner K., Crowe T.G., Fancher B.I., and Classen H.L. 2010. Effect of light intensity on broiler production, processing characteristics, and welfare. Poultry Science 89(11):2326-2333.

Prescott NB, Kristensen HH, and Wathes CM. 2004. Light. In: Weeks CA and Butterworth A (eds.), Measuring and Auditing Broiler Welfare (Wallingford, U.K.: CAB International).

Subpoint d) Noise

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to align text with the adopted Chapter 7.9.

Subpoint e) Nutrition

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to add the words "and welfare" to the end of the first clause.

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' suggestions to replace the word 'palatable' with 'acceptable', given the subjectivity of assessing palatability, and amended the text on contaminants to make it more specific.

In response to a Member Country's suggestion, the Code Commission added the text: "Broilers physically unable to access food or water should be humanely killed as soon as possible".

Subpoint f) Flooring

The Code Commission accepted an organisation's suggestion for additional text on factors that may cause poor litter quality. The Code Commission amended text in response to Member Countries' comments with respect to slatted floors, and to align it as closely as possible with the language of Chapter 7.9.

Subpoint k) Genetic selection

The Code Commission accepted Member Countries' comments to change 'genetic selection' to 'choice of broiler strain' and expanded the text and measurable list.

Subpoint l) Painful interventions

In response to Member Countries' suggestions, the Code Commission added text in subpoint g) noting that feather pecking and cannibalism are rarely a problem in broilers because of their young age, and revised and expanded the outcome based measurable list.

Subpoint m) Handling and inspection

In response to Member Countries' suggestions the Code Commission revised "inspection frequency" to "at least daily" to provide flexibility.

A Member Country's suggestion to include environmental enrichment in this chapter was referred to the AWWG for further consideration.

The revised draft chapter 7.X. as attached in Annex XIII is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

b) Member Country comments on existing Chapters 7.1., 7.3., 7.5., 7.6., 7.8. and 7.9.

Due to time constraints, the Code Commission decided to focus on reviewing Member Countries' comments on the amended text proposed at its meeting in September 2012 and deferred review of other chapters to its meeting in September 2013.

Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Chapter 7.1.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), the EU, Mexico, the USA and Switzerland.

Point 2 of Article 7.1.4.

In response to Member Countries' suggestions the Code Commission deleted "successfully" from this clause.

Other suggestions for additional text were rejected as being irrelevant or beyond the scope of this chapter.

The revised Chapter 7.1. as attached in Annex XIV is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (Chapter 7.9.)

Comments were received from Australia, the EU, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland, the USA and ICFAW.

In response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission amended the text:

in the section on animal health management, to include the avoidance of dragging of non-ambulatory cattle;

in the section on environment, the addition of reduction of stocking density as a measure of managing heat stress;

in the section on management, conditions for tethering were modified to improve clarity.

The revised Chapter 7.9. as attached in Annex XV is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Chapter 7.8. Laboratory animal welfare

The Code Commission rejected a Member Country's suggestion to delete the proposed text in Article 7.8.10. as this text had been requested by Member Countries during the 80th General Session in 2012.

The revised Chapter 7.8. as attached in Annex XVI is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

c) Update of existing chapters (Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.)

The Code Commission endorsed the work of an expert in restructuring these chapters by removing tables and figures as requested by Member Countries.

The draft text is attached in Annex XXXVI for Member Country comments.

d) Report of the meeting of the *ad hoc* Group on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production System (January 2013)

The Code Commission reviewed and approved the draft report of the *ad hoc* Group.

The Code Commission endorsed the draft chapter prepared by the *ad hoc* Group and presents it for Member Country comments as attached in Annex XXXVII together with the report of the *ad hoc* Group for Member Country information.

e) Work programme of the Working Group on Animal Welfare

The Code Commission reviewed and approved the work programme of the Working Group on Animal welfare with amendment.

The amended work programme, for information and comment of Member Countries, is at Annex XXXVIII.

Item 12 Bluetongue (Chapter 8.3.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and AU-IBAR.

The Code Commission noted that an *ad hoc* Group on Harmonisation of African horse sickness, bluetongue and epizootic hemorrhagic disease would be convened under the auspices of the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission deferred the review of Member Country comments on this chapter to the next meeting in September 2013 until the outcome of this *ad hoc* Group's meeting is available.

Item 13 Zoonotic parasites**a) Infection with *Echinococcus granulosus* (revised Chapter 8.4.)**

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments and made several modifications to the draft text accordingly. The Code Commission noted that this chapter had been circulated for Member Countries' comments on three occasions and that in the course of revision, several parts of the text had previously been inserted or deleted. For this reason, the Code Commission made amendments only to those parts where the proposed text modifications significantly improved clarity.

The Code Commission inserted the word 'livestock' in the first sentence of Article 8.4.2. on 'Safe commodities' to clarify that the listed commodities applied to all livestock.

The Code Commission retained the reference to "Veterinary Authority or other Competent Authority" throughout the text, in order to stress the importance of the role of the Veterinary Authority in the prevention and control of *E. granulosus* but also to acknowledge that another Competent Authority may also be involved.

In response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission amended the treatment time for animals prior to embarkation from between 48 to 72 hours, to between 24 and 72 hours (Article 8.4.5.), noting that point 2 requires precautions to avoid reinfection between treatment and embarkation.

b) Infection with *Echinococcus multilocularis* (new Chapter X.X.)

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU, New Zealand, Norway and the USA.

The Code Commission reviewed Member Countries' comments and made several modifications to the draft text accordingly. Bearing in mind the modifications made to Chapter 8.4., the Code Commission reviewed these amendments to ensure alignment between the two chapters, where appropriate.

The Code Commission noted that this chapter had also been circulated for Member Countries comments on three occasions and that in the course of revision, several parts of the text had previously been inserted or deleted. For this reason, the Code Commission made amendments only to those parts where the proposed text modifications significantly improved clarity.

In order to align this chapter with other *Terrestrial Code* chapters, the Code Commission added a new article on 'Safe commodities'.

The revised Chapter 8.4. and the revised draft Chapter X.X. are attached as Annex_XVII for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

c) Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.13.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Australia, Chile, the EU, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA.

Dr Gillian Mylrea (Deputy Head, OIE International Trade Department) informed the Code Commission of the discussion held at the 44th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), in November 2012, on the development of the Proposed Draft Guidelines for Control of Specific Zoonotic Parasites in Meat. She noted that the CCFH had proposed an alternative pathway to achieving a negligible risk compartment for Infection with *Trichinella* spp. to that described in the revised Chapter 8.13. This proposed pathway would rely less on on-going verification of farms but would provide for on-going monitoring of a representative sample of slaughtered pigs to confirm the status of the compartment. The CCFH had noted that for this alternative pathway to become operational, it required including additional provisions in Chapter 8.13.

The Code Commission agreed with Member Countries which commented on the importance of the OIE continuing to work in close collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The Code Commission reiterated that this chapter does not address requirements for establishing an article on 'negligible risk country' because of the general lack of clear and objective means to achieve such a status, notably in terms of biosecurity and surveillance for pigs not kept under controlled management conditions. The Code Commission noted that the absence of such an article in the chapter does not exclude the possibility of a Member Country negotiating with trading partners on the basis of a bilaterally recognised negligible risk country status.

In response to several Member Countries' comments regarding point 2 in Article 8.13.3. and the need for more flexibility in how the Veterinary Authority verifies that a herd is in compliance with the requirements given in point 1, the Code Commission made amendments to points b) and c).

The Code Commission noted that the points listed in Article 8.13.4. regarding the establishment of a negligible risk compartment may not be relevant in all situations, hence the inclusion of the words 'as applicable'. The Commission agreed to delete point 5 as this is not a prerequisite for establishing a negligible risk compartment. The Code Commission did not agree to delete point 6 on surveillance as the management and verification of the compartment will be influenced by the *Trichinella* status outside of the compartment. The Commission did not add more details on the design of the surveillance programme as this would vary from country to country depending on local conditions.

In response to Member Countries' comments, the Code Commission revised point 3 of Article 8.13.5. to allow countries with already established herd programmes and current and historical information to demonstrate negligible risk.

The revised Chapter 8.13. as attached in Annex XVIII is presented for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 14 Foot and mouth disease (Chapter 8.5.)

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel (OIE Scientific and Technical Department) joined the Code Commission meeting. The Code Commission supported the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and made minor amendments to Article 8.5.1. to align with established *Terrestrial Code* format.

The Code Commission also reviewed Articles 8.5.8. and 8.5.9. and amended them for consistency with the text on containment zones in other chapters.

The revised chapter 8.5. as attached in Annex XXXIX is presented for Member Countries' comments. Member Countries are invited to read this revised chapter in conjunction with the Scientific Commission and *ad hoc* group reports.

Item 15 Infection with rabies virus (Chapter 8.10.)

The Code Commission noted that following joint work on a Global Strategy for rabies control in dogs in collaboration with other key partners, a new article on the control of rabies in dogs in Chapter 8.10. was needed. Dr Thiermann clarified that the purpose of this article is to encourage countries whose dog population is currently infected with rabies to implement a structured control strategy with a view to achieve eventual eradication of canine rabies. The Code Commission thus introduced draft Article 8.10.1. bis taking into consideration the comments made by the Scientific Commission. Consequently, a requirement for a stray dog population control programme with reference to Chapter 7.7. was added to Article 8.10.2.

The revised Chapter 8.10. is attached as Annex XIX for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 16 Rinderpest (Chapter 8.12.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), the EU, New Zealand and Switzerland.

The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission had reviewed Member Countries' comments at their meeting in February 2013.

Based on a Member Countries' comment, the title of this chapter was amended to 'Infection with rinderpest virus'.

A Member Countries' general comment suggesting delaying the adoption of this chapter until the international contingency plan has been developed was not accepted because of the urgency of advancing this post global eradication text and the fact that the Scientific Commission had not agreed either.

In response to Member Countries' comments:

Article 8.12.5. was closely examined and amended for improved clarity.

Point 1 of Article 8.12.5. was amended to clearly explain that rinderpest should be suspected in the case of detection of stomatitis-enteritis syndrome and that differential diagnosis should be conducted systematically;

Points 2 and 4 of Article 8.12.5. were amended with a view to clarifying the required actions step by step in accordance with the correct sequence of events (detection of a suspected case → follow-up of suspicion → confirmation of rinderpest case → follow-up of confirmation → suspension of the global freedom). In point 2, the second sentence of the first paragraph was moved to the beginning of point 4, as this referred to actions upon confirmation of rinderpest. The second paragraph of point 2 was amended too, for better sequence of events.

Point 5 of Article 8.12.5. was also amended to specify the relevant articles for legal certainty.

The last sentence of the first paragraph of Article 8.12.6. was relocated for better logical flow.

A new point 7 was added to Article 8.12.7. as the Scientific Commission had agreed with it.

'Country' in the first sentence of Article 8.12.8. was replaced by 'Member Country' to avoid the confusion that this article would apply only to a free 'country' and not a free 'zone'.

The Code Commission did not accept a Member Country's suggestion to move Article 8.12.8. after Article 8.12.6. because it was of the view that this should be the correct order.

In response to a Member Country's comment seeking clarification on the coverage of 'all populations of rinderpest susceptible species' in point 1 of Article 8.12.8., the Code Commission agreed with the Scientific Commission that all susceptible species including wildlife should be covered.

In response to a Member Country's comment, Article 8.12.9. was amended to accommodate Member Countries which host more than one institution.

In relation to Article 8.12.9., a Member Country's comment seeking the rationale for submitting the report to the OIE by the end of November, the Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission had clarified that this provision was in line with the OIE's existing policy.

In response to a Member Country's comment, the Model annual report on RPV-containing material was amended to specify the biosecurity level of each individual facility holding RPV-containing material because one institution might have more than one facility holding RPV-containing material.

A Member Country's suggestion to add a footnote to clarify 'other potential infectious material' by giving examples was not accepted although the Scientific Commission had agreed with it, because the Code Commission considered that such examples could not be exhaustive and might lead to overlooking of some important materials which should be reported.

The revised Chapter 8.12. is attached as Annex XX for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 17 Review of chapters on bee diseases

Dr François Diaz (OIE Scientific and Technical Department) joined the Code Commission for the review of chapters on bee diseases. The Code Commission commended the high quality work done by the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on this issue.

a) Official health control of bee diseases (Chapter 4.14.)

Comments were received from Canada, the EU and Switzerland.

The Code Commission thanked the supporting comments from Member Countries.

The revised Chapter 4.14. as attached in Annex XXI is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

b) Bee diseases (Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. inclusive)

In response to Member Countries' comments, where relevant throughout the bee disease chapters, the Code Commission agreed to:

- use the phrase 'which is widely distributed' as used elsewhere in the *Terrestrial Code* in place of 'and occurs in most countries where such bees are kept';
- change 'apiary' to 'apiaries';
- change 'is' to 'has been'; and
- include more specific text on the requirements for strained honey.

In response to Member Countries' questions on the irradiation requirements used throughout the chapters, the Code Commission recalled that these requirements are taken from the IPPC standard which recommends specific, different irradiation doses for killing of mites and beetles (IPPC standard, ISPM No.18 2003).

c) Infestation of honey bees with *Acarapis woodi* (Chapter 9.1.)

Comments were received from Argentina, China (People's Republic of), the EU, Japan and Norway.

Although the Code Commission agreed with a Member Country's comment that it is difficult to conduct surveillance of wild bees or feral bees, it considered that it is necessary to recognise the possibility of establishment of a pest or disease free status.

The Code Commission noted for future consideration a Member Country's comment that the host is not normally included in the title of *Terrestrial Code* chapters.

d) Infection of honey bees with *Paenibacillus larvae* (American foulbrood) (Chapter 9.2.)

Comments were received from Argentina, the EU, Japan, Norway and Switzerland.

Article 9.2.1. General provisions

The Code Commission agreed with a Member Country's comment to reinstate the sentence "However subclinical infections are common and require laboratory diagnosis" for clarity, because it fits the logic and standard format of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Article 9.2.2.

The suggestion from Member Countries to remove eggs from the list of safe commodities without providing new scientific evidence was rejected. The Code Commission noted that the earlier decision to include eggs was supported by a peer reviewed risk analysis.

e) Infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius* (European foulbrood) (Chapter 9.3.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Canada, EU, Japan, Norway and Switzerland.

The Code Commission supported the *ad hoc* Group on Bee diseases and the Scientific Commission's assessments and suggested amendments throughout the chapter.

Article 9.3.2.

The Code Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group's recommendation to delete eggs from the list of safe commodities, as there is no supporting evidence for their safety with respect to this disease. As a consequence, eggs are proposed to be reinserted into Article 9.3.6.

f) Infestation with *Aethina tumida* (Chapter 9.4.)

Comments were received from China (People's Republic of), the EU and Norway.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's comment to include "(small hive beetle)" in the title for improved clarity.

g) Infestation of honey bees with *Tropilaelaps* spp. (Chapter 9.5.)

Comments were received from Argentina, China (People's Republic of), the EU, Japan and Norway.

The Code Commission made necessary changes as described above for improved clarity.

h) Infestation of honey bees with *Varroa* spp. (Chapter 9.6.)

Comments were received from Argentina, the EU, Japan, New Zealand and Norway.

The Code Commission agreed to Member Countries' suggestions to expand the title to include (Varroosis) and agreed with the suggestion of the *ad hoc* Group for referencing viruses associated with *Varroa*.

Article 9.6.2.

The Code Commission noted the *ad hoc* Group acknowledgement that the inclusion of pollen and propolis in the list of safe commodities was a result of a transcription error.

Article 9.6.5.

The Code Commission rejected a Member Country's suggestion to include the words "or a suitable biocide product" as unnecessary duplication of existing text.

The revised Chapters 9.1. to 9.6. as attached in Annex XXII are proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 18 Avian influenza (Chapter 10.4.)

Comments were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), the EU, New Zealand and Switzerland.

In response to comments from several Member Countries, the Code Commission proposed to review the terminology used in the chapter with the aim of improving clarity, with the least change. They agreed not to change the scientific content of the chapter and its focus on poultry, and to continue to require notification of high pathogenicity influenza A viruses in all birds, including wild birds.

To simplify the chapter the term "avian influenza" was redefined, and the term "notifiable avian influenza" was removed. The listing name in point 6 of Article 1.2.3. was also amended to incorporate the revised definition of avian influenza. All previous abbreviations denoting pathogenicity and notifiability of avian influenza were removed and replaced by the complete words. The title of the chapter was amended accordingly.

The Code Commission did not agree with a Member Country's proposal to change the definition of poultry, which is a defined term in the Glossary.

A Member Country's request to include testing requirements for import of day-old live poultry from a free country, zone or compartment was rejected as unjustified.

The Code Commission considered a Member Country's comment challenging the fact that the *Terrestrial Code* does not recommend sanitary measures be applied to eggs for human consumption from countries with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses. The Code Commission recalled that this principle had been previously considered and adopted by Member Countries, that no new justification was brought to change it and so did not modify the text.

A Member Country's suggestion to add text on surveillance in species other than poultry to Article 10.4.27. was rejected as unnecessary, given this point is already covered in several existing articles.

The Code Commission also revised Figures 1 and 2 of Article 10.4.33. for improved clarity.

The revised Chapter 10.4. is attached as Annex XXIII for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 19 Newcastle disease (Chapter 10.9.)

Comments were received from Australia.

In response to the Member Country's comments, the Code Commission examined the definition of Newcastle disease in the *Manual* and noted that it did not refer appropriately the definition in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission asked the Laboratories Commission to remove the outdated definition and ensure that the *Manual* refers unambiguously to the *Terrestrial Code*.

Moreover, point 7 of Article 10.9.1. was aligned with the comparable clause in Chapter 10.4. for consistency with notification obligations.

The revised Chapter 10.9. is attached as Annex XXIV for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 20 Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *melitensis* and *suis* (Chapter 11.3)

The Code Commission supported the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and endorsed by the Scientific Commission and made minor amendments to Article 11.3.1. to align with established *Terrestrial Code* format. The Code Commission invited Member Countries to consult the report of the Scientific Commission for rationales.

The revised Chapter as attached in Annex XL for Member Countries' comments.

Item 21 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Chapters 11.5. and 1.6.)

Comments on Chapter 1.6. (Procedures for self declaration and for official recognition by the OIE) were received from the EU and Switzerland and on Chapter 11.5. (Bovine spongiform encephalopathy [BSE]) from Chinese Taipei, the EU and Switzerland.

The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on BSE risk status evaluation of Member Countries had reviewed Article 11.5.22. in response to Member Countries' comments seeking advice on surveillance points required for risk status recognition of countries with small population of cattle.

The Code Commission agreed with the Scientific Commission to delete all references to 'compartment' in Article 1.6.3.

A Member Country's request to revise certain aspects of BSE surveillance, taking into consideration of existence of atypical BSE, particularly in the subpopulations of older cattle, was referred to the Scientific Commission.

The Code Commission presented the revised Chapters 1.6. and 11.5. as attached in Annex XXV for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 22 Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 11.8.)

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, the EU and Switzerland.

The Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to amend the title of the chapter to harmonise with the new naming of diseases.

The Code Commission did not accept a Member Country's suggestion to replace the word 'bilateral' with alternate text in Article 11.8.5. bis, because the current text was used consistently in reference to free compartments throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, and accurately reflected how compartments might be recognised.

The Code Commission presented the revised Chapter 11.8. as attached in Annex XXVI for adoption at the General Session in May 2013.

Item 23 Equine diseases**a) African horse sickness (Chapter 12.1.)**

The Code Commission supported the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of African horse sickness status of Member Countries and endorsed by the Scientific Commission, and made further amendments to the text to align with the established *Terrestrial Code* chapter format.

The revised chapter as attached in Annex XXVII is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

b) Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 12.9.)

Comments were received from the USA and IETS.

The Code Commission supported the rejection of a Member Country's comment by the Scientific Commission on the basis of expert advice, which can be found in the report of the Scientific Commission in February 2013.

The Code Commission accepted the insertion of an article of recommendation for importation of embryos proposed by IETS in response to a Member Country's request.

The revised Chapter 12.9. as attached in Annex XXVIII is proposed for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

c) Update on international movement of competition horses

Dr Susanne Munstermann (OIE Scientific and Technical Department) joined the Code Commission meeting to give a brief explanation of the joint work with the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) under the recently signed official agreement between OIE and FEI. Dr Munstermann noted that the international movement of competition horses had been often hampered by the complex quarantine protocols which importing countries implement to prevent the introduction of multiple OIE listed and other diseases of equids, despite the fact that such horses are maintained under enhanced biosecurity control and that their international movements are on a short term basis. She explained that an *ad hoc* Group of experts would be established to define, as the first step of the joint work, a subpopulation of horses which can be differentiated from other horse populations in terms of international trade. The Code Commission thanked Dr Munstermann for the briefing and asked to be kept updated on this issue.

Item 24 Infection with *Chlamydomphila abortus* (Chapter 14.5.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and IETS.

The Code Commission rejected a Member Country's suggestion to change the title of this chapter as the current title is consistent with the *Manual*.

In Article 14.5.4., the Code Commission acknowledged a Member Country's comment that absence of clinical signs provided little assurance of freedom from *Chlamydomphila abortus*, but retained this language on the basis that it is a generic requirement.

In Articles 14.5.4. and 14.5.5., the Code Commission accepted a Member Country's suggestion to reference specified timeframes to the day of collection and they accepted the suggestion to add "goats" where relevant throughout the chapter.

The Code Commission did not accept the text proposed by the IETS for Article 14.5.5. as the current text was based on a rigorous peer-reviewed import risk analysis.

The revised Chapter 14.5. is presented as attached in Annex XXIX for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 25 Peste des petits ruminants (Chapters 14.8. and 1.6.)

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text received from the Scientific Commission and amended it to align with established *Terrestrial Code* format. The Code Commission invited Member Countries to consult the report of the Scientific Commission for rationales.

The revised Chapters 14.8. and 1.6. are attached as Annex XXX for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

Item 26 Classical swine fever

a) Classical swine fever (Chapter 15.2.)

b) Questionnaire (Chapter 1.6.)

The Code Commission reviewed the revised text received from the Scientific Commission and amended it to align with established *Terrestrial Code* format. The Code Commission invited Member Countries to consult the report of the Scientific Commission for rationales.

Reference to uncertainties in the use of molecular tests was deleted from the draft text and this issue was referred to the Laboratories Commission to ensure it is addressed in the *Manual*.

The revised Chapters 15.2. and 1.6. are attached as Annex XXXI for adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013.

c) Animal health surveillance (Chapter 1.4.)

In response to a comment formulated by the Scientific Commission that there was an inconsistency between Article 15.2.3. and points 1 a) vi) and b) v) of Article 1.4.6. with respect to the requirements for disease freedom of a country or zone, where infection is established in wildlife, the Code Commission concluded that this subject needed further detailed discussion with the Scientific Commission to determine how best this inconsistency may be addressed.

Item 27 Draft new chapter on epizootic hemorrhagic disease (Chapter X.X.)

The Code Commission supported the amendments proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) and endorsed by the Scientific Commission, and made minor amendments to align the text with established *Code* chapter format, and improve clarity.

They also deleted Article X.X.4., the last sentence of Article X.X.5., Articles X.X.7., X.X.10. and X.X.13., and reference to 'seasonally free' in Article X.X.16., all for consistency with the Scientific Commission's proposal to delete the 'seasonal freedom' concept from Chapter 12.1.

The revised draft chapter as attached in Annex XLI is presented for Member Countries' comments.

Item 28 Draft new horizontal chapter on disease control (Chapter X.X.)

The Code Commission supported the draft horizontal chapter on disease control proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology and endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

The draft text was attached in Annex XLII for Member Countries' comments.

Item 29 Report of the Working Group on Animal Production and Food Safety

Dr Gillian Mylrea, Deputy Head of the International Trade Department, explained the major outcomes of the meeting of the Working Group on Animal Production and Food Safety (APFSWG) in November 2012. She highlighted that the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) had decided to establish an electronic working group with a view to further collaboration between the OIE and Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in the development of standards of mutual interest.

Dr Gillian Mylrea also explained that the priority work areas of the CAC include parasites in food, such as *Taenia solium*, *Echinococcus multilocularis*, *Toxoplasma gondii*.

The report of the meeting of APFSWG in November 2012 is attached as Annex XLIII for information.

Item 30 Update of the Code Commission work programme

The Code Commission reviewed and updated its work programme. The revised work programme is attached as Annex XLIV for Member Countries' comments.

Item 31 Review of applications for recognition as OIE collaborating centre

a) Application from the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR) for recognition as an OIE Collaborating Centre on Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science

The Code Commission reviewed the dossier submitted by the applicant and endorsed to recommend the adoption at the 81st General Session in May 2013, considering that the AWWG had supported the application.

b) Other applications

The Code Commission noted that several applications for recognition as OIE Collaborating Centre were to be reviewed pending submission of complete application dossier in accordance with the established procedure.

Item 32 Inactivation of pathogens in casings

The Code Commission noted that a regional industry association had proposed new articles on inactivation of the pathogen in casings be inserted to several chapters. Scientific evidence was submitted and considered by the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission. New articles are proposed in Chapters 8.5., 11.3., 14.8. and 15.2.

Item 33 Expert's advice on the diagnostic test for lumpy skin disease (Chapter 11.12.)

The Code Commission noted that an OIE reference laboratory expert had reviewed and provided his opinion on a previous Member Country's comment with respect to a diagnostic test for lumpy skin disease. The Code Commission invited the Laboratories Commission to take the advice into consideration for updating the *Manual*, as appropriate.

Item 34 Other issues referred to from the Scientific Commission

The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission proposed to convene an *ad hoc* Group on Tuberculosis and agreed with the Scientific Commission to include a representative of the Code Commission as an observer in this *ad hoc* Group.

Item 35 Proposed dates for the meeting in February 2014

The next meeting in September 2013 and the following meeting in February 2014 are scheduled on 17–26 September 2013 and 11–20 February 2014.

.../Annexes