Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale
World Organisation for Animal Health
Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

Original: English
September 2007

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

## Paris, 17-28 September 2007

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 17 - 28 September 2007.

The members of the Code Commission are listed in Annex I and the agenda adopted is in Annex II.

The Code Commission reviewed the agenda papers, addressing comments that Members had submitted by 15 August and amending texts in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) where appropriate. The amendments are shown in the usual manner by double underline and ~~strikeout~~ and may be found in the Annexes to the report.

In Annexes IV and XVII (General obligations and classical swine fever), amendments made at this meeting (September 2007) are shown with a coloured background to distinguish them from those made prior to the 75th General Session.

Members should note that, unless stated otherwise, texts submitted for comment may be proposed for adoption at the 76th General Session. Depending on the comments received on each text, the Code Commission will identify, in the report of its March 2008 meeting, the texts proposed for adoption in May 2008.

The Code Commission strongly encourages Members to participate in the development of the OIE's international standards by submitting comments on this report. It would be very helpful if comments were submitted as specific proposed text changes, supported by a scientific rationale. Members **should not use the automatic 'track-change' function** provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the process of collating Members' submissions into the Code Commission's working documents.

Comments on this report must reach OIE Headquarters by **8 February 2008** to be considered at the March 2008 meeting of the Code Commission. Comments should be sent to the International Trade Department at: trade.dept@oie.int.

Dr Thiermann welcomed members of the Code Commission to OIE Headquarters on behalf of Dr Vallat, Director General, who was unable to join the meeting due to mission travel. He stated that Dr Vallat would meet with the Code Commission on his return. Dr Thiermann commented that the Code Commission had a heavy workload for this meeting and thanked members for taking the responsibility to lead the discussion on particular agenda items. He advised members that joint meetings would be held with the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission) and with the Biological Standards Commission.

The Code Commission acknowledges comments submitted by Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the European Union (EU), Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the United States of America (USA).

## A. MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dr Vallat joined the Code Commission for a discussion on strategic issues. He advised the Code Commission on important developments in Africa, particularly the view of some African Members that the OIE is not addressing the need for 'commodity-based standards'. Dr Vallat instructed the Code Commission to ensure that *Code* provisions relevant to trade in commodities be made more visible, perhaps by working with an expert to develop guidelines on using the current *Code* to support trade on a commodity basis. Clearly the OIE must take into account the disease status of a country. However, if procedures or treatments can be used to manage risk, the *Code* currently supports export according to appropriate treatments.

On classical swine fever (CSF), Dr Vallat noted that the OIE supports the use of the DIVA principle (differentiating infected and vaccinated animals) but, for the moment, the OIE cannot recommend the use of commercially available marker vaccines in domestic pigs in all situations. The Biological Standards Commission will address this question. The OIE does, however, recommend and support the use of oral vaccines in wild pigs and this approach should be strengthened and be accompanied by systematic surveillance of wildlife for CSF infection based on the standards of the OIE. Dr Vallat noted that a new *Code* chapter on this topic is needed soon. The Director General noted that according to the current *Code*, the OIE could not treat CSF in the same way as it treats avian influenza and that the CSF situation in wild pigs should be taken into account in determining the CSF status of a country/zone. In regard to vector borne diseases, Dr Vallat mentioned the worrying situation with bluetongue in Europe and advised his view that vaccination will certainly be needed to prevent disruption of live animal trade. If used correctly, vaccines can help provide conditions for safe trade. Therefore, it would be appropriate that the OIE update its recommendations on the topic of bluetongue vaccines. On rinderpest, the Director General noted Dr Thiermann's advice that further work is to be done in formatting the chapter and appendix but that no significant change to the text adopted in May was proposed.

On animal welfare, Dr Vallat reminded the Code Commission of the need to take account of the constraints of developing countries when producing *Code* texts. The OIE should take a practical rather than a philosophical approach and aim to develop standards that can be applied by all OIE Members.

Dr Vallat noted that the Code Commission endorsed the revised OIE PVS Tool. He also commented that the concept of 'community animal health worker' is very important in Africa and other regions. The OIE will develop some guidance on this topic, which will be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services.

## B. JOINT MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS

### 1. Meeting of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission

#### a) Definitions of surveillance, monitoring and infection (Chapter 1.1.1.)

The Commissions discussed the difficulties in reaching universal consensus and agreed to use relevant dictionary definitions of these terms, without variation.

A new definition was agreed for *infection*: 'the entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent in the body of man or animals' (from *A Dictionary of Epidemiology* 4th Ed. 2001 Edited by John M. Last. Oxford University Press).

**b) Requirement for a buffer zone (Chapter 2.2.10.)**

The Code Commission discussed the Scientific Commission's recommendation that it should not be obligatory to require a buffer zone or physical/geographical barrier in Articles 2.2.10.3., 2.2.10.4. and 2.2.10.5. The two Commissions could not reach a consensus and the Code Commission decided not to make these amendments, but welcomes comments from Members on this proposal.

**c) Containment zone (Chapter 2.2.10.)**

The Commissions jointly examined Members' comments and agreed to modify existing text in Chapter 2.2.10. as follows:

- An effective containment strategy (not necessarily stamping out) is required.
- The primary outbreak and the likely source of the outbreak should be identified.
- The period to establish a *containment zone* should read 'no new cases…within a minimum of two incubation periods…'.

The modified text on containment zone from Chapter 2.2.10. was taken into account in drafting a generic text on containment zone and incorporated into Chapter 1.3.5.

The amended text may be found at Annex VII.

**d) Compartmentalisation for vector borne diseases**

The Commissions discussed the potential application of the concept of compartmentalisation for vector borne diseases. While the two Commissions did not reach consensus on whether compartmentalisation could be systematically applied to these diseases, it was agreed to add the term '*establishment*' in Article 3.8.10.3., to be congruent with the definition of compartmentalisation in the *Code*.

**e) Classical swine fever (Chapter 2.6.7.)**

The Commissions discussed the rationale for the *Code*'s treatment of classical swine fever (CSF) infection in wildlife, noting that findings of FMD in wildlife affect the FMD status of the country whereas findings of avian influenza (AI) in wild birds do not affect the AI status of the country. It was agreed that the key factor to consider is whether CSF is endemic in the wild pigs or occurring sporadically (e.g. incursions from a neighbouring country). On the basis of discussion between the Director General and the Code Commission, it was decided that findings of CSF infection in wild pigs would continue to be taken into account in determining the status of the country or zone.

**f) Checklist on the application of compartmentalisation**

It was agreed that no further work need be done on the Checklist on the application of compartmentalisation for AI/ND for the time being.

**g) BSE chapters and appendices (Chapter 2.3.13. and Appendices 3.8.4. and 3.8.5.)**

It was agreed that an *ad hoc* Group on BSE would be convened to review *Code* texts on BSE (Chapter 2.3.13., Appendix 3.8.4. and Appendix 3.8.5.) and the BSE country status questionnaire to ensure congruency. In the course of this work, the *ad hoc* Group would be asked to review Members' comments on Appendix 3.8.5. The Commissions agreed that once guidelines and questionnaires for categorisation of countries had been revised, they should be adopted and published in the *Code*.

**h) Commodity-based measures in the *Code***

On trade in livestock commodities, the Commissions agreed that an expert group should be convened to develop, if possible, an appropriate 'systems approach' to make more visible and to give more details on safe commodities, starting with deboned, matured and pH tested beef.

**i) Equine influenza (Chapter 2.5.5.)**

Article 2.5.5.3. (surveillance for equine influenza) was discussed in light of a Member's comment. The requirement for surveillance was considered to be too prescriptive and the text was modified accordingly.

**j) Approved laboratory**

The Scientific Commission requested to use *"laboratory* which is *approved*" instead of "*approved laboratory*". As the definition of "*laboratory*" in the *Code* includes the requirement for approval by the Veterinary Authority, the Code Commission decided to delete the word "*approved*" before "*laboratory*" throughout the *Code*.

**k) Administrative procedure for reconfirmation of disease status of countries / zones**

In keeping with the Resolution adopted at the 75th General Session, the Scientific Commission asked the Code Commission to add requirements for annual reconfirmation of country and zone disease status as currently required for FMD. The Code Commission made the appropriate changes.

The amended text may be found at Annexes VII, VIII, IX and XII.

**2. Meeting of the Code Commission and the Biological Standards Commission**

**a) Rabies (Chapter 2.2.5.)**

The Commissions discussed the question of whether findings of bat lyssavirus infection should affect the rabies free status of a country, noting the advice of the Scientific Commission that European and Australian bat lyssaviruses should be treated equally. The Commissions agreed that it is important to encourage reporting of lyssaviruses in bats to get a better understanding of how the virus behaves in wildlife and to protect human health. The *Code* should encourage reporting and at the same time discourage unnecessary impediments to international trade. In the short term, the Commissions agreed that the *Code* should be amended to the effect that findings of Australian bat lyssaviruses do not affect a country's rabies free status.

The Commissions noted the policy of the World Health Organization (WHO) that a rabies free country is one that has not reported lyssavirus infection in man or any animal species, including bats, at any time during the previous two years and agreed that the OIE should review the treatment of lyssaviruses in the *Code* in view of the increasing importance of these emerging viruses.

**b) Paratuberculosis (Chapter 2.2.6.)**

On paratuberculosis, the Commissions agreed that the Biological Standards Commission would track developments in diagnostic testing. Once effective diagnostic methods are available, the OIE should develop a chapter on paratuberculosis.

**c) Bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 2.3.3.)**

On bovine tuberculosis, the Biological Standards Commission undertook to examine alternatives to tuberculin testing and draft appropriate text for inclusion in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Manual*).

**d) Classical swine fever (Chapter 2.6.7.)**

On classical swine fever, Dr Edwards advised that the current marker vaccines have shortcomings and it is not yet appropriate to include them in Chapter 2.1.13. of the *Manual*. However, the Biological Standards Commission will keep this matter under review.

**e) Equine rhinopneumonitis (Chapter 2.5.7.)**

On equine rhinopneumonitis, the Commissions discussed the proposal of a Member to clarify that 'clinical signs of equine herpesvirus type 1 (EHV1) infection' refers to the abortigenic or paralytic forms of infection. The Commissions agreed that EHV1 is virtually ubiquitous and that the *Code* should not impose unnecessary measures on trade. Clinical signs of EHV1 and EHV4 infection can be indistinguishable. A wide variety of clinical signs may be found in EHV1 infection. Therefore, it was agreed to retain the title of the chapter as Equine rhinopneumonitis.

**f) Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome**

The Commissions discussed the priority to develop a text on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) in the chapter, given the serious impact of the disease recently in Asia. PRRS is listed by the OIE and the *Manual* contains guidance on the disease. Dr Thiermann undertook to raise this with the Director General of the OIE.

**g) Equine encephalosis**

On equine encephalosis, the Biological Standards Commission advised that this orbivirus infection, which is among the differential diagnoses for African horse sickness, appears to be an emerging disease in Africa. Dr Edwards indicated that the Biological Standards Commission would be examining it further. Dr Thiermann clarified that the Code Commission does not intend to work on this disease at this time.

**h) West Nile fever**

The Commissions discussed the West Nile fever test requirements. At this time, validated tests are only available for horses and no test has yet been validated for poultry. As ducks and geese pose a risk of transmitting West Nile virus (WNV), the Commissions agreed that the testing requirement should apply to these poultry. The Biological Standards Commission considered that the PCR based test, validated for horses, is likely to be applicable to ducks and geese and they are studying this matter.

The changes to the *Code* chapter are reflected in Annex XX.

**i) Evaluation of veterinary services**

The Commissions discussed the revised OIE PVS Tool with particular reference to the new section dealing with the quality of diagnostic laboratories. Dr Edwards expressed some concern that a complete review of diagnostic laboratories may be beyond the scope of a PVS evaluation. The Biological Standards Commission has developed a detailed quality standard for laboratories, including competence in quality assurance systems.

While it is clear that the PVS evaluation does not have the goal of assessing laboratories against the OIE laboratories quality standard, the Biological Standards Commission felt that some expertise on laboratory operation and management should be included in the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services and that the proposed criteria should be reviewed.

**j) Reformatting of the *Code* and the *Manual***

The Commissions discussed the proposal to move pertinent sections between the *Code* and the *Manual*. The Commissions agreed in principle to the proposal and asked the responsible departments of the OIE to advise on how best to manage this.

## C. EXAMINATION OF MEMBERS' COMMENTS AND WORK OF RELEVANT EXPERT GROUPS

### 1. General definitions

The Code Commission examined comments from New Zealand, South Africa, the Scientific Commission, the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology and an expert.

**a) General definitions (Chapter 1.1.1.)**
**b) Status report on incorporation of new definitions (Veterinary Authority, etc.)**
**c) New definition proposed by the Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group (PAWWG)**

Submissions were received on the definition '*Slaughterhouse/Abattoir, Collecting centre, Flock, Herd, Infection, Laying birds, Monitoring, Notifiable disease, Notification, Clustering, Official veterinary control, Quarantine station, Risk, Risk assessment, Sanitary measure, Surveillance* and *Veterinary Services'*.

The Code Commission considered that definitions should be harmonized with those in the *Aquatic Code* and Codex wherever possible. It accepted recommendations on amending and deleting certain definitions and on including some new definitions and made appropriate modifications.

The Code Commission agreed with the PAWWG that there is a need to develop a definition for 'animal welfare' in the *Code* and supported the definition proposed by the PAWWG. The proposed definition is consistent with the general principles for animal welfare contained in the *Code* (including, for example, the 'five freedoms') and also consistent with the approach taken in the *Code* to date, whereby the texts focus on outcomes rather than the design of systems. It also addresses the concept whereby animal welfare can be 'good' or 'bad'. The Code Commission considered that this definition would be appropriate for inclusion in the *Code* and amended Article 1.1.1.1. accordingly.

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex III, is provided to Members for comment.

### 2. Model certificates

The Code Commission considered comments from Australia, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland and an expert.

**a) General obligations (Chapter 1.2.1.)**

The Code Commission noted that several Members commented positively on the recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Model Veterinary Certificates. However, at least one Member indicated that the proposed requirements are excessive in some respects. The Code Commission recommended that the *ad hoc* Group continue working on this topic and prepare a revised text, taking into account Members' comments, for the Code Commission to review at its spring meeting.

The Code Commission examined Members' comments on the text of the chapter and introduced appropriate changes.

**b) Notes for guidance on veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin (Appendix X.X.X.)**

The Code Commission recommended that the *ad hoc* Group continue working on this topic and prepare a revised text, taking into account Members' comments, for the Code Commission to review at its spring meeting.

**c) Other horizontal chapters**

An expert provided advice on the harmonisation of several horizontal *Code* chapters with those in the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* (see discussion under the agenda item on dividing the *Code* into two volumes).

The revised chapters, which are presented at Annex IV, are provided to Members for comment.

**3. Evaluation of Veterinary Services**

**a) Chapter 1.3.3. and Chapter 1.3.4.**
**b) Report of the *ad hoc* Group on the Evaluation of Veterinary Services**
**c) OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool)**

The Code Commission noted the report of the *ad hoc* Group on Evaluation of Veterinary Services (Annex XXIX) and concurred with the Group's recommendations, including on modification of the content and name ('OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services', OIE PVS Tool). The Code Commission noted that the revised PVS Tool would be further discussed at a Seminar for PVS assessors that will take place in Lyon on 20-22 November 2007.

A Member sought clarification on the status of the OIE PVS Tool under the SPS Agreement. The Code Commission advised that Chapters 1.3.3. and 1.3.4. are international standards and the OIE PVS Tool is a practical guide on applying these standards.

**4. Zoning and compartmentalisation**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the EU, Japan and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.

**a) Chapter 1.3.5.**
**b) General guidelines on the application of compartmentalisation (Appendix X.X.X.)**
**c) Checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation for avian influenza and Newcastle disease**
**d) Use of the compartmentalisation concept for vector borne diseases**

The Code Commission examined Members' comments on Chapter 1.3.5. (Zoning and compartmentalisation), the General guidelines on the application of compartmentalisation (Appendix X.X.X.) and the comments of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on the Checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation for avian influenza and Newcastle disease (the Checklist).

The Code Commission reviewed the text in Chapter 2.2.10. on a containment zone for FMD and included similar text, modified to be generally applicable, in Chapter 1.3.5. The containment zone is considered to be a particular example of zoning. While its establishment depends upon similar general considerations, some specific provisions apply to the establishment of a containment zone. At this stage, the containment zone has been discussed in the context of FMD and Members' comments address the containment zone for this disease. The Code Commission is of the opinion that a containment zone could be applied to other diseases in the Code and therefore added a generic reference in Chapter 1.3.5.

The Code Commission and the Scientific Commission did not support the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to review the Checklist at its next meeting. The Code Commission agreed that a review could be done at some time in the future but felt that it would be more useful to wait for countries to gain some practical experience in applying compartmentalisation for avian diseases then use this experience in reviewing the document.

The revised chapters and appendices, which are presented at Annex V, are provided to Members for comment.

**5. Rabies (Chapter 2.2.5.) (also see meeting with Biological Standards Commission)**

The Code Commission discussed Members' comments with regard to the status of a free country where bat lyssavirus infection is reported. In the short term, the Code Commission decided to amend the *Code* to the effect that the presence of Australian bat lyssaviruses does not affect rabies free status (same as for European bat lyssaviruses).

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex VI, is provided to Members for comment.

## 6. Foot and mouth disease

The Code Commission reviewed comments from Australia, the EU, Japan, South Africa and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.

### a) Chapter 2.2.10.

The Code Commission reviewed Members' comments and the advice of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on Chapter 2.2.10. The Code Commission accepted several recommendations of this Group as it agreed with the rationale proposed.

In the case of containment zone (Article 2.2.10.7.), the Code Commission agreed with the Scientific Commission that 'two incubation periods' is the minimum required period to demonstrate the effective establishment of a containment zone.

The Code Commission did not accept a Member's recommendation to address 'associated risk' as it considered that these concepts were already covered by the epidemiological investigation to be carried out by the Veterinary Authority in seeking to establish the containment zone. In regard to the proposal to establish a buffer zone around the containment zone, the Code Commission considered that the general provisions for zoning already address this point.

The Code Commission did not accept the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to add 'single case or clustering of cases' because it considered that this was too narrow in comparison with the previously adopted text.

The Code Commission accepted a Member's proposal that effective control measures, other than stamping out, could be a basis for the establishment of a containment zone.

In regards to comments regarding a need to demonstrate the effectiveness of vaccination, the Code Commission noted that the definition of vaccination already addresses this point.

In response to requests of some African Members (also see discussion under meeting with the Scientific Commission), the Code Commission decided to continue the work of developing lists of 'safe commodities', as currently found in Article 2.3.13.1. (BSE). As a next step, the Code Commission will ask the Director General to convene an expert group to provide more advice on trade in deboned, matured and pH tested beef, and other commodities, from countries/zones that are not free of FMD and other serious diseases.

### b) Guidelines on surveillance for foot and mouth disease (Appendix 3.8.7)

On surveillance guidelines for FMD, the Code Commission noted but did not accept the recommendation of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to replace Article 3.8.7.6. (countries or zones applying for freedom from FMD following an outbreak). The Code Commission considers that the existing text is appropriate. It has been developed over a number of years on the basis of considerable Members' comments and there is insufficient rationale to make the proposed text amendment.

### c) Virus inactivation procedures (Appendix 3.6.2)

On the basis of expert advice, the Code Commission added a new article (3.2.6.8) on casings of small ruminants and pigs. The expert advised that these conditions could be extended to cattle, based on the fact that FMDV tropism is similar in cattle and in small ruminants. Given that the original experiment (see Wijnker *et al.*, [2007] Removal of foot-and-mouth disease virus infectivity in salted natural casings by minor adaptation of standardized industrial procedures. *International Journal of Food Microbiology*, **115**, 214–219) was performed on casings of small ruminants, the Code Commission decided that the application of Article 3.2.6.8. to cattle should be studied further.

The revised chapters and appendices, which are presented at Annex VII, are provided to Members for comment.

**7. Rinderpest**

**a) Chapter 2.2.12.**
**b) Guidelines on surveillance for rinderpest (Appendix 3.8.2.)**

The Code Commission noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology had reviewed Chapter 2.2.12. and Appendix 3.8.2. and had recommended some amendments to the chapter (to include the concept of zoning and to amend Articles 2.2.12.2. and 2.2.12.3.) and had completely rewritten the surveillance guidelines. The Code Commission examined proposals for amendments to this chapter and guidelines. As these amendments resulted in extensive reformatting of the chapter and guidelines, the Code Commission requested that the Scientific Department highlight the changes by double underline and strikeout for the Code Commission to consider at its March meeting.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex VIII, are provided to Members for comment.

**8. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Chapter 2.3.15. and Appendix 3.8.3.)**

The Code Commission reviewed several recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology on Chapter 2.3.15. and noted that the Group recommended revision of the related Appendix 3.8.3. The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission is continuing to work on these texts.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex IX, are provided to Members for comment.

**9. General guidelines on animal health surveillance (Appendix 3.8.1.)**

The Code Commission did not accept a proposal from the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology to modify Article 3.8.1.4. on sampling methods, on the basis that it is too prescriptive. The *Code* should retain some flexibility to provide for the different conditions that apply in Members' territories.

**10. Bluetongue**

The Code Commission considered comments from Australia and South Africa.

**a) Chapter 2.2.13.**

The Code Commission considered a request to incorporate the concept of compartmentalisation in this chapter. The Code Commission is on the opinion that the word "compartment" cannot simply be inserted after "country" or "zone" in each chapter dealing with vector born diseases. Rather, the concept needs to be introduced on the basis of proper consideration of the epidemiology of the disease.

**b) Guidelines on surveillance for bluetongue (Appendix 3.8.10.)**

The Code Commission accepted the concept of compartmentalisation for bluetongue insofar as this applies to an individual establishment (Article 3.8.10.3. was modified). However, the Code Commission saw the need for specific advice how the compartmentalisation could be applied in practice in more than one establishment.

A Member's recommendation to make reference to the density of the vector population in Article 2.2.13.2. was referred to the Scientific and Technical Department on the basis that it raises a new scientific question and should be studied by appropriate experts.

The Code Commission recommended to the Director General of the OIE to reconvene an *ad hoc* group on proposing more details on the use of vaccination.

The revised appendix, which is presented at Annex X, is provided to Members for comment.

**11. Bovine brucellosis (Chapter 2.3.1.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the *ad hoc* Group on Brucellosis on the text previously circulated, which contained extensive comments from Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, the EU, New Zealand, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission noted that a new *ad hoc* Group will be convened to review Members' comments and update the chapter accordingly.

**12. Bovine tuberculosis (Chapter 2.3.3.)**

The Code Commission addressed comments from Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

The request of two Members to modify references to diagnostic testing for tuberculosis were referred to the Biological Standards Commission.

In regard to a Member's comment about the role of wildlife reservoirs, the Code Commission noted that the role of wildlife as animal disease reservoirs will be addressed by the OIE Working Group on Wildlife Diseases. However, the Code Commission proposed to make a number of amendments throughout Chapter 2.3.3., including the addition of farmed deer (multiple species) in the scope of the chapter. The comment from a Member regarding the need for a free country to conduct ongoing tuberculin testing and a comment regarding acceptable disease prevalence were addressed via appropriate amendments to Article 2.3.3.2. The proposal to refer to the importing country's free status in introducing the import measures to be applied was not accepted. The Code Commission instead reminded Members that countries are not expected to apply import measures in regard to diseases that occur within their territories and that are not the subject of official control or eradication programmes.

In response to a comment from a Member, Article 2.3.3.10 was added to the chapter providing measures in regard to the importation of antler velvet of farmed deer. The time/temperature specified is a current industry standard for processing of antler velvet and was supported by the advice of an expert.

Article 2.3.3.2. was modified in response to comments of several Members, to reflect a more stringent approach to surveillance. The rationale for this change is that freedom is not equivalent to 'low prevalence'. It is recognised that the sensitivity of surveillance systems means that surveillance can yield negative results but not be sufficiently sensitive to detect very low prevalence of infection. For this reason, such statements as Article 2.3.3.2. 3. should be phrased in terms of surveillance sensitivity. If the surveillance programme detects a case of infection, when confirmed, 'free status' will be lost and must be regained through the appropriate steps, as is currently the case for other diseases such as FMD and CSF.

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex XI, is provided to Members for comment.

**13. Bovine spongiform encephalopathy**

The Code Commission considered comments from Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand and the USA. Members of the Scientific and Technical Department participated in the discussion.

**a) Chapter 2.3.13.**

The Code Commission corrected an anomaly that had been found in Article 2.3.13.4. with an appropriate text modification. Article 2.3.13.15. (2) on the production of gelatine was modified to remove the reference to vertebrae (exclusion of skulls from cattle over 12 months of age was maintained in the text) and paragraph 3 was removed completely.

Article 2.3.13.16. was modified by splitting the sections dealing with tallow and dicalcium phosphate, to reflect the different risk management considerations for the two commodities (see Grobben *et al.*, [2006] Inactivation of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy agents during the manufacture of dicalcium phosphate from bone. *Veterinary Record*, **158**, 361–366).

**b) Risk assessment recommendations (Appendix 3.8.5.)**

Members' comments on Appendix 3.8.5. (risk assessment for BSE) were not addressed. The preferred approach would be to combine Appendix 3.8.5. with the BSE risk assessment questionnaire as discussed with the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission noted that an *ad hoc* Group will be convened to review all relevant BSE texts, including Members' comments prior to developing single questionnaire and guidelines on the categorisation of countries.

The principle of combining the questionnaire with recommendations on risk assessment should also apply to FMD, rinderpest and CBPP.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex XII, are provided to Members for comment.

**14. Equine influenza (Chapter 2.5.5.)**

In response to a Member's request for the rationale supporting 21 days residency requirement (Articles 2.5.5.6. and 2.5.5.7.), the Code Commission commented that there is no new scientific evidence, and recalled that the issue had been raised in May 2007, at which time it requested input from Members on this point. No such input has been received and therefore the Code Commission sees no reason to modify the recommendation. The notation 'under study' was removed from Article 2.5.5.4. (semen) in light of expert advice, endorsed by the Scientific Commission, that semen is not a vehicle for the transmission of equine influenza.

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex XIII, is provided to Members for comment.

**15. Equine diseases (other than equine influenza and AHS)**

**a) Equine rhinopneumonitis (Chapter 2.5.7.)**

See discussion under Meeting with Biological Standards Commission.

**b) Equine viral arteritis (Chapter 2.5.10.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from a Member. The Code Commission recognised the need for isolation for live horses and made appropriate changes to the chapter as shown in Appendix 2.5.14. The Code Commission also incorporated a modification to Articles 2.5.10.2 and 2.5.10.3. to indicate that testing of a stallion should be conducted while he was in isolation.

The revised chapters, which are presented at Annex XIV, are provided to Members for comment.

**16. African horse sickness**

**a) Chapter 2.5.14.**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from Australia, the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA. Appropriate changes were made in the chapter.

Comments from two Members questioning the feasibility of a seasonally free zone were forwarded to the Scientific Commission for expert opinion.

**b) Guidelines on surveillance for African horse sickness (Appendix 3.8.X.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the EU, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA and made changes to the text accordingly.

The Code Commission amended text in the introduction of Appendix 3.8.X. referring to the issue of demonstrating country status rather than applying for recognition of free status. This change will also be applied to the bluetongue, CSF and AI chapters.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex XV, are provided to Members for comment.

**17. African swine fever (Chapter 2.6.6.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from the EU, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA.

The Code Commission amended text of several articles to provide the text in full rather than rely upon cross references to other articles and to make the format of this chapter consistent with that of the CSF Chapter.

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex XVI, is provided to Members for comment.

**18. Classical swine fever (also see discussion with the Biological Standards Commission)**

**a) Chapter 2.6.7.**
**b) Guidelines on surveillance for classical swine fever (Appendix 3.8.8.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, South Africa and the USA.

The text of several articles was modified to address Members' recommendations, including on the use of vaccines for which OIE validated standards (as per Chapter I.1.3. of the *Terrestrial Manual*) are available to differentiate infected and vaccinated pigs; and on the minimum residency period in relation to health certification of live pigs. Text in Appendix 3.8.8. was amended to reflect a Member's recommendations on surveillance.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex XVII, are provided to Members for comment.

**19. Avian influenza**

**a) Chapter 2.7.12.**
**b) Guidelines on the inactivation of avian influenza virus (Appendix 3.6.5.)**
**c) Guidelines on surveillance for avian influenza (Appendix 3.8.9.)**

The Code Commission considered comments from the EU, Japan, South Africa, the USA and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology.

In response to a Member's comment, the Code Commission reiterated that the central concept is to require reporting of LPNAI and HPNAI in poultry for trade purposes, while reporting of HPNAI in wild birds is necessary for global surveillance purposes. For practical purposes, the Code Commission has adopted a definition of poultry as including all birds used to produce eggs or meat for consumption, in addition to other commercial activities described in Article 2.7.12.1. (2). The definition was therefore not modified.

A Member raised the concern that low pathogenic AI strains other than H5 and H7 might mutate into highly pathogenic subtypes and should, therefore, be included as notifiable strains. However, examinations of all highly pathogenic isolates since 1959 show that all were either H5 or H7. Based on expert advice, the Code Commission reiterated that low pathogenic subtypes should be limited to the H5 and H7 subtypes. There is no basis to include H9 subtypes or any other H subtypes. Nevertheless, there are recommendations (Article 2.7.12.18.) for measures to mitigate risk from low pathogenic notifiable subtypes in meat.

The Code Commission did not accept the recommendation of two Members that findings of antibodies to avian influenza be considered criteria for determining infection, recalling its previous advice that further investigations should be conducted to identify the source of the antibodies. Findings of antibodies should not be considered as an occurrence of infection if further investigation fails to isolate the virus or to detect viral RNA.

In response to a Member's comment, the Code Commission did not accept that the definition for "non-poultry" had been expanded and that there is, therefore, no reason to change the measures recommended in Article 2.7.12.6. to manage the NAI risk posed by birds other than poultry.

In response to a Member's comment to remove 'under study' from Articles 2.7.12.21., 22. and 23. dealing with products of poultry origin, the Code Commission decided to refer the request to an expert for advice including the application of the application of Appendix 3.6.5. to Newcastle disease.

A request from a Member to test a statistically representative sample of birds in large consignments for avian influenza and Newcastle disease was also referred for expert advice.

In response to a Member's comment that the *Code* should specify that new containers should also be sanitized, the Code Commission advised its view that new containers would not be expected to be contaminated.

In conclusion, the Code Commission noted that no substantive new scientific issues had been raised by Members on the avian influenza chapter, nor on the appendix, suggesting that the issues raised during the last few years have been largely addressed and these texts can be considered as stabilised.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex XVIII, are provided to Members for comment.

**20. Newcastle disease**

**a) Chapter 2.7.13.**
**b) Guidelines on surveillance for Newcastle disease (Appendix 3.8.X.)**
**c) Guidelines on the inactivation of the Newcastle disease virus**

The Code Commission considered comments from Canada, Chinese Taipei, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, the USA and the *ad hoc* Group on Epidemiology (which reviewed the chapter to make it consistent with Chapter 2.7.12. on avian influenza).

The Code Commission accepted a proposal to improve the definition of Newcastle disease and modified Article 2.7.13.1. accordingly. In the same article, the definition of 'poultry' was modified to align with the definition in Chapter 2.7.12. on avian influenza. Guidance was also provided on the appropriate trade response to reports of infection with vNDV.

A Member's recommendation to modify Article 2.7.13.2. by including a reference to risk assessment was not accepted. The Code Commission considered that risk assessment is needed for avian influenza because of its zoonotic nature and the large number of epidemiological factors that need to be taken into account in determining the status of a country, zone or compartment. Members may choose to conduct a risk assessment for Newcastle disease but it is not necessary to specify that this should be done.

Article 2.7.13.7. was deleted to make the chapter congruent with the avian influenza chapter and because the Code Commission considered that trade in this commodity was unlikely to occur in practice.

The Code Commission made a number of amendments to the chapter and to Appendix 3.8.X., with a view to making these texts more consistent with equivalent texts on avian influenza.

On the inactivation of Newcastle disease virus (NDV), the Code Commission reviewed advice provided by experts and noted that it is feasible to develop time/temperature parameters for the inactivation of NDV. However, the advice would need to be further developed and formatted in a manner that is appropriate to the *Code*. The Code Commission decided to request an expert to prepare a draft text.

The revised chapter and appendix, which are presented at Annex XIX, are provided to Members for comment.

**21. West Nile fever (Chapter 2.X.XX.) (Also see discussion with Biological Standards Commission)**

The Code Commission addressed comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the USA.

The Code Commission accepted a Member's recommendation to delete most of the opening Article because this information is well covered in the *Manual*. The Code Commission did not accept a proposal to include human cases as a determinant of a country's West Nile fever (WNF) status as this approach is not taken in the *Code* for most of other zoonotic diseases. A list of commodities that are safe for trade was added at the beginning of this chapter. In response to Members' commenting that it would be difficult to establish a compartment for WNF, as it affects equidae and is transmitted by vectors, the Code Commission noted that similar issues would be faced in establishing a compartment for other vector borne diseases, such as bluetongue and African horse sickness. A number of other amendments were made, including modifying the references to WNF vectors to read 'likely to be competent'.

The revised chapter, which is presented at Annex XX, is provided to Members for comment.

**22. Draft guidelines on the design and implementation of identification system to achieve animal traceability**

The Code Commission addressed comments from Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand and the USA.

In response to Members' proposals to include commercial and zootechnical aspects in the desired outcomes of an identification system to achieve animal traceability, the Code Commission decided to instead include the term 'animal husbandry'.

The Code Commission forwarded the amended text to the Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (APFSWG) for further consideration.

The revised appendix, which is presented at Annex XXI, is provided to Members for comment.

**23. Guidelines on the control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed**

The Code Commission addressed comments from Australia, Canada, the EU, New Zealand and the USA.

The Code Commission modified the scope of the guidelines to include all terrestrial animals, not just food producing animals, and made several other modifications in response to Members' comments.

The Code Commission forwarded the amended text to the APFSWG for further consideration, including for the APFSWG to verify any text changes required in view of the changed scope.

The revised appendix, which is presented at Annex XXII, is provided to Members for comment.

**24. Guidelines on the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* in poultry producing eggs for human consumption** (Appendix 3.10.2.)

The Code Commission welcomed the comments of Australia, Canada, the EU, Japan, South Africa and the USA on these draft Guidelines.

The Code Commission considered most, but not all, Members' comments. The Code Commission did not agree with a Member's recommendation that the guidelines not contain provisions on egg hygiene and collection. Rather, the Code Commission considered that the guidelines should cover all activities on the farm, including egg hygiene and collection.

The Code Commission recommended that the *ad hoc* Group continue working on this topic and prepare a revised text, taking into account Members' comments, for the Code Commission to review at its spring meeting. The *ad hoc* Group should commence drafting guidelines on the detection, control and prevention of *Salmonella* in broilers. It should also review the *Code* Chapter on hygiene and disease security procedures in poultry breeding flocks and hatcheries to assure consistency between the texts.

The Code Commission forwarded the Members' comments to the APFSWG for further consideration, prior to forwarding it to the *ad hoc* Group.

**25. Animal welfare**

**a) Guidelines on the transport of animals by sea and land**
**b) *Ad hoc* Group on slaughter and humane killing**
**c) Draft guidelines on dog population control**
**d) Update on 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare 2008**
**e) Update from PAWWG meeting 5-7 September 2007**

- **animal production systems**
- **control of dog populations**
- **laboratory animals**
- **wildlife harvest**

The Code Commission reviewed Members' comments on current and proposed texts and the recommendations of the PAWWG in response to these comments. Comments had been provided on existing *Code* appendices by Australia, the EU and South Africa and on the discussion paper on animal production systems by Canada and the USA.

The Code Commission generally supported the PAWWG's recommendations and made some additional amendments.

**Draft guidelines on dog population control** (comments received from Canada, the EU, Japan, New Zealand and the USA.)

Dr Thiermann informed the Code Commission of the process used to develop the guidelines, including the important role played by the PAWWG. The guidelines fall within the OIE mandates for protection of animal health, public health and animal welfare. One of the primary objectives of the guidelines is to help developing countries deal with the serious human health risks posed by free ranging dogs carrying rabies and other zoonoses. The Code Commission considers it particularly important that these guidelines should address issues faced by developing countries and regretted that no comments on the draft texts had been received from any such countries. The Code Commission strongly urges developing Members to offer comment on the revised text, as it is in those countries where there is the greatest need for intervention in the control of dog populations.

The revised appendices, which is presented at Annex XXIII, is provided to Members for comment. The report of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Animal Welfare is presented at Annex XXVIII for information.

**26. Infectious bursal disease (IBD)**

A Member requested that the Code Commission reconsider the submission of the revised IBD Chapter that had been presented at the 69th General Session in 2001. The Code Commission decided not to resubmit the chapter, in the absence of new scientific information on the transmissibility of IBD virus through poultry meat, as had been requested in the Code Commission report of December 2003. The Code Commission decided that only in the event of new scientific information supporting a lack of the transmission of IBD virus through meat would this matter be re-examined.

**27. Small hive beetle**

Dr Thiermann outlined the history to this longstanding issue. Draft chapters had been provided by Members in 2005 and in 2006. In addition, a Member had provided a risk assessment on small hive beetle in 2005. The Code Commission considered that the two draft chapters were not significantly different and decided to propose the original text for consideration of Members.

The draft chapter, which is presented at Annex XXIV, is provided to Members for comment.

**28. Leptospirosis (Chapter 2.2.4.)**

The Code Commission reviewed comments provided by Australia and New Zealand.

In regard to leptospirosis, the Code Commission noted that this is an important disease in some Members and presents a risk to human health. However, the development of a chapter at this time is not a priority because the disease is virtually ubiquitous and international trade is not considered to increase the risks to human or animal health. Rather than leave a title and no chapter in the *Code*, the Code Commission decided to delete the title.

**29. Paratuberculosis (Chapter 2.2.6.)**

The Code Commission asked the Biological Standards Commission to monitor scientific developments on diagnostic testing for paratuberculosis. Once the testing methodology is improved the Code Commission will ask the Scientific Commission to prepare a chapter on paratuberculosis for inclusion in the *Code*.

## D. OTHER ISSUES

**30. Commodity-based measures in the *Code* (also see discussions with the Director General and with the Scientific Commission)**

In response to Members' comments and mindful of the recommendation made at the OIE/AU-IBAR/FAO Seminar of OIE Delegates from the OIE's Regional Commissions for Africa and for the Middle East: "Implementation of Animal Health Standards: the Quest for Solutions" Cairo, 11-13 October 2004, the Code Commission noted that further development of commodity-based measures for trade is a priority for the OIE.

The Code Commission discussed the need to devote more attention to making more visible and expanding the commodity specific recommendations in the *Code*. Specific recommendations on the safety of commodities, including from countries/zones that are not free of certain diseases, can be found in the *Code*. One example of this approach is the provision of a list of safe commodities, as currently found in Article 2.3.13.1. (BSE). However, the Code Commission concluded that an effort needs to be placed on the development of additional recommendations as appropriate.

While the eradication of diseases is the ultimate goal, there are diseases and country situations where this is not feasible in the short term. Therefore the intention of the Code Commission is to work with experts and with the Scientific Department in identifying all relevant scientific information available to expand on the recommendation of measures to render commodities safe for trade when originating from countries or zones that are not free of disease. Notwithstanding the importance of developing commodity standards, the quality and credibility of Veterinary Services and disease surveillance remain paramo unt.

The Code Commission reviewed a paper prepared by an OIE expert and agreed to place the document on the OIE internet site for guidance of Members. It is presented at Annex XXV for information.

As a next step, the Code Commission will ask the Director General to convene an expert group to provide advice on trading deboned, matured and pH tested beef, and other commodities, from countries/zones that are not free of FMD and other serious diseases.

**31. Division of the *Code* into two volumes**

The Code Commission noted the progress report prepared by the Secretariat and advice provided by an expert. The Code Commission endorsed the proposed approach and recommended some improvements. An outline of the planned approach to the restructuring of the *Code* may be found at Annex XXVI.

**32. Report of OIE/FAO *ad hoc* meeting on the Guide to Good Farming Practice**

The Code Commission welcomed the report of the OIE/FAO *ad hoc* Group meeting on the Guide to Good Farming Practice. The Code Commission advised that this document should not be included in the *Code*; rather, it should be published jointly by OIE and FAO. The document was forwarded to the APFSWG for further consideration. The report of the *ad hoc* Group is presented at Annex XXX for information.

**33. Other documents:**

**a) The Role of the Veterinary Services in Food Safety**

The Code Commission welcomed this concise and explanatory document and forwarded it to the APFSWG for further consideration. A copy of the document (note: as amended by the APFSWG at its November 2007 meeting) is attached at Annex XXXI for Members' comments.

**b) Report of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Notification of Terrestrial Animal Diseases/Pathogenic Agents**

The Code Commission was provided with the report of the 5th meeting of this *ad hoc* Group, but did not have time to review it. The Code Commission will review the report at its March meeting.

The report is appended for Members' information and comments at Annex XXXII.

**34. Future work programme**

The updated work programme is shown in Annex XXVII.

**35. Others**

The next meeting of the Code Commission is scheduled for 10–14 March 2008.

.../Annexes