

# **Recommendations**

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2008**

**endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 28 May 2009**

**23rd Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Europe  
Vilnius, Lithuania, 16-19 September 2008**

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Practical application of the concept of Compartmentalisation
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Strategy for Bluetongue control in Europe, including vaccination

Recommendation No. 1

**Practical application of the concept of Compartmentalisation**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. One of the main objectives of the OIE has been to develop international standards for the prevention and control of significant animal diseases, including zoonoses, as well as to protect countries from spread of pathogens through international trade while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers,
2. Safe trade can be not just limited to animals and products originated from countries or zones declared free of relevant diseases,
3. Freedom status is sometimes difficult to acquire and maintain due to risks from wildlife,
4. Risk mitigating measures recommended by the OIE can be applied in order to guarantee the health status in a certain animal sub-population,
5. It is possible, through adequate strict biosecurity measures and intense surveillance under supervision of Veterinary Services, to demonstrate the disease freedom in a defined and well isolated sub-population,
6. The OIE has elaborated the concept of ‘compartmentalisation’, which with its principles and guidelines has been incorporated into the *Code*, allowing the separation of animal sub-populations presenting different health statuses through strict biosecurity and management measures controlled by Veterinary Services,
7. Efficient and credible Veterinary Services with an adequate surveillance system remain the essential elements in the establishment and maintenance of the health conditions of such a sub-population, being able to provide proof of the required surveillance system and the identification and traceability of live animals, as described in the *Code*,
8. The establishment of compartments should not interfere with the obligations of OIE Members regarding disease notification and implementation of disease prevention and control measures complying with OIE standards in the entire territory,
9. A strong partnership between the private and public sector is also essential for an efficient implementation of compartmentalization. Several activities and responsibilities (such biosecurity measures, surveillance, and traceability) are assumed by the industry under delegation, control and authority of the Veterinary Authority. Therefore, a trusting partnership must be established between both sectors,
10. Even when delegating some activities and responsibilities to the private sector, the final authority for all official certification of processes, animals and products still rests solely in the hands of the Veterinary Authority,
11. Currently, several countries are considering the practical implementation of compartments, and some are establishing compartments among their poultry and/or swine industries,
12. While the concept of compartmentalisation has been clearly described through principles and guidelines, and adopted and published in the *Code*, it has been difficult to date to fully implement compartments in the field and to achieve formal recognition of such a concept by trading partners,

13. European Countries have expressed their interest for the OIE to assist them on practical implementation of compartmentalisation, including harmonisation of procedures and encouragement of mutual recognition between trading partners,

#### THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

#### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. European countries continue their efforts toward drawing up a harmonised regulatory framework for the implementation of compartments, following and applying OIE standards on compartmentalisation, for trading purposes, as well as for disease control where relevant. Compartmentalisation should not replace efforts towards disease eradication.
2. Effective partnerships between the Veterinary Authority and the private sector (livestock industries and all associated relevant stakeholders) be formally established, by developing strict protocols that clearly define responsibilities and functions of each relevant stakeholders, including audit and monitoring procedures of the delegated activities to the private sector from the Veterinary Authority.
3. Member countries implement appropriate communication procedures to raise the awareness of all relevant stakeholders on the concept of compartmentalisation and the importance of their involvement in its implementation.
4. A biosecurity plan developed by the private sector and the Veterinary Authority should include an appropriate animal identification and traceability system (individual, group or flock), management and animal health records, up-dated risks assessments identifying potential pathways for the entry and spread of pathogen(s), surveillance system, isolation measures and operational procedures, including certification pathway.
5. Appropriate assistance to Member Countries could be sought, from the OIE in order to have the necessary skills (both at public and private level) for implementing compartments.
6. Member countries are encouraged to mutually recognize compartments between trading partners. The information on established compartments should be shared between Veterinary Authorities in order to seek their approval, preferably during “peace-time”.
7. The OIE continue its efforts to promote good governance of VS, through the application of the OIE-PVS evaluation tool to pave the way for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services, including for critical competencies which are necessary for the implementation of compartmentalisation programmes.
8. The OIE assist Members, through the implementation of pilot projects, on the practical application of compartmentalisation, by harmonizing its implementation between trading partners, and by encouraging mutual recognition of such compartments.
9. The OIE continue its work on developing standards, and in particular, guidelines and support to pilot projects for the efficient and practical application of compartmentalisation, for safe global trade, as well as the prevention and control of diseases.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 19 September 2008 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)

Recommendation No. 2

**Strategy for Bluetongue control in Europe, including vaccination**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. BTV continues to spread in Europe and there is a constant threat of introduction of new serotypes,
2. New *Culicoides* spp, with a greater geographical range, have been shown to be competent vectors for BTV,
3. The spread of the virus and transmission of the infection between different regions can result from movements of infected animals as well as by vector proximity and wind-borne transport of infected vectors,
4. BT epidemics may have a great negative impact on ruminant production and welfare and on trade,
5. As BT is a problem of regional dimension, which affects territories rather than individual animals or farms, appropriate surveillance networks, early warning programmes, and disease control strategies, should be developed at regional level,
6. A continuous and effective epidemiological surveillance, including serology, virology and entomology, would ensure a proper monitoring of the disease in the region,
7. It is necessary to harmonise as much as possible the criteria for defining and notifying BT “cases” and “outbreaks” in compliance with OIE standards, as well as to comply with countries obligation to notify the occurrence of the disease through the OIE WAHIS system,
8. Mass vaccination of all susceptible domestic ruminants, reduces the number of clinical outbreaks, mitigates risks when moving animals, limits virus circulation, and under certain conditions, especially with movement controls and surveillance, can lead to eradication. However there may be difficulties of sustainability of control measures over prolonged periods due to economical, social and political factors,
9. Illegal animal movements may lead to the spread of the disease and countries at risk should reinforce their border controls and establish good communication and coordination strategies with neighbouring countries,
10. There is a need for a good communication strategy, involving farmers, other stakeholders and politicians, on the risks as well as on the disease control strategy chosen,
11. Training and awareness of veterinarians and other animal health staff and farmers are crucial to ensure the successful implementation of the control strategy,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. European countries develop and establish regional surveillance networks with the support of the OIE and regional and international organisations, working with countries of the Mediterranean basin for coordinating prevention measures as well as serology, virology and entomology studies within the region, following OIE international standards regarding BT surveillance.
2. The EU-BTNET developed under OIE coordination should be the base for information exchange and management as well as communication on bluetongue surveillance and control in the European region.
3. BT infected and at risk countries carry out and permanently up-date BT Risk Analysis studies.
4. BT infected and at risk countries implement appropriate strategies, regionally if possible, to limit BT virus circulation, including animal movement controls and the application of a vaccination strategy.
5. Vaccination strategies should include plans to ensure having good quality vaccines in the quantities required and in sufficient time to perform vaccination.
6. Member Countries should use the OIE criteria for defining and notifying BT “cases” and “outbreaks”.
7. Member Countries should develop a communication strategy for BT including awareness campaigns on the risks and impact of the disease, as well as on the disease control strategy.
8. The establishment of a bluetongue antigen bank for Members of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe, with the support of the OIE, will be further considered as a relevant option.
9. The OIE should review the relevant *Code* and *Manual* chapters to ensure that rules for trade correctly address the risks from movements of live animals and their products, vaccination quality and do facilitate the use of vaccination.
10. Further specific research and studies be developed with the assistance of OIE Reference Laboratories to better understand the biology of the bluetongue virus and its interaction with the vector and mammalian hosts. This should include BTV trans-placental transmission (particularly BTV8), over-wintering mechanisms and vaccine quality.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 19 September 2008 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)

**19th Conference of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas  
Havana, Cuba from 17 to 22 November 2008**

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#)      Biotechnology and its application to veterinary science
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#)      Application of OIE International Standards by Member Countries





Recommendation No. 1

**Biotechnology and its application to veterinary science**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas (hereinafter referred to as the Members) recognise the important role that modern biotechnology techniques play in veterinary science and for the benefit of the society,
2. There are differences between the Members of the region in the knowledge and use of these technologies,
3. Not all the Members have legislation regarding biosecurity related to the introduction and the safe use of the modern biotechnology tools and all should have a specific legislation with a systematic update in this field,
4. There are in the Region centres for the development of biotechnology applicable to veterinary sciences,
5. There is a need to continue developing new vaccines, products and diagnostic tools to help to identify, prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases, including zoonoses, that already affect or pose a threat to the Members,
6. The Government of Cuba has made application to the OIE for the recognition of a biotechnology Collaborating Centre which already had the support of the Regional Commission,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE evaluate regulatory frameworks in its members on biotechnology and develop and propose a generic model that would help Members in their elaboration and implementation of biotechnology regulations.
2. The OIE Regional Representation draw up a list of experts and reference centres in the region in matters of biotechnology as they apply to veterinary science and also promote the candidature of these experts for their inclusion in the OIE Working Groups and ad hoc Groups.
3. Members, with the support of the Regional Representation, promote the exchange of experiences, joint research and cooperation in matters of biotechnology applications to veterinary science.
4. The OIE Regional Representation, through the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET), among others, promote the proposal of standards and requirements for the registration and use of biotechnology based veterinary products with the aim of updating the related OIE standards. Also once adopted by the OIE International Committee, the countries incorporate and apply them in order to harmonise the systems between the different countries.

5. The OIE consider the development of communication approaches which address the potential benefits and the security given by the regulatory framework for the use of biotechnology in order to ensure that the public is informed about these technologies. In particular, training for veterinary personnel and all parties involved should be promoted.
  6. The Members of the Region reaffirm the support and endorsement of the application made by the Government of Cuba for the recognition of a Collaborating Centre for Biotechnology in Animal Production.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 21 November 2008 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)

Recommendation No. 2

Application of OIE International Standards by Member Countries

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The OIE is the international organisation that sets technical reference standards and guidelines and adopts resolutions under its own activities and under a mandate given within the Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to enable the safe international trade of animals and animal products and to prevent the transmission of animal diseases, including zoonoses,
2. The OIE standards are scientifically based, avoiding that the trade of animals and animal products is not slowed down for arbitrary reasons,
3. The OIE has transparent and democratic mechanisms that permit the active and permanent participation of all its Members for the update and development of new standards,
4. Importing countries should undertake to adopt zoosanitary requirements in accordance with an appropriate level of protection, based on OIE standards and guidelines. Exporting countries, for their part, should draw up measures, based also on the OIE standards and guidelines, that should guarantee to the importing countries the compliance with these requirements,
5. Countries do not always comply with international standards when they establish zoosanitary requirements for the international trade of animals and animal products, resulting in scientifically unjustified barriers to trade between countries,
6. The majority of Members have a low participation in the process of commenting and contributing to the elaboration of the OIE standards,
7. The best international experts of the Region are part of the OIE Specialist Commissions and they are proposed by the Members of the Region,
8. The interpretation of the established standards is sometimes not consistent between the Members, depending on their interests,
9. Food safety is part of the process for complying with the standards and part of the sanitary bilateral negotiation which may be the cause of trade problems linked to animal health,
10. The countries, especially the less developed, have difficulties to achieve a zoosanitary negotiation relative to the animal health and food safety of the animal origin food products,
11. Decision making regarding zoosanitary negotiation implies a complex relationship between the Veterinary Services and other public and private sectors,
12. The OIE possesses a scientifically based mediation mechanism available to its Members in order to resolve trade issues related to animal health,

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles of the OIE standards and the specific content of the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* among Member Countries be promoted.
2. The OIE continue to support its Members in the strengthening of their technical capacities and in the management and good governance of the Veterinary Services in order to comply with the OIE international standards and to give sufficient guarantees to the importing countries while allowing them to have the necessary tools for a fair bilateral zoosanitary negotiation and the resolution of conflicts.
3. The countries continue to work on the mechanisms to incorporate food safety aspects that are linked to OIE standards. In the same way, the OIE continue and pursue its work of coordination with the Codex and the incorporation, in the *Code*, of items related to the safety of food of animal origin related to international trade.
4. The OIE continue to support the governments, through the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas and the Sub-Regional Representation for Central America, to organise seminars and to improve the awareness of the public and private sectors to the importance of the OIE international standards and the conditions for their application.
5. When Members identify a difference in interpretation or potential impediments to the practical implementation of a standard, the matter should be referred to the Regional Representative and to the respective Specialist Commission for clarification or the possible consideration of a revision of such standard in accordance with the best available science.
6. Coordinated by the OIE Regional Representation, the active and permanent participation of all the OIE members in the process of the development of international standards as well as a close interaction with the elected members in the OIE Specialist Commissions, especially those of the Region, be promoted.
7. Members fully incorporate and apply the OIE standards and resolutions. Special attention should be given to the OIE official sanitary status recognition.
8. All the regional organisations should have common strategies for the control of transboundary diseases and their implications to trade. In parallel, it is recommended to develop regional protocols for establishing health and trade contingency plans to face health events.
9. The countries ask for the OIE intervention through the technical mediation mechanism for solving disputes when trade restrictions occur related to animal health and food safety of food of animal origin.
10. The OIE continue and intensify its work of support to the Members for the strengthening of the Veterinary Services, through the PVS tool and other activities, including the leadership of the Veterinary Services on the aspects of the public-public and public-private coordination for the compliance with the OIE standards.
11. The OIE/FAO GF-TADs Agreement will be used to continue supporting the implementation of OIE standards by Member Countries.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 21 November 2008 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)

**18th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Africa  
N'Djamena, Chad, 22 – 26 February 2009**

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Impact of brucellosis on the livestock economy and public health in Africa



Recommendation No. 1

**Challenges faced by African products of animal origin in accessing world markets**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Major trade sensitive animal diseases and zoonoses are endemic in almost all countries in Africa and thereby remaining a major impediment to food security and regional and global trade in animals and animal products,
2. Risk factors for the spread and persistence of animal diseases such as transboundary and transhumance migratory practices and the role of wildlife acting as reservoirs of some of the major animal diseases, are inherent and unique to the African continent and create a permanent impediment to totally eradicate many diseases from the Continent,
3. Many countries in Africa are experiencing severe infrastructural and resource limitations to effectively control animal diseases and are in need of a strong political commitment to establish good veterinary governance to move towards the national and regional control of animal diseases,
4. The OIE was mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to publish standards to avoid the introduction of pathogens via international trade in animals and animal products, while at the same time preventing countries from applying unjustified sanitary barriers,
5. The standards developed by the OIE and contained in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* relate to both generic issues such as ethics in international trade and the quality of national Veterinary Services, and recommendations on specific OIE listed diseases to mitigate the risk of spreading transboundary animal diseases during export of live animals and products,
6. The OIE standards are science-based and are developed by leading scientific experts and adopted and updated annually through a transparent and democratic decision-making process by all OIE Members,
7. The OIE is actively promoting the application of trade facilitating measures such as zoning, compartmentalisation and trade in safe commodities to assist countries even where certain important animal diseases continue to exist or have become endemic, to still gain market access through the application of appropriate OIE standards,
8. Importing countries require sanitary guarantees for both animal health and human health safety when considering the import of animals and animal products,
9. Commercial standards, established by private companies without direct involvement of governments, are increasingly coming into play in international trade, and are of great concern for a majority of OIE Members,

10. The OIE has developed a document on The role of Veterinary Services in food safety, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to OIE Members to the role and responsibilities of Veterinary Services in food safety, to assist them in meeting food safety objectives laid down in national legislation and the requirements of importing countries,

## THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to develop and update standards to enable importing countries to base their import conditions on OIE standards to minimise the need for additional risk analysis activities before authorising imports.
2. The OIE continue to facilitate research to provide scientific justification for the further development and application of the concept of safe commodities for trade for appropriate animal and aquatic diseases complementary to the existing standards in the OIE *Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes*.
3. Members be encouraged not to base their import and export requirements solely on the systematic inactivation of pathogens in products and disregarding disease surveillance and other activities inherent to the delivery of good veterinary governance for the prevention and control of animal diseases.
4. Members continue their efforts to incorporate food safety aspects that are linked to OIE standards and that the OIE simultaneously continue to pursue its coordination initiatives with Codex and the incorporation, into the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Code*, of appropriate issues related to the safety of food of animal origin for international trade.
5. Countries in Africa be encouraged to develop and apply the concepts of zoning and compartmentalisation as a trade facilitating measure for animals and animal products from zones and compartments complying with OIE guidelines and recommendations on management and bio-security practices under the authority of the Veterinary Services.
6. The OIE continue to encourage developing and in-transition countries to strengthen their Veterinary Services through the PVS evaluation, PVS Gap analysis and PVS follow up to add credibility to their trade negotiations and integrity to veterinary certificates accompanying consignments of animals and animal products intended for trade; The OIE will provide its permanent support to countries in collaboration with global partners such as FAO, regional partners such as AU-IBAR and RECs and donors representatives such as World Bank, European Commission and bilateral donors.
7. Members be encouraged to actively support the activities and initiatives of OIE/FAO/AU-IBAR Regional Animal Health Centres to facilitate synergies and to avoid gaps to animal disease prevention and control policies in Africa.
8. Members are encouraged to fully participate in OIE standard setting activities as well as SPS Committee meetings and to acquire the scientific support for contributing to the standard setting decision-making processes.
9. The OIE, FAO and AU-IBAR continue to negotiate with African Governments and donors to support animal health activities to enable Members to move towards compliance with OIE standards.



10. Members are encouraged to continue meeting their obligations on surveillance and reporting even for those diseases that are endemic and to share this information with other Members in their respective Regions.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 February 2009 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)

Recommendation No. 2

**Impact of brucellosis on the livestock economy and public health in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock represents an important factor in the economy and livelihood of most African countries,
2. Zoonotic animal diseases remain a serious obstacle to public health, to social and economic progress and food security in most African countries and especially those countries where appropriate prevention and control measures are not taken in time,
3. Sanitary prevention and control measures against some zoonoses, including brucellosis, to mitigate risks to public health, are not always properly nor applied on time in several African countries,
4. Effective collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in the spirit of “One World, one Health” (OWOH), both at national and regional levels, is an important factor for succeeding in controlling zoonoses,
5. Good veterinary governance of Veterinary Services complying with global standards on quality allows effective detection and control of brucellosis at its sources, in the animal population thereby minimizing exposure to the human population,
6. There is not yet sufficient, analysed information and analysis in most African countries on the economic and public health importance of brucellosis,
7. Epidemiological surveillance for brucellosis, adapted to the specific characteristics and production systems enable African countries to know their sanitary situation as well as to exchange relevant epidemiological information through effective regional epidemiological-surveillance networks,
8. Sustainable surveillance networks and diagnostic capacity are crucial for achieving an effective prevention and control of the disease,
9. Vaccination against brucellosis in relevant species for ensuring the necessary immunity of targeted animal population is not broadly applied nor consistently monitored in all African countries and available vaccines are not often adapted to African field constraints,
10. Appropriate sanitary control measures against brucellosis, such as isolation and slaughter of infected animals are not consistently applied in all countries thereby avoiding the elimination of the disease from herds to prevent its spread to humans and to other animals,
11. The implementation of permanent awareness campaigns and close collaboration between public health and animal health services will allow effective management of brucellosis risk,

## THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

### RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continues its support to Members for the strengthening of their Veterinary Services through the use of the OIE PVS Tool for the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the PVS Gap Analysis and follow up as well as their complementary supporting projects such as the sanitary legislation model and laboratory twinning programme, for improving the control of brucellosis, as well as other zoonoses.
2. With the support of relevant global and regional organisations, Member Countries establish at both regional and national levels, adequate cooperation mechanisms between the animal health and public health sectors, to improve the management of the disease at the animal-human interface by focusing on control at the animal source.
3. The OIE as well as other global and regional organisations encourage and support Member Countries to further develop research and studies to get a clearer understanding of the impact of brucellosis in animal and humans, both at public health level as well as on livestock production and to improve the vaccines including their thermostable property for their use in relevant species.
4. Member Countries establish sustainable regional epidemio-surveillance networks, including relevant international and regional organisations, to have a better knowledge of the brucellosis sanitary situation of each country, as well as to share all relevant sanitary information between different countries.
5. Member Countries continue to improve their national disease reporting systems to accomplish their obligation in notifying the occurrence of brucellosis to the OIE through WAHIS.
6. Potential candidate laboratories be identified in Africa to enter into Twinning projects for brucellosis with existing OIE Reference Laboratories, to enlarge the availability of and access to expertise in the region to assist African countries for better preventing and controlling brucellosis.
7. Governments be encouraged and sensitised to commit to support brucellosis prevention and control programmes in relevant species, by allocating necessary resources (financial, structural and human) which allow proper implementation of relevant preventive and controlling measures, including among others cooperation with farmers (including their financial contribution), massive vaccination of susceptible species, as well as culling of infected animals when possible.
8. Member Countries with the support of relevant global and regional organisations implement awareness campaigns addressed to all sectors, including regional, national, municipal and field level, with the involvement of Ministries of Health and Veterinary Services with a specific focus on the importance of brucellosis for both animals and humans.
9. The OIE continue establishing and publishing international standards for prevention and control of brucellosis in all susceptible animal species, as well as working together with relevant organisations such the FAO, WHO and Codex Alimentarius to assist its Members in mitigating brucellosis burden in public and animal health.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 26 February 2009 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 28 May 2009)