

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

---

### **VICH holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> Outreach Forum meeting and adopts 4 new Guidelines**

---

The second meeting of the VICH Outreach Forum took place in conjunction with the 28<sup>th</sup> VICH Steering Committee meeting held in Washington DC from 19 to 21 February 2013. The Steering Committee, OIE and the Forum participants discussed ways to improve the understanding of VICH Guidelines in other regions in particular through translations and training opportunities.

The VICH Steering Committee adopted the following 4 new Guidelines:

- VICH GL 34 (*Biologicals: Test for the detection of Mycoplasma contamination*)
- VICH GL 35 (*Pharmacovigilance: Electronic Standards for Transfer of Data*)
- VICH GL 50 (*Biologicals: Harmonization of criteria to waive target animal batch safety testing (TABST) for inactivated vaccines for veterinary use*)
- VICH GL 51 (*Quality: Statistical evaluation of stability data*).

These new Guidelines have been published for implementation in the regions and are available on the VICH website ([www.vichsec.org](http://www.vichsec.org)).

The Steering Committee reviewed and acknowledged the progress of the work of the Expert Working Groups on Pharmacovigilance – Electronic Standards Implementation; Quality; Safety; Biologicals Quality Monitoring; Metabolism and Residue Kinetics; and Bioequivalence.

The Steering Committee initiated work by the Biologicals Quality Monitoring Expert Working Group on harmonizing criteria to waive target animal batch safety testing for live vaccines for veterinary use.

The Steering Committee further initiated the development by the Metabolism and Residue Kinetics Expert Working Group of a Guideline on residue studies in honey.

The Steering Committee created a new Expert Working Group with the mandate to develop a Guideline on Electronic File Formats.

The 29<sup>th</sup> VICH Steering Committee meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> VICH Outreach Forum meeting are scheduled between November 11 to 14, 2013 in Auckland, New Zealand.

**MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE**

**EU:** European Commission - European Medicines Agency

**JMAFF:** Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

**USA:** US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) – Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture – Center for Veterinary Biologics (USDA/CVB)

**AHI:** US Animal Health Institute

**IFAH-EUROPE:** representing the European Animal Health Industry

**JVPA:** Japanese Veterinary Products Association

**OBSERVERS**

**Australia/New Zealand:** Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)/New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

**The Alliance/AGCARM:** Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd./Agricultural Chemicals & Animal Remedies Manufacturers' Association of New Zealand

**Canada:** Health Canada (HC) - Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) and Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB)

**CAHI:** Canadian Animal Health Institute

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

**OIE:** World Organisation for Animal Health

**INTERESTED PARTY**

**AVBC:** Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies (USA)

For further information, please contact the VICH Secretariat:  
c/o IFAH, International Federation for Animal Health  
Rue Defacqz, 1 - 1000 Brussels (Belgium)