

# *Recommendations*

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2006**

**endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 24 May 2007**

**22nd Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Lyon (France), 25-29 September 2006

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#)      Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network, public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#)      Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and prevention and repression tools

Recommendation No. 1

**Epidemiological surveillance and on-farm inspections: rural veterinary network,  
public-private sector relations, training of farmers and veterinarians**

CONSIDERING THAT

Epidemiological surveillance systems are essential for the good governance of animal health, zoonoses and food safety control programmes,

Private sector veterinarians and farmers are the most likely persons to early detect the presence of diseases in livestock and epidemiological surveillance is strongly dependent upon their contribution,

Compensation to livestock owners for direct losses incurred for the presence of animal diseases together with sanctions for violations is crucial,

General principles of epidemiological surveillance as well as those relating to specific animal diseases, such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot and mouth disease, bluetongue and avian influenza, are described in the various appendices contained in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*),

The Chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* relating to the quality of Veterinary Services spell out the importance of early detection of and rapid response to animal diseases including zoonoses, which are linked to the efficiency of the Veterinary Administration,

The ability of collecting data at field level with all the appropriate information based on animal identification and traceability, is essential to assure the effectiveness of epidemiological surveillance systems,

The efficiency and efficacy of an epidemiological surveillance system depends on the level of knowledge of all the participants,

A public-private partnership requires a good co-operation between private and public sectors,

Bluetongue virus can be given as an example of an emerging disease that appears to be currently spreading in the European region. The implementation of a surveillance system to monitor its spread and the efficacy of control measures appear necessary to facilitate trade,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of Member countries organise and manage countrywide epidemiological surveillance networks at national levels in a way that will allow the collection, collation and analyses of data generated at all possible levels taking into consideration the livestock sector including backyard flocks and wildlife.

2. The analysis of epidemiological data be performed by specifically trained personnel. Specialised national centres or units should be organised to function as focal and reference points to assure coherence of the network. The OIE collaborating centres and reference laboratories should take a leading role in ensuring training and expertise to Member Countries to achieve this objective.
3. Veterinary Services implement epidemiological surveillance systems assuring early detection of, and rapid response to animal diseases including zoonoses. This system should be led by an efficient Central Veterinary Administration, involving networks of veterinary practitioners in all rural and urban areas as well as livestock owners. This is to be set up in compliance with OIE international standards on disease surveillance and quality of Veterinary Services.
4. Training and refresher courses or continuing education be organised and made available to all stakeholders involved in the surveillance system.
5. Adequate compensation be provided for livestock owners for the slaughter and destruction of animals carried out as part of disease control programmes. The compensation schemes should promote good preventative management practices including high biosecurity standards.
6. Appropriate measures be adopted on the obligations for veterinarians and livestock owners to report and notify suspicion of disease, including sanctions to be applied in case of non compliance.
7. The OIE promote the creation of surveillance networks for relevant diseases, for example bluetongue, based on its OIE Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and existing networks. If necessary, the network should involve other neighbouring regions.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 29 September 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Live animals and food smuggling: current practices and  
prevention and repression tools**

CONSIDERING THAT

The illegal introduction (smuggling) of live animals is an on-going threat to animal health and international trade in all countries,

Smuggling of animal products and veterinary biologicals is an on-going threat to animal health, public health and consumer confidence in all countries,

Smuggling is considered to be an important issue by Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe,

Member Countries in the region with limited resources and funds consider that they would benefit from assistance from other countries, particularly in training, meetings and improved information flow,

Practical experiences from some Member Countries suggest that partnership between Veterinary Services and Customs Services in planning and application of risk management measures on the basis of risk assessment has been the key step in improving the use of limited enforcement resources,

All countries in the region consider that the OIE could contribute to deal with the issue of smuggling, including of companion animals, at the regional and international level,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries be encouraged to ensure political commitment and an effective legal base and co-ordination of activities among various government departments, other relevant agencies, industry, transport companies, private practitioners and potential 'end-users' to effectively deal with the issue of smuggling.
2. The OIE contribute at a regional level through encouraging increased communication, co-operation and sharing of intelligence through an arrangement between Member Countries. Details of such a mechanism could be further examined by pilot studies and possibly by the establishment of an OIE Ad hoc Group.
3. The OIE and Member Countries contribute at the international level to deal with the issue of smuggling by ensuring: intergovernmental collaboration, information campaigns, training, setting international standards and by producing an evaluation of economic incentives.

4. A review of the Chapter of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* relating to the Evaluation of Veterinary Services, in particular to bring out the link between Veterinary Services, Customs Services and Police Services be carried out. Updating of the OIE certificate models, using both new obligations on the security of supporting documentation, and on electronic communication between the competent authorities of importing and exporting countries should be envisaged. The possibility of a central data base should be investigated.
  5. The OIE examine whether the existing OIE notification systems could be modified to include notifications on intercepted and rejected large consignments by Member Countries.
  6. The OIE examine to what extent the existing international organisations (e.g. IATA or similar organisations) that deal with transport companies on a global level should be involved in the process
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 29 September 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

**18th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Florianopolis (Brazil), 28 November - 2 December 2006

[Recommendation No. 1:](#)      Animal Welfare in the Americas

[Recommendation No. 2:](#)      Compensation mechanisms for producers for economic losses  
caused by the implementation of sanitary measures

Recommendation No. 1

**Animal Welfare in the Americas**

CONSIDERING THAT

The Member Countries of the Regional Commission of the OIE for the Americas (hereinafter referred to as Countries) attach importance to the issue of animal welfare,

Legislations on animal welfare exist in only some countries but they are not always based on OIE standards,

There are different animal production systems among the Countries,

Research on animal welfare has been conducted in areas such as production, transport and slaughter,

Few Countries have institutions that include in their curricula, undergraduate and graduate programmes on animal welfare and existing training programmes on animal welfare are generally restricted to the personnel of the Veterinary Services,

In the Region, there is little animal welfare educational material such as web-based courses, text books, pamphlets, etc.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION OF THE OIE FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries not currently having regulations or official guidelines on animal welfare take appropriate steps to develop these, and ensure that they be harmonised under the authority of the Veterinary Services with the established OIE standards and guidelines.
2. The OIE Regional Representation establish a list of regional experts on animal welfare giving priority to production systems, transport and slaughter.
3. Countries, supported by the Regional Representation, promote the exchange of experiences, joint research and cooperation on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare in areas such as intensive production, stray animals, transport, slaughter methods and the depopulation of animals for disease control, in veterinary schools as well as research institutions.
4. Animal welfare issues be promoted at all levels using available means including the training of the veterinary personnel and other stakeholders, such as animal handlers, producers, transporters and those involved with the slaughter of animals for human consumption and animal disease control.



5. Veterinary schools be encouraged to develop undergraduate and graduate courses on animal welfare to improve the knowledge of students and professionals on the subject. Such courses should include knowledge of the OIE standards.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Compensation mechanisms for producers for economic losses  
caused by the implementation of sanitary measures**

CONSIDERING THAT

Producers are generally the first to detect animal diseases,

Producers play a significant role in assisting veterinary authorities in notifying animal diseases to the OIE in accordance with Member Countries' obligations,

Early detection of and rapid response to animal diseases are crucial in the control of epizootics the costs of which rise exponentially if detection and response are not timely,

Economic compensation to farmers who lose animals as part of disease control and eradication programmes is critical for the early detection and transparent reporting of and rapid response to animal diseases, economic recovery from epizootics and for enlisting collaboration of farmers in stamping out and other animal disease control measures,

Stamping out of infected and in-contact animals remains the method of choice to eradicate important animal diseases and zoonoses.

Several countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas have neither provision in their legislations to compensate farmers, nor actual compensation mechanisms in place,

The occurrence of highly pathogenic avian influenza in countries of the region that do not have adequate compensation mechanisms for the destruction of affected and in contact poultry would have disastrous consequences to the human and animal populations in the whole region,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries that do not have appropriate legislation to timely compensate producers who lose their animals as part of animal disease control and eradication programmes, adopt such legislation as soon as possible.
2. Member Countries set up a specific national Fund to compensate producers involved in stamping out operations. Contributions for this Fund should be established through a mechanism involving public and private sources but may be supplemented by other national or international external resources.

3. The OIE undertake to study the possibility of establishing a World Fund, including the participation of private insurance companies, to assist developing countries in the provision of compensation in response to a sanitary crisis.
  4. The OIE Central Bureau and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas undertake representations to the Government authorities of Member Countries of the critical need to establish legal and funding frameworks for animal health compensation including implementation of educational and communication programmes to secure the trust and active participation of producers.
  5. Countries of the region that have the necessary experience and resources for compensating farmers provide technical and/or financial assistance to other countries in need of such assistance.
  6. Member Countries give priority to the creation of a special compensatory and economic recovery mechanism in case of occurrence of animal diseases including highly pathogenic avian influenza.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

**17th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Asmara (Eritrea) 26 February – 1 March 2007

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

**Strategy for Strengthening Epidemiological surveillance in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

Animal diseases continue to be a serious impediment to social and economic progress in most countries in Africa and the situation is likely to worsen if timely appropriate steps are not taken,

There is a need for the establishment of an early detection and rapid response system that is capable of detecting disease outbreaks and containing them before they spread,

An effective epidemio-surveillance system provides information for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating animal health intervention programmes.

Implementation of epidemio-surveillance systems face many constraints and impediments in Africa,

The Pan African Rinderpest Campaign (PARC) and Pan African Programme for Control of Epizootics (PACE), contributed significantly in laying foundations for effective epidemio-surveillance systems in a number of African countries which benefited largely from the two projects,

The OIE Fourth Strategic Plan (2006 – 2010) emphasises the importance of capacity building including an effective epidemio-surveillance system as an essential tool in disease control,

The data and evidence collected and analysed to draw any conclusions should be reliable enough for the results to be acceptable to both the managers of Monitoring and Surveillance System (MOSS) and the assessors,

Partnership between the public and private sector in permanent relation with Veterinary Statutory Bodies in conducting epidemio-surveillance is more than ever important because of the recent changes in the administrative structure in many developing countries,

The financial and logistical support provided by the regional (e.g AU-IBAR), international organisations (e.g FAO) and donors to African countries for strengthening the networks of their epidemiosurveillance system, upgrading their Veterinary Services and research institutes and improving their capacities is recognised and highly appreciated,

The risk of lack of coordination and harmonisation efforts among Member Countries in animal health with the phasing out of PACE (for Western, Central and Eastern Africa), partly due to inadequate communication from Member Countries,

The lack of coordination in some countries among all stakeholders including the public health services, information and communication sectors, private sector (*including industry*) and livestock owners,

Livestock owners are generally the first sentinels to detect animal diseases and that para-professionals represent key relay agents,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE continue to collaborate with other international and regional organisations to assist African countries in improving capacity building through training.
2. OIE request its Collaborating Centres in Epidemiology to provide training and other forms of technical assistance to Member Countries of the region;
3. Veterinary Services of Member Countries supported by the OIE Regional Commission, appeal to their governments to consider the necessity of supporting epidemiosurveillance system as a essential tool in disease control also capable of demonstrating significant returns on investment. Governments should consider the necessity of ensuring sustainable material and financial resources and of providing appropriate number of skilled personnel for this purpose.
4. Veterinary Services of Member Countries including Veterinary Statutory Bodies improve partnership with livestock owners and other stakeholders to conduct proper epidemiosurveillance. Special attention should be given to training notably to livestock owners in participatory epidemiology, to professionals or para-professionals and to private veterinarians who control their activities. Stakeholders dealing with wildlife should also be involved.
5. Veterinary Services of Member Countries develop ways and means and utilise the available technical knowledge to ensure compliance of epidemiosurveillance systems with OIE international guidelines and recommendations.
6. Compliance of Veterinary services with OIE standards on quality and evaluation using the PVS tool be regarded as an essential objective for efficient epidemio-surveillance systems.
7. Member Countries should focus on increasing regular coordination and harmonisation efforts among themselves (border harmonisation meetings at bilateral and regional level, development of internet connection) and should provide timely feed back on information requested by OIE. The Sub-Regional or regional solidarity among neighbouring countries could provide a solution to the temporary lack of expertise or material in some individual countries that decide to implement a national surveillance programme. The support of the FAO to Regional and Sub-regional networks will be useful in this context.
8. The Veterinary Services to undertake continuous coordination among all stakeholders including the human health services, information and communication services, wildlife services, the private sector and livestock owners.
9. Epidemiosurveillance networks and official diagnostic laboratories be strongly linked and supported by effective quality systems.
10. Regional organisations and donors take into account the necessity of extending epidemiosurveillance networks to the whole African continent while continuing to allocate the necessary resources for their development and sustainability.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)

Recommendation No. 2

**Harmonisation of the registration and quality control of  
veterinary medicinal products in Africa**

CONSIDERING

That the uncontrolled movement of veterinary medicinal products poses a major threat to animal and public health, and the environment,

That there is a proliferation of poor quality or counterfeit veterinary medicinal products in the African region,

The major economical implications linked to the quality and safety of veterinary medicinal products for the development of livestock production in Africa,

The importance of regional cooperation in the registration and quality control and usage of veterinary medicinal products, particularly in view of the limited capacities of certain individual countries,

The commitment of the Regional Economic Communities (REC), engaged in processes of economic integration and of pooling of resources,

The existence of international standards regulating the quality assurance, registration and usage of veterinary medicinal products,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

A. THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSION

1. Continue to upgrade their veterinary pharmaceutical legislation (with particular reference to registration and quality control), by drawing up specific texts on veterinary medicinal products and by encompassing it within a regional perspective.
2. Promote networking among laboratories and authorities responsible for the registration and quality control of veterinary medicinal products within a regional context.
3. Develop institutional, administrative and financial mechanisms for increasing the effectiveness of the process of quality control starting from good manufacturing practices to the sale and usage of those products under the supervision of the authority responsible for veterinary medicinal products.
4. Involve users including breeder associations and veterinarians as well as supplier laboratories recognised by regional bodies in the effort to help regulate the market for veterinary medicinal products.

B. THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES

1. Embark on reforms with a view to regionally harmonise regulations on veterinary medicinal products in their respective area and enhance their cooperation in that field.
2. Request the OIE to organise with the support of AU-IBAR, AU-PANVAC and the regional economic communities concerned, a regional conference on veterinary medicinal products in Africa and their impact on animal and public health, and the environment.

C. THE OIE, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

1. Support the REC in conducting feasibility studies in order to achieve a regional harmonisation of legislation in their respective areas.
2. Help the REC to initiate technical audits of laboratories responsible for the quality control of veterinary medicinal products, in order to network the laboratories.
3. Increase the effectiveness of regional veterinary pharmaceutical regulations by providing technical and administrative support to the region and by encouraging the development of human resources
4. Develop guidelines and tools to enable OIE Member Countries to more successfully organise, manage and implement mechanisms for registration and quality assurance, and to effectively enforce their regulations.
5. Help the countries to reinforce their inspection service and quality control mechanism and to develop strategies to combat counterfeiting of veterinary medicinal products.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 1 March 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 24 May 2007)