

AD HOC GROUP ON BIOSECURITY FOR TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS

Second meeting, virtual, 20 March and Paris, 2–4 May 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The overall purpose of the *ad hoc* Group on biosecurity for terrestrial animals is to develop a new chapter on Biosecurity for terrestrial animals, for inclusion in Section 4. 'Disease prevention and control' of the WOAHP *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*). It also aims to review the current definitions for 'biosecurity' in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* or propose definitions for new terms as deemed necessary.

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work, which was approved by the WOAHP Director General.

Background

The Code Commission agreed that biosecurity is essential for disease prevention and control. In 2017, the Commission agreed that the next priority was to develop a new chapter on Biosecurity for terrestrial animals and that the new chapter should include the principles of biosecurity and be relevant for all WOAHP Members.

At their September 2022 meetings, the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission discussed in length the meaning of 'biosecurity' and how the term is used in the *Terrestrial Code* and proposed the scope and objectives.

In November 2022, the *ad hoc* Group met for the first time to define the Scope and Objectives of the new chapter as well as to propose a structure for the Commissions' consideration at their February 2023 meeting.

Specific issues to be addressed

Taking into consideration, the recommendations received from the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission following the February 2023 meetings, the Group is asked to develop the content of the chapter in view to support the Veterinary Authorities in enforcing, auditing, developing certification on biosecurity.

Actions to deliver for the second meeting

In this second meeting, taking into consideration both Commissions' recommendations, the *ad hoc* Group should:

1. Refine the scope, objectives and the structure of the new chapter on biosecurity for terrestrial animals.
2. Revise the current Glossary definitions for 'Biosecurity' and 'Biosecurity plan'.
3. Develop draft text for each article of the chapter.
4. Assess whether the proposed new definition for 'swill' is aligned with how the term 'swill' is used in the *Terrestrial Code*, revise the definition as needed and propose a term for swill in Spanish and in French.
5. Consider the use of the terms 'Biosecurity' and 'Biosecurity plan' in the context of the *Terrestrial Code*, and if needed, propose amendments to other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* to align with the proposed changes to the definitions.

Considerations

When developing this work, the *ad hoc* Group should consider:

1. the chapter structure and style and the content of the *Terrestrial Code* (in particular Section 4) and the Glossary definitions;
2. the recommendations from the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission (February 2023) and the Secretariat;
3. existing recommendations and references to biosecurity used in the *Terrestrial Code*, the *Terrestrial Manual* and whether the proposed revised Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan' remain consistent with the intent for which they are used throughout the *Terrestrial Code*;

4. the new Glossary definitions for 'swill' and ensure it is consistent with the intent for which the term is used throughout the *Terrestrial Code*;
5. the relevance to all WOAH Members (as relevant for the *Terrestrial Code*), regardless of the geographical diversity of terrestrial animal disease and species worldwide given the different environments and conditions for implementation across countries.
6. all relevant material provided by the *ad hoc* Group Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

Expectations

Ad hoc Group members should:

- be familiar with the structure of the *Terrestrial Code* and the use of Glossary definitions;
- be familiar with relevant *Terrestrial Code* chapters (to be provided in the working documents);
- read all working documents provided by the Secretariat prior to the meeting;
- contribute to discussions;
- contribute to drafting text; and
- understand that the *ad hoc* Group may be reconvened again to ensure continuity of the work.

Deliverables

1. a report that contains the rationale for the decision made on.
 - a) the text proposed for each article;
 - b) how the Commissions' recommendations were addressed;
2. a draft chapter
3. the revised Glossary definitions and revised new definition(s)

Reporting / timeline

The *ad hoc* Group will finalise its deliverables by 24 July 2023 in time for the September 2023 Commission meetings.
