



MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON VACCINATION¹
Paris, 29-31 March 2016

A meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on vaccination (hereafter the Group) was held at the OIE Headquarters from 29-31 March 2016.

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur

On behalf of Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General, Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel, Deputy Head of the Scientific and Technical Department, welcomed the Group. She highlighted the importance of this draft chapter that was expected by OIE Member Countries. She emphasised that the participation of representatives from the three Specialist Commissions would bring different angles to the discussions to ensure consistency with what was already covered in the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* and in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Group was chaired by Dr Cristobal Zepeda. Dr Francisco Reviriego acted as rapporteur with the support of the OIE Secretariat. The Group endorsed the proposed agenda. The agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I and II, respectively.

2. Revision of previous draft chapter

The Group considered the recommendations made by the Specialist Commissions during their February 2016 meeting and reviewed the articles drafted during the Group's November 2015 meeting. The draft chapter was restructured and split in more articles to be aligned with established format of the *Terrestrial Code*. Other revisions were proposed as follows:

Article 4.X.1. Introduction and objectives

The Group clarified that vaccine should induce immunity, not only to prevent the occurrence of clinical signs, but also to reduce multiplication and shedding of pathogenic agent.

After further consideration of the definition of 'vaccination' in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Group revised the definition of 'vaccination coverage' to specify that it refers to animals to which the vaccine has been administered rather than animals effectively immunised.

The Group also modified the definition of 'emergency vaccination' to include the use of vaccination in response to a change in the risk of introduction or emergence of a disease.

Article 4.X.3. Vaccination programmes

Following the recommendation of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission, this draft article was split in three articles for ease of reference. The articles on vaccination programme, launching a vaccination programme and vaccination strategies were created.

¹ Note: This *ad hoc* Group report reflects the views of its members and may not necessarily reflect the views of the OIE. This report should be read in conjunction with the September 2016 report of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases because this report provides its considerations and comments. It is available at: <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/specialists-commissions-groups/scientific-commission-reports/meetings-reports/>

The Group included a reference to the importance of the harmonisation of regional vaccination harmonisation among neighbouring countries.

Article 4.X.4. Launching a vaccination programme

The criteria to be considered when deciding whether or not to initiate vaccination, were revised and completed. The Group agreed to have a list as exhaustive as possible of those critical elements and reshuffled the whole set of criteria for better coherence. Some elements such as the risk of introduction or emergence of a disease, the probability and consequences of exposure to diseases of specific subpopulation of susceptible animals, the suitability of vaccination as an alternative to or to complement other disease control measures and the impact on trade were included in the list.

Article 4.X.6. Critical elements of a vaccination programme

The Group adjusted the critical elements of a vaccination programme identified in its previous meeting.

- Target animals, retitled as target population

The Group made clear that the target population should be estimated and updated regularly.

In addition, the Group agreed that the target population could include wildlife when relevant.

- Vaccination coverage

Considering the importance to define in advance the minimum vaccination coverage necessary to reach the objectives of the programme, the Group developed a dedicated section.

- Stakeholder involvement

The Group identified the acceptance of the use of vaccines by the stakeholders as a critical element for the success of the vaccination programme. While acknowledging that private sector veterinarians, non-governmental organisations and para-professionals were covered by the definition of Veterinary Services, the Group proposed to specifically clarify that they should be involved in the vaccination programme.

- Auditing of the vaccination campaigns

The Group clarified that this section, previously titled “Quality assurance”, was referring to the vaccination campaigns and not to the vaccine production quality assurance which was already covered in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The Group listed the most relevant performance indicators to be considered when auditing a vaccination campaign.

- Exit strategy

The Group agreed that the provisions for the exit strategy, initially included in this article, justify a single article, placed after the article related to the evaluation and monitoring of the vaccination strategy.

Article 4.X.7. Choice of vaccine:

This section initially under the critical elements was moved to a dedicated article.

The Group emphasised that the selected vaccine should be compliant with the *Terrestrial Manual*, and that the countries should consider the criteria listed in this article to select the most appropriate one among all eligible vaccines.

The Group considered the transmissibility of live-attenuated vaccine strains as important criteria for the choice of the vaccine. However, the Group was unclear if this issue should be included in this chapter or if it was already sufficiently covered in the *Terrestrial Manual*. The same considerations were made for aspects related to the “purity”, “contamination” and “release and spread of extraneous agents”. The Group referred the decision to include these aspects in the draft chapter to the Biological Standard Commission.

3. Finalising drafting the chapter on vaccination based on the outline validated by the Specialist Commissions

The Group continued with the elaboration of the provisions to be considered when designing and implementing a vaccination programme based on the modified chapter outline.

Article 4.X.8. Logistics of vaccination

The Group highlighted the importance to plan a vaccination campaign in advance and mentioned that the specificities of emergency vaccination should be part of the national disease contingency plan. When drafting this section, the Group made reference to a number of existing documents, in particular to the OIE *Guidelines for animal disease control*², and its section 7 on Emergency Preparedness and Contingency Planning, to the OIE *Communication Handbook for Veterinary Services*³ and to the possible establishment of vaccine banks in compliance with Chapter 1.1.10. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The Group listed the logistical elements that should be considered in a given vaccination programme, including procurement of vaccine, implementation of the vaccination programme, human resources, public awareness and communication, animal identification, record keeping and vaccination certificates, and additional animal health-related activities.

Article 4.X.9. Evaluation and monitoring of a vaccination programme

The Group agreed that any given vaccination programme should have an evaluation and monitoring component and drafted a specific article for it. This section would include the evaluation and monitoring of key aspects of the vaccination programme, including post-vaccination monitoring.

The Group noted that FAO and the OIE were about to jointly publish Guidelines on post-vaccination monitoring.

Article 4.X.10. Exit strategy of a vaccination programme

While acknowledging that it may not concern all vaccination programmes (Anthrax may be an example of a permanent one), the Group stated that the majority of the vaccination programmes may need to include a plan for cessation of vaccination and listed the possible reasons to cease vaccination. In addition to the achievement of the objectives of the programme, the Group considered that vaccination may need to be ceased in case the programme is unable to meet the desired objectives due to the failure of the programme itself in such a way that would not allow its re-design, lack of resources or adverse public reaction.

The Group stressed that the cessation of vaccination should be compulsory when the achievement of disease freedom without vaccination is expected. The Group discussed the importance of dealing with remaining vaccine stocks in the country.

Finally, the Group emphasised the need of a thorough revision of the biosecurity plan and the surveillance strategies for early disease detection before ceasing vaccination.

Article 4.X.11. Impact on disease status and management of vaccinated animals

The Group took into account some elements from the OIE Global Conference on Vaccination (Buenos Aires 2004).

Recognising the possible impact of vaccination on the detection of infection, surveillance, movement control and trade, the Group drafted this article to emphasise the need for countries implementing a vaccination programme to consider the management of vaccinated animals. The Group was aware that the Scientific Commission and the *ad hoc* Group on FMD were working on these topics and that this article may need to be revised in the future. Reference was made to disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

² Guidelines for animal disease control, [30/03/2016]:
http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Our_scientific_expertise/docs/pdf/A_Guidelines_for_Animal_Disease_Control_final.pdf

³ Communication Handbook for Veterinary Services, developed for hands-on trainings, [30/03/2016]
www.oie.int/communication_handbook

In addition, the Group was of the opinion that, unless specified in disease-specific chapters, the use of systematic or emergency vaccination in response to a threat should not affect the disease status or disrupt trade. The Group also recalled that Member Countries having an OIE officially recognised disease free status should inform the OIE of any change in the vaccination policy.

4. Adoption of the report

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the draft report provided by the rapporteur and agreed to circulate the draft report electronically for comments before the final adoption.

.../Appendices

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Agenda

1. Opening, adoption of agenda and appointment of chairperson and rapporteur
2. Revision of previous draft chapter
3. Finalising drafting the chapter on vaccination based on the outline validated by the Specialist Commissions
4. Adoption of the report

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List of participants

MEMBERS

Dr Won Hyung Lee

Consultant, CEO, XP Bio Inc.
Foreign Relations, Korean Association of
Swine Veterinarians
Republic of Korea
whleex@gmail.com

Dr Ben Du Plessis

Deputy Director Animal Health,
Ehlanzeni South District
South Africa
BJDuplessis@mpg.gov.za

Dr Cristóbal Zepeda Sein

Veterinary Attaché
USDA-APHIS-IS Mexico Region
Mexico City
PO Box 9000
crisobal.zepeda@aphis.usda.gov

Dr Michel Lombard

Consultant
22 rue Crillon, 69006
Lyon
France
lombard.family@wanadoo.fr

Dr Francisco Javier Reviriego Gordejo

European Commission,
Health & Consumers
Directorate-General
G2- Animal Health
Froissart 101, F-101-03/72
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Francisco.Reviriego-Gordejo@ec.europa.eu

Representatives of the Specialist Commissions

Dr Gideon Brückner

President Scientific Commission
30 Schoongezicht
1 Scholtz Street
South Africa
gkbruckner@gmail.com

Dr Gaston Maria Funes

Vice-President Code Commission
Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, Embassy
of Argentina to the EU
20 Avenue Ernestine
1050 Brussels
Belgium
funes@agricola-ue.org

Dr Franck Berthe

Vice-President Biological Standard
Commission
Agriculture Global Practise
World Bank
1818 H street NW
Washington DC
20433 USA
fberthe1@worldbank.org

OIE HEADQUARTERS

Dr Elisabeth Erlacher-Vindel

Deputy Head,
Scientific and Technical Department
e.erlacher-vindel@oie.int

Dr Gregorio Torres

Chargé de mission
Scientific and Technical Department
g.torres@oie.int

Dr Laure Weber-Vintzel

Officer in charge of the recognition of
countries' animal disease status
Scientific and Technical Department
l.weber-vintzel@oie.int
