

AD HOC GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTERS 5.4. to 5.7. OF THE TERRESTRIAL CODE

Second meeting, Paris, 13-15 June 2023

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The purpose of the *ad hoc* Group on the Revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. of the *Terrestrial Code* is to revise and update Chapters 5.4. Animal health measures applicable before and at departure, 5.5. Animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country, 5.6. Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country and 5.7. Animal health measures applicable on arrival.

Background

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) added the review of Section 5 Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification of the *Terrestrial Code* to its work programme because most of the chapters in this section have not been updated for some time and some are not adequate to support Members in managing the risks of introduction of diseases through the importation of commodities.

Taking into consideration previous discussions and comments received from Members, the Code Commission, at its September 2021 meeting, agreed that a revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. should be given priority over other chapters in Section 5 and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work.

In November 2022, the *ad hoc* Group met for the first time to propose a structure of the revised chapters as well as the scope and high-level contents of each chapter for the Code Commission's consideration.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission supported the *ad hoc* Group's proposal to replace the current Chapters 5.4., 5.5., 5.6. and 5.7. with the development of three new chapters that provide recommendations on measures and procedures that are applicable in the 'exportation (from the origin to the exit of the exporting country)', 'transit' and 'importation (from arrival until clearance)', respectively, as well as a fourth chapter to address key facilities required. The Commission also discussed the proposed structure for each chapter and the proposed revision of some Glossary definitions and provided some feedback on these proposals.

Specific issues to be addressed

Following the Code Commission's February 2023 meeting, the Group is reconvened to address the Commission's recommendations and to draft the revised chapters.

Actions to deliver

In this second meeting, the *ad hoc* Group should:

1. consider the recommendation of the Code Commission;
2. develop draft texts for each chapter;
3. review the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* for 'border post' and 'quarantine station' in the context of the *Terrestrial Code*;
4. consider the need to develop new definitions for the Glossary for any other key terms used in the revised chapters, and propose draft definitions, if relevant;

5. If needed, propose amendments to other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* to align the use of relevant terms with the proposed new or revised Glossary definitions.

Considerations

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

1. the general structure and content of the *Terrestrial Code*; in particular chapters in Section 5 of the current edition, as well as recommendations for importation of commodities in the disease-specific chapters (Volume II) of the *Terrestrial Code*;
2. the use of Glossary definitions in the *Terrestrial Code*;
3. the recommendations from the Code Commission (February 2023);
4. the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures (especially Article 8 and Annex C), the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation, the Codex Alimentarius Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20-1995) Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Certification Systems (CAC/GL 26-1997) (to be provided in the Working Documents);
5. the relevance to all WOAHA Members (as relevant for the *Terrestrial Code*), regardless of the geographical diversity of terrestrial animal disease and species worldwide given the different environments for implementation; and
6. all relevant material provided by the Code Commission's Secretariat.

Expectations

Ad hoc Group members should:

- be familiar with the structure of the *Terrestrial Code* and the use of Glossary definitions;
- have read and considered Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- have read all working documents provided by the Code Commission's Secretariat;
- contribute to discussions; and
- contribute to drafting text for the revised chapters and the report.

Deliverables

1. the draft revised chapters
2. the revised definitions for 'border post' and 'quarantine station' and any other draft new proposed definitions (if relevant)
3. If needed, the proposed amendments to other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* to align the use of relevant terms with the proposed new or revised Glossary definitions.
4. a report that contains the rationale for decisions and proposals

Reporting / timeline

The *ad hoc* Group will finalise its deliverables within 5 weeks after the completion of the meeting.