

# Report of the Meeting of WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

## Introduction and Members contribution

This report presents the work of the WOAHS Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter 'the Code Commission') who met in Paris, France from 6 to 16 February 2024.

The Code Commission wished to thank the following Members for providing written comments for the WOAHS *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter 'the *Terrestrial Code*') : Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), Members of the WOAHS Americas Region, the Member States of the European Union (EU) and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) on behalf of African Members of WOAHS. The Commission also wished to thank the following organisations for providing comments: the International Coalition for Farm Animal Welfare (ICFAW), International Egg Commission (IEC), World Renderers Organizations (WRO), and to acknowledge the valuable advice and contributions from numerous experts of the WOAHS scientific network.

The Code Commission reviewed all comments that were submitted prior to the deadline and were supported by a rationale. Due to the large number of comments, the Commission was not able to provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for accepting or not each of the comments considered and focused its explanations on issues deemed significant. Where amendments were of an editorial nature, no explanatory text has been provided. The Commission wished to note that when texts proposed by Members to improve clarity were not accepted, it was because it considered the text was clear as currently written. The Commission made amendments to draft texts, where relevant, in the usual manner by 'double underline' and 'strikethrough'. In relevant Annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted in yellow to distinguish them from those made previously.

## Status of annexes

Texts in **Part A** (Annexes 4 to 21) will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024. Texts in **Part B** (Annexes 3 and 22 to 26) are presented for comments. Text in Part C (Annex 27) is presented for information.

## How to submit comments

The Code Commission strongly encourages WOAHS Members and International Organisations with a WOAHS Cooperative Agreement to participate in the development of WOAHS International Standards by submitting comments on topics and relevant annexes of this report.

Engagement of Members and International Organisations in the standard setting process through the submission of comments is critical to ensure that the Commission's work is science-based, takes into consideration the different contexts among Members and relevant stakeholders, and enables the implementation of standards. To ensure that comments are considered, they should be submitted by the



deadline and in the format described in the [guidance](#) and [SOP](#) documents available on the Delegate's website and the WOAHP public website.

Comments that are not correctly formatted as described in the [guidance](#), may not be considered by the Commission. Any questions on the requirements for formatting and submission of comments should be sent to [TCC.Secretariat@woah.org](mailto:TCC.Secretariat@woah.org)

The Commission also draws the attention of Members to those instances where the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the Biological Standards Commission, a Working Group or an *ad hoc* Group have addressed specific comments or questions and proposed answers or amendments. In such cases the rationale is described in the respective reports of the relevant entity and Members are encouraged to review these reports together with the report of the Code Commission. These reports are not annexed to the Commission's report. Instead, they are available on the dedicated webpages on the WOAHP website, e.g., *ad hoc* Group reports: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/standards-setting-process/ad-hoc-groups/>

### **Deadline for comments**

Comments on relevant texts in this report (Part B) must be received by **12 July 2024** to be considered by the Code Commission.

### **Where to send comments**

All comments should be sent to [TCC.Secretariat@woah.org](mailto:TCC.Secretariat@woah.org)

### **Date of the next meeting**

The Code Commission noted that the dates for its next meeting will be confirmed following the Commission election at the 91<sup>st</sup> General Session in May 2024.

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- Annex 12. Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus
- Annex 13. Chapter 1.11. Application for official recognition by WOA of free status for foot and mouth disease
- Annex 14. Chapter 8.16. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus
- Annex 15. Chapter 8.18. Infection with *Trichinella* spp.
- Annex 16. Chapter 8.X. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q Fever)
- Annex 17. Chapter 8.Z. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi*
- Annex 18. Chapter 13.2. Rabbit haemorrhagic disease
- Annex 19. Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus
- Annex 20. Chapter 16.Z. Infection with Camelpox virus
- Annex 21. Terminology: Use of terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'

### Texts for comments (PART B)

- Annex 3. Work programme
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### Texts for references (PART C)

- Annex 27. Explanatory note on 'five domains' model prepared by the WOA animal welfare Collaborating Centres

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## 1. Welcome

### 1.1. WOAH Director General and Deputy Director General-International Standards and Science

Dr Monique Eloit, WOAH Director General and Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAH Deputy Director General, International Standards and Science (DDG ISS), met with the Aquatic Animals Commission, the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission on 14 February 2024, to welcome all Commission members and thank them for their ongoing contributions to the work of WOAH. Dr Eloit thanked the Commissions members for their hard work throughout this term and the tremendous amount of work achieved. She acknowledged that this was the last meeting of the current term for each of the Specialist Commissions and wished them all well, whether standing for re-election or stepping down.

Dr Eloit provided updates on the selection process for election to any of the four Specialist Commissions and on the current review of the WOAH's Basic Texts that will be presented to the World Assembly at the 91st General Session in May 2024. Dr Eloit highlighted there will be a global focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) throughout 2024, including a UN General Assembly high-level meeting in September 2024 to highlight the global public health threat of AMR, and that WOAH will continue to participate actively in these fora and discussions on AMR.

Dr Arroyo recognised the work of each of the three Commissions present throughout this term, with an overview of key accomplishments, and commended them on their commitment to this work.

Dr Arroyo provided a brief update on a number of horizontal topics, including the WOAH Standards Online Navigation Tool project, the decision to freeze the Diagnostic Kit Register activities, General Session kiosk topics, work on the coordination of the WOAH standard-setting process, and the publication of comments.

Dr Arroyo thanked the Commission Presidents for agreeing to deliver pre-General Session webinars again this year and emphasized that they are an important contribution to the engagement of Members and partners in the standard-setting process. Dr Arroyo noted that the pre-General Session webinars will be held on 16 April, 17 April and 18 April from 12:00 – 14:00 (CEST) for the Biological Standards Commission, the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission, respectively. The webinars will have simultaneous interpretation into French and Spanish and will be recorded and uploaded onto the WOAH website.

Commission members thanked Dr Eloit and Dr Arroyo for their appreciation and these updates, and for their leadership and support throughout the current term. They also acknowledged the important work of the Secretariats in support of their work.

## 2. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was discussed and adopted, taking into consideration the priorities of the work programme and time availability. The agenda and the list of participants are presented in [Annexes 1 and 2](#), respectively.

## 3. Cooperation with Other Specialist Commissions

### 3.1. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

The Secretariat updated the Code Commission on relevant activities of the Scientific Commission and the Code Commission provided the responses noted below, as relevant.

The Code Commission wished to thank the Scientific Commission for its collaborative work in providing opinions to support the consideration of relevant comments and questions received and for the input provided on different work items. The Code Commission reminded Members that its recognition of the

Scientific Commission's contributions is noted under the relevant agenda items of this report and encouraged Members to read this report together with the report of the Scientific Commission.

#### Assessments of pathogenic agents against the listing criteria in Chapter 1.2. 'Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the WOAHA list'

The Code Commission considered the conclusions of the Scientific Commission provided in its September 2023 report on the assessment of equine encephalitis and infection with *Theileria orientalis* (Ikeda and Chitose) and agreed that they meet the listing criteria. The Commission noted that the assessment reports did not provide sufficient information on the role of the different animal hosts and their significance in the epidemiology of the disease. The Code Commission highlighted that, as previously agreed between the two Commissions, this information was essential for any further step after the assessment, such as proposing potential amendments to Chapter 1.3., or the development or revision of a disease-specific chapter, notably to be used for case definitions.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to review the [Standard operating procedure for listing decisions for pathogenic agents of terrestrial animals](#) and associated guidelines to ensure they include the necessary steps for the systematic consideration of the role of animal hosts in the epidemiology of the disease, to identify those which should be included in the case definition, or be considered for the development of status conditions, trade recommendations or surveillance strategies.

#### Assessments to determine whether diseases should be considered as 'emerging diseases'

The Code Commission noted the conclusion of the Scientific Commission provided in its September 2023 report on the annual reassessment of infection with SARS-CoV-2 as an emerging disease, based on the [Standard operating procedure for determining whether a disease should be considered as emerging](#), which considered that SARS-CoV-2 should not be assessed for listing but should continue to be considered an emerging disease. The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission would discuss this point again at its meeting in September 2024.

#### Meeting of the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission

The Bureaus (i.e. the President and two Vice-Presidents) of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission held a meeting chaired by Dr Arroyo (WOAH DDG ISS). The purpose of the meeting was to provide joint updates on relevant standing items, to agree on how to address any points that may impact the potential adoption of some standards, and to agree on the plans to undertake work of common interest.

At the meeting, the Bureaus were updated on ongoing works based on the SOP for listing decisions for pathogenic agents and the SOP for determining whether a disease should be considered as emerging. The Bureaus also agreed to submit Nairobi sheep disease virus to an assessment against the criteria for listing and agreed on the next tranche of case definitions to be developed to support notification of terrestrial animal listed diseases.

The Bureaus discussed specific points of chapters that are proposed for adoption in 2024:

- Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' and Chapter 1.11. (see Item 5.7. of this report);
- Chapters 11.5. 'Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides subsp. Mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)' and 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus': acknowledging the impact of the adoption of the revised chapters would entail on the procedure on annual reconfirmation for maintenance of officially recognised status or African horse sickness (AHS) of Members for those two diseases, and the related administrative work for both Members and WOAHA, the Bureaus agreed that it would be beneficial that the revised Chapter 11.5. and the revised Chapter 12.1. are not presented for adoption at the upcoming General Session, and rather re-examined in September after review of possible consequences on the procedure by the Secretariat. (See items 4.2.11. and 4.2.13. of this report).



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The Bureaus also discussed plans for the following works which require coordination between the Commissions:

- Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation', and possible development of a new Chapter 4.Y. 'Implementation of zoning' (see Item 4.2.5. of this report);
- Chapter 14.8. 'Scrapie' (see Item 4.2.14. of this report);
- Revision of *Terrestrial Code* chapters on equine encephalitides (see Item 4.2.10. of this report);
- Framework for *Terrestrial Code* standards (see Item 7.3. of this report);
- Animal hosts to be targeted by WOAH Standards for a listed disease and the associated implications on notification obligations (see Item 4.2.1. of this report).

### 3.2. Biological Standards Commission

The Secretariat updated the Code Commission on relevant activities of the Biological Standards Commission, including the list of chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* that will be updated during the 2024/2025 review cycle.

Given that the revision of some of these chapters could potentially impact the corresponding chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Code Commission committed to working closely with the Biological Standards Commission to ensure that relevant amendments in the corresponding chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual* are properly coordinated.

At its February 2024 meeting, the Code Commission considered the recommendations from the Biological Standards Commission on the possible impact of updates in the following *Manual* chapters to be proposed for adoption in 2024:

- Chapter 3.4.1. 'Bovine anaplasmosis'
- Chapter 3.4.7. 'Bovine viral diarrhoea'
- Chapter 3.1.19. 'Rift Valley fever (infection with Rift Valley fever virus)'
- Chapter 3.6.9. 'Equine rhinopneumonitis (infection with equid herpesvirus-1 and -4)'
- Chapter 3.8.12. 'Sheep pox and goat pox'
- Chapter 3.9.1. 'African swine fever (infection with African swine fever virus)'

The Code Commission did not agree with the recommendation to add precision to testing methods and treatments in *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 11.1. 'Bovine anaplasmosis', explaining that these provisions were already in the *Manual*, which is referred to at the beginning of the chapter.

The Commission agreed to update the taxonomy of the pathogenic agents in the new Chapter 11.X. 'Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea)' currently being circulated (see item 4.2.12. of this report).

The Code Commission noted the recommendations on Chapter 12.8. 'Infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (Equine rhinopneumonitis)' of the *Terrestrial Code*, and its taxonomy.

The Code Commission also noted recommendations on Chapter 15.1. 'Infection with African swine fever virus', related to the inclusion of a new section on the quality of vaccines in *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.9.1., which could be taken into consideration in future work, after the revised *Manual* chapter has been adopted.

The Code Commission reminded Members that the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters were regularly updated to reflect scientific and technical developments and emphasised the importance of this collaborative mechanism which provides an opportunity for early identification of needs to update the *Terrestrial Code* chapters and ensure consistency between the two sets of standards.

The Code Commission wished to thank the Biological Standards Commission for providing inputs to support the decisions of the Code Commission on relevant comments. The Code Commission reminded Members that its consideration of the Biological Standards Commission's responses to specific chapters are noted under the relevant agenda item of this report and encouraged Members to read the **Biological Standards Commission's report** for the details.

### **3.3. Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission**

The Secretariat updated the Code Commission on progress made by the Aquatic Animals Commission on the items that had been identified as of common interest at a meeting of the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission held in September 2023.

The Code Commission was informed that the Aquatic Animals Commission had reviewed the usage of the Glossary definitions '*Competent Authority*', '*Veterinary Authority*', and '*Aquatic Animal Health Services*' throughout the *Aquatic Code* and that the amendments will be proposed for adoption in May 2024.

The Commission was also informed that the Aquatic Animals Commission had sent questionnaires to Members to provide their experiences, proposals and opinions with regard to the implementation of compartmentalisation. The Code Commission considered a discussion paper that collated and summarised Member comments for the revision in the *Aquatic Code* of Chapter 4.3. 'Application of compartmentalisation' and gave some complementary considerations regarding existing standards in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission noted that the Aquatic Animals Commission had considered Member comments on the draft new *Aquatic Code* Chapter 4.X. 'Emergency disease preparedness' and Chapter 4.Y. 'Outbreak management' and committed to continue liaising with the Aquatic Animals Commission when working on a new chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* on emergency management (see item 4.2.3.).

The Code Commission acknowledged ongoing fruitful collaboration with the Aquatic Animals Commission.

## **4. Work Programme and priorities**

### **4.1. Comments received on the Code Commission Work Programme**

Comments were received from Australia, New Caledonia, Switzerland, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the WRO.

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support to the Code Commission work programme. Comments to propose new work are addressed in item 4.4 of this report; comments on work items discussed in this meeting are addressed in the corresponding items.

The Commission reminded Members that the work programme outlines the current and planned work to be undertaken. The Commission commended the increased interest shown by Members for the work programme, and strongly encouraged Members to continue to provide feedback as to whether they agree with the topics being proposed, as well as their level of prioritisation.

### **4.2. Ongoing priority topics (other than texts circulated for comments)**

The Code Commission discussed the progress of several ongoing priority topics for which no new or revised text is circulated in this report.

#### **4.2.1. Animal hosts to be targeted by WOAHS Standards for a listed disease**

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## Background

At its September 2023 meeting, following the work to develop the Framework for *Terrestrial Code* Standards, the Code Commission discussed the need to better define which animal hosts should be included in a disease-specific chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*, taking into account their epidemiological significance in relation to the respective disease, and how this would be addressed in the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The Code Commission considered how disease-specific chapters address animal hosts for different purposes: 'animals susceptible to the disease'; 'animals referred to in the definition of the disease'; 'animals targeted for defining animal health status(es)'; 'animals targeted for surveillance' and 'animals for which trade recommendations are provided' and noted that there were differences among chapters, and agreed to develop a clear and consistent approach to define how animal hosts for a listed disease are included in the *Code* and *Manual*, clarifying its purpose and implications in collaboration with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

## Discussion

The Commission agreed to the establishment of a dedicated task force between the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission to develop a consistent approach on the assessment of animal hosts of listed diseases to determine whether and how they should be referred to in the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*, and the consequences for Members' notification obligations and status recognition and for trade and surveillance requirements.

### **4.2.2. Wildlife health**

## Background

At its September 2021 meeting, the Code Commission discussed a proposal from the WOAHP Working Group on Wildlife (WGW) to develop a new chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* on surveillance of diseases of wildlife. The Commission discussed this proposal and provided feedback and requested the WGW to consider its comments before progressing with this work. In February 2022, the Code Commission was informed that the WGW had progressed other work related to this request. The Commission agreed to continue discussing the possible inclusion of new items related to wildlife health management in its work programme at its next meeting.

In September 2022, considering the progress being made under the WOAHP Wildlife Health Framework, the Commission agreed to include a new item on its work programme to consider how the *Terrestrial Code* addresses wildlife health, and agreed to continue discussions with the WGW on relevant work.

In February 2023, the Commission and the Chair of the Working Group agreed to foster a closer collaboration to promote early identification of potential cooperative work in standards development for the *Terrestrial Code* and to include possible contributions from the WGW to relevant items in the Code Commission's work programme.

Since September 2023, the WGW has been providing comments on relevant chapters being circulated, and an effective collaboration was being driven by the Secretariat to promote the contribution of the WGW at early stages of the relevant work items.

## Discussion

The Secretariat updated the Commission on the progress of the ongoing exchanges with the WGW and commended the interest and engagement of the Group to actively contribute to the Code Commission's work to review and develop the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission acknowledged that the WGW has made valuable comments to different items at this meeting, which are addressed specifically in each report item. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to continue working collaboratively towards improving how the *Terrestrial Code* addresses wildlife health.

#### **4.2.3. Emergency management**

##### Background

At the 89<sup>th</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of WOAAH Delegates, Resolution No.28 was adopted following the presentation of the Technical Item on emergency management, which recommended that WOAAH ensures its International Standards further integrate emergency management.

In April 2023, WOAAH hosted a Global Conference on Emergency Management which rallied support through a diverse multi-sectoral audience to further support efforts to strengthen capacities of Veterinary Services in emergency management.

As part of the work to progress on the outputs of the conference and its previous work to further integrate emergency management into its work programme, in September 2023 the Code Commission reviewed and supported a proposal from the Secretariat to draft standards on emergency management. The Commission requested the Secretariat to develop a plan to undertake this work, including Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group, if relevant, and report back at its next meeting.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission discussed the proposed approach and draft Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group prepared by the Secretariat to develop standards on emergency management for the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission agreed that this would support the evolving needs of Veterinary Services and address gaps in the existing standards, an important task considering the increasingly complex risk landscape. The Commission agreed that the new standards would be applicable to all hazards and types of emergencies and could have horizontal impact across the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission agreed to the draft Terms of Reference and provided the following recommendations regarding the future work of the *ad hoc* Group. First, to facilitate the work of the proposed *ad hoc* Group, the Secretariat should conduct an initial scoping of the *Terrestrial Code* and identify relevant texts dealing with emergency management and provide this review to the *ad hoc* Group. Second, the Commission recommended that the content should be focused on principles of emergency management, cover preparedness and not be prescriptive as the details would be covered by existing separate guidelines. Third, it was also recommended that the Terms of Reference allow for multiple options to integrate emergency management in the *Code*, such as a new chapter, a revision of existing chapters or a combination of both.

The Commission proposed that the *ad hoc* Group include a member of the Scientific Commission, and considered that since the Aquatic Animals Commission would identify important parallels in the *Aquatic Code*, this work should be initiated in close coordination between both commissions from its early stages.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back on progress at its next meeting.

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#### **4.2.4. Revision of Chapter 1.6. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAHA**

##### Background

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission considered a request from a Member to amend Chapter 5.8. 'International transfer and laboratory containment of animal pathogenic agents', and to improve clarity as to whether Members can hold pathogenic agents in laboratories without affecting their animal health status. The Code Commission noted that in addition to Chapter 5.8., references relevant to recommendations for laboratories were also included in Chapter 3.2., Chapter 3.4, and Chapters 1.7. to 1.12. in the *Terrestrial Code* and in Chapters 1.1.3. and 1.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Code Commission agreed that this specific request should be addressed in the context of official status recognition by amending Chapter 1.6.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to develop a new Article 1.6.4. to clarify that the presence of a pathogenic agent in an approved laboratory with an appropriate level of containment and biosecurity in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual* (as it can be the case, e.g., for vaccine or antigen banks, or for reference laboratories) will not impact the animal health status of a country or zone. The Commission also agreed to cover in the same article other similar provisions currently included in other horizontal chapters and requested the opinion of the Scientific Commission on this proposal.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the feedback from the Scientific Commission at its September 2023 meeting and agreed to its opinion that the Glossary definition for 'laboratories' was limited to diagnostic purposes and that it was relevant to also consider other animal facilities.

The Commission reviewed the draft new text of Article 1.6.4. and agreed to include in its work programme the revision of the Glossary definition for 'laboratory', in consultation with the Biological Standards Commission, to also consider approved facilities used for other purposes than diagnostic, such as research on pathogenic agents, animal experiments or challenging animals by exposure to pathogenic agents to produce biological products.

The Commission noted that this chapter was closely related with the ongoing work for the revision of some chapters in Section 5 of the *Terrestrial Code* and of the draft Chapter on Biosecurity and requested the opinion of both *ad hoc* Groups on this proposal before progressing work.

#### **4.2.5. Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation**

##### Background

At its September 2021 meeting, the Code Commission discussed specific issues raised in the context of the 88th General Session on several texts that were adopted at that General Session. Among these topics, the Commission agreed to a comment to consider amending Article 4.4.7. of Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation' to clarify whether a time limit should be defined for a containment zone. The Code Commission recalled that a similar proposal had been made by the Scientific Commission and discussed at the Code Commission's February 2021 meeting. The Code Commission discussed possible ways to address this request and shared a proposed amended text with the Scientific Commission for its consideration.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission noted the opinion of the Scientific Commission regarding how the proposed amendment could be applied to diseases for which WOAHA grants an official animal health status.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the proposed revised Article 4.4.7. and some relevant comments received on disease-specific chapters that had been circulated for comment that highlighted differences in Members understanding of critical aspects of the implementation of zoning. The Commission noted that a thematic study was being undertaken by the WOAHA Observatory on this topic that could provide valuable information on the current state of implementation of related WOAHA Standards and challenges faced by Members, and agreed not to proceed with its review of the revised Article 4.4.7., but rather to expand the scope of this work item to clarify critical concepts in Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation' and the development of a new chapter on the implementation of zoning. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a background paper to be considered in collaboration with the Scientific Commission at February 2024 meetings.

#### Discussion

The Commission reviewed a background paper prepared by the Secretariat, together with the outcomes of the [Observatory Thematic Study on Zoning](#) (See item 7.8. of this report) and discussed at length the different considerations for this work. The Commission agreed to request that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to develop a new Chapter 4.X. 'Implementation of zoning' for the *Terrestrial Code* and to also review relevant points in Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation' to ensure consistency and complementarity between the two chapters.

The Commission highlighted the critical points that should be taken into consideration for the upcoming work. The Commission noted that the new Chapter 4.X. should address the basic definitions of 'zoning' as a fundamental animal health management tool, and separately describe the different objectives and contexts of use. Furthermore, the chapter should clarify the principles for the definition of the animal health status of established zones and include information relevant to Chapter 1.6. with regards to the procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status. The new chapter should also define the interrelation between implementation of zoning and the recognition of zoning for international trade purposes. The Commission also requested that this work also include a review of the relevant Glossary definitions.

The Code Commission requested the Secretariat to draft the Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group to undertake this work for consideration by the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission at their September 2024 meetings.

#### **4.2.6. Revision of Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Complete revision)**

##### Background

At its September 2019 meeting, the Code Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to revise Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres' and Chapter 4.7. 'Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen', as well as provisions in relevant disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

In September 2023, the Commission highlighted that the current Chapter 4.7. should be revised, aiming for a full new text providing recommendations for all species covered in the new Chapter 4.6. (i.e. bovids, equids, small ruminants, suids and cervids) and should only address WOAHA listed diseases. The Commission noted that, after having a draft text, the relevant provisions in the disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code* will also have to be reviewed for consistency.

The Code Commission requested the Secretariat to convene the *ad hoc* Group to proceed with the revision of Chapter 4.7., as complementary to the revised Chapter 4.6.

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## Discussion

The Secretariat updated the Code Commission on the progress of the comprehensive revision of Chapter 4.7.

The Secretariat informed that the work of the *ad hoc* Group had already started, and an electronic consultation was ongoing to seek advice of additional experts to cover the broad range of animal species to be addressed by the revised Chapter.

The Code Commission requested the Secretariat to report back on progress at its September 2024 meeting.

### **4.2.7. New chapter on biosecurity (Chapter 4.X.) and associated Glossary definitions**

Comments on new Chapter 4.X. were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland, the USA, the AU-IBAR, the EU, the IEC and the WGW.

Comments on the revised associated Glossary definitions were received from Argentina, China (People's Republic of), New Caledonia, Switzerland, the USA, the African Union and the EU.

## Background

In September 2017, the Code Commission discussed the importance of biosecurity for disease prevention and control and, due to its relevance in both horizontal and disease-specific chapters, agreed to develop a new chapter on biosecurity for the *Terrestrial Code* and added this to its work programme.

In September 2022, the Code Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to initially develop a chapter structure, to describe the content of each article and to revise the associated Glossary definitions for the consideration of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission.

In February 2023, after considering the *ad hoc* Group's work and feedback from the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission agreed that the proposed structure of the new Chapter 4.X., and the overall content were appropriate and requested that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to draft a new chapter and to revise current Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan', and to propose a new definition for 'swill'.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the [ad hoc Group's report](#) and reviewed the draft new Chapter 4.X. the proposed revised Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan', and a new definition for 'swill', together with input from the Scientific Commission. The Code Commission circulated the draft new Chapter 4.X. and the revised Glossary definitions and the new definition for comments.

The topic was also discussed between the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission to seek consistency between the respective Codes.

## Discussion

The Code Commission noted that this is the first time the proposed new chapter and the associated Glossary definitions have been circulated for comments and acknowledged the numerous comments received. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group on Biosecurity be reconvened to undertake a thorough revision of the text in response to the comments received.

The Commission considered all the comments and provided guidance on key areas for the *ad hoc* Group as noted below.

**a) Existing Glossary definitions ‘biosecurity’ and ‘biosecurity plan’ and proposal of a new definition ‘swill’**

**‘Biosecurity’**

The Code Commission did not agree to a comment to expressly add ‘vectors’ to the definition, noting that vectors are already covered by the definition because they are one means by which pathogenic agents are spread.

The Code Commission did not agree with a request to use the term ‘hazards’ instead of ‘pathogenic agents.’ The term ‘hazard’ is defined, but it is not appropriate as a replacement because it also includes chemical and physical agents which are not in the scope of the term ‘biosecurity’. The Commission agreed to add to its work programme the consideration for the development of a definition for ‘pathogenic agent’.

**‘Swill’**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to change the definition to ‘a mixture of meals that people leave and discard after a meal, including table leftovers, kitchen processing leftovers and kitchen waste.’ The Commission explained that the proposed text does not address food waste from other pathways such as food processing. In addition, it does not address that food waste has to contain animal products intended for feeding, which is precisely the risk factor associated to swill.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment that ‘swill’ must be treated per definition, because the disease risk occurs when swill is not properly treated, and the *Terrestrial Code* provides recommendations for the treatment of swill.

**b) Draft new Chapter 4.X. Biosecurity**

The Code Commission agreed with several comments that the proposed chapter is too detailed in various articles, which makes it ineffective for use with multiple scenarios and species. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group focus on biosecurity principles applicable in all situations, as a basis for potential detailed guidance documents that address more specific scenarios.

The Code Commission agreed with comments that the roles of the Competent Authorities, Veterinary Authority, operators, veterinarians and other stakeholders need to be clarified in the chapter. The Commission stated that, in general terms, Veterinary Authority and Competent Authorities are responsible for legal frameworks and guidance for implementation of biosecurity and for providing relevant training to stakeholders. Operators are responsible to develop and implement biosecurity plans adapted to their production and context and consistent with the framework or guidance provided by the Veterinary Authority and Competent Authorities.

The Code Commission agreed with several comments on the need for consistent use of terminology around ‘cleaning,’ ‘cleansing,’ ‘disinfection’ and ‘decontamination.’ The Commission reminded Members that the Glossary definition for ‘disinfection’ includes ‘cleansing’, but questioned if this was still appropriate. The Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group to agree on appropriate terminology and ensure that it is used consistently throughout the chapter. The Commission also agreed to include in its work programme the revision of the Glossary definition for ‘disinfection’ and requested the *ad hoc* Group to also undertake this work.

The Code Commission did not agree with comments to include specific references to animal welfare, as this was out of the scope of this chapter.



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The Code Commission discussed comments about the scope of the chapter, whether wildlife should be included and in what context. The Commission considered that many of the biosecurity measures recommended in the chapter were difficult to apply to wildlife, but requested the *ad hoc* Group to take this into consideration in the structure of the chapter to possibly include considerations on wildlife separately or as a subset of other recommendations, and how the One Health approach in general could be considered in the chapter.

The Code Commission also agreed with comments that the biosecurity recommendations in the chapter seemed more appropriate for large scale operations and less applicable to smaller operations and requested the *ad hoc* Group to take this into consideration when determining the best way to structure the chapter and the level of detail.

The Commission requested that the Secretariat provide an update on progress of this work at its next meeting.

#### **4.2.8. Revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. and associated Glossary definitions**

##### Background

At its September 2017 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to include a review of Section 5. 'Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification', on its work programme to better support Members in managing the risks of introduction of diseases through the importation of commodities. At its September 2021 meeting, the Commission reviewed the current chapters of Section 5 and agreed that the revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. should be given priority.

At its February 2022 meeting, the Code Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to progress this work and discussed several points that it considered important to include in the draft Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Group and encouraged Members to submit comments on these points.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission considered comments received and finalised the draft Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Group.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the *ad hoc* Group report and agreed with the *ad hoc* Group's proposal to replace the four current chapters (Chapters 5.4., 5.5., 5.6. and 5.7.) with three new chapters that will provide recommendations on measures and procedures that are applicable during 'exportation (from the origin to the point of exit of the exporting country)', 'transit' and 'importation (from arrival to the point of entry until clearance)', respectively. The Commission also agreed with the proposal to develop a fourth chapter to address key requirements (e.g., border control/inspection posts, quarantine facilities). In its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the *ad hoc* Group's report and the draft of the new Chapter 5.4. 'Measures and procedures applicable in the exportation of commodities', Chapter 5.6. 'Measures and procedures applicable in the importation of commodities' and associated Glossary definitions. The Code Commission circulated the new Chapters 5.4. and 5.6. and revised and new Glossary definitions for comments and requested that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to complete drafting the remaining texts.

##### Discussion

The Commission considered the comments received on the revised Chapters 5.4. and 5.6., as well as on several associated Glossary definitions that were circulated in its September 2023 meeting report.

The Code Commission noted that this was the first time the proposed new chapter and the associated Glossary definitions had been circulated for comments and acknowledged the

numerous comments received. The Commission also reviewed [the report of the November 2023 meeting of the \*ad hoc\* Group on Revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. of the \*Terrestrial Code\*](#), together with the proposed draft revised Chapters 5.5. and 5.7. prepared by the *ad hoc* Group.

The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to undertake further revision of the texts in response to the comments received. The Commission considered all the comments and provided guidance on key areas for the *ad hoc* Group as noted below.

#### **a) Glossary definitions**

Comments were received from Argentina, China (People's Republic of), New Caledonia, Switzerland and the EU.

##### Discussion

##### **'Border inspection post'**

The Code Commission considered a comment to add 'official' to clarify the veterinary inspection described in this definition, and it agreed to request the *ad hoc* Group to clarify the usage of relevant terms not only in this definition but also in draft revised chapters on trade (Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.).

##### **'Point of exit'**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed new Glossary definition.

##### **'Quarantine station'**

The Code Commission reviewed the comments and proposed some amendments. The Commission agreed to forward the amended text to the *ad hoc* Group for its consideration.

##### **'Container'**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the revised Glossary definition.

##### **'Vessel/vehicle'**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the revised Glossary definition.

For the terms 'container' and 'vessel/vehicle', the Commission requested the Secretariat to develop the revised definitions in conjunction with other chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* currently under revision, such as chapters on animal welfare during transport (see item 4.2.9 of this report).

The Commission agreed that the revision of these Glossary definitions would proceed concurrently with the work on the revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. The Commission requested the Secretariat to report the results of the *ad hoc* Group at its September 2024 meeting.

#### **b) Revised Chapter 5.4. Measures and procedures applicable in the exportation of commodities and Revised Chapter 5.6. Measures and procedures applicable in the importation of commodities**

Comments on Chapter 5.4. were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Japan, Norway, Switzerland, AU-IBAR and the EU.

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Comments on Chapter 5.6. were received from Argentina, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Caledonia, Norway, Switzerland, AU-IBAR, and the EU.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission agreed with comments that several terms used throughout the draft Chapters 5.4. to 5.7., such as 'business operators', 'importers', 'exporters', 'official control' and 'status of commodities', should be clarified.

The Code Commission agreed with comments that the responsibilities of the *Veterinary Authority*, the *Competent Authorities* and *Veterinary Services* should be clarified throughout the draft Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.

#### **c) *Ad hoc* Group report and draft revised Chapters 5.5. and 5.7.**

The Code Commission reviewed the new draft Chapter 5.5. 'Measures and Procedures Applicable in the Transit of Commodities', the new draft Chapter 5.7 'Border Inspection Posts and Quarantine Centres', and new draft Glossary definitions for 'point of entry', 'point of exit', and 'transit country'. The Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group proposal that these definitions will help improving consistency in usage and understanding of Chapter 5.5 as it relates to other trade chapters under revision.

The Code Commission noted that some of the recommendations that were made for Chapters 5.4 and 5.6 will also be applicable to Chapter 5.5. and 5.7 and should be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group at the same time. The Code Commission reviewed the draft texts and provided additional guidance for the *ad hoc* Group to consider when reviewing the two chapters.

The Code Commission also discussed the possibility to develop an introductory chapter to Section 5, similar to what is done for other Sections of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission agreed that this could provide background and clarity on the objective and content of the different chapters in the Section. The Code Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group to consider whether this would be a useful feature that could address some of the redundancies in Chapters 5.4 to 5.7.

#### **4.2.9. Revision of chapters on the welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air (Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.)**

##### Background

During the first WOAHA Animal Welfare Global Forum 'Animal Transport: A Shared Responsibility' held in April 2019, participants emphasised the importance of revising the *Terrestrial Code* chapters on the welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air (Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.), taking into account the latest information in animal welfare science, notably in the use of animal-based measures.

In February 2021, the Code Commission considered the Forum recommendations and agreed to include a review of these chapters in its work programme.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to commence work on Chapters 7.2. and 7.3.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the history of Chapter 7.4. 'Transport of animals by air' and the link to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal Regulations (LAR). The Commission noted that, at the 49th General Session in 1981,

WOAH "...officially approved the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) as the guideline for the carriage of live animals by air" and that this decision was validated in Resolution No.1 of the 50th General Session in 1982. The Code Commission requested that the Secretariat discuss with the *ad hoc* Group options for including general animal welfare recommendations referring to air transport in a generic chapter on animal transport or within Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. and keep the specific aspects, such as recommendations on stocking density, in the IATA LAR guideline. The Commission noted the importance of ensuring that the relevant content of the IATA LAR guideline would be publicly available for use by Veterinary Authorities and relevant stakeholders and that there are mechanisms for Members to propose changes to the text of LAR guideline, and recommended Members to apply the provisions of such IATA LAR guideline. The Commission requested that the Secretariat continue to engage with IATA to explore these aspects and report back to its February 2024 meeting.

#### **a) Revision of Chapters 7.2. Transport of animals by sea and Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land**

##### Discussion

The Secretariat updated the Commission on the outcomes of the first meeting of the *ad hoc* Group for the revision of Chapter 7.2. 'Transport of animals by land' and Chapter 7.3. 'Transport of animals by sea', held from 28-30 November 2023 at WOAHA Headquarters.

The Code Commission considered the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to merge Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. and agreed that due to the significant duplication of the content in both chapters, merging the two chapters with the new title of "Transport of animals by land and water" would be beneficial for the end user.

The Code Commission agreed with the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to follow a similar structure of the recently revised Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter', including 'animal-based measures' to assess the welfare of animals during the whole transport operation.

The Code Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to continue work of the new revised Chapter 7.X. 'Transport of animals by land and water' as well as any relevant Glossary definitions. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group also discuss whether the chapter could include recommendations on transport of animals by air and thus become a general chapter on transport of animals.

The Commission requested that the Secretariat provide an update on progress of the *ad hoc* Group's work at its September 2024 meeting,

#### **b) Revision of Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air**

##### Discussion

The Secretariat updated the Commission on the outcomes of discussions with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animal and Perishable Board (LAPB) regarding options that could be considered for the revision of Chapter 7.4. 'Transport of animals by air'. The Secretariat reminded the Commission that currently some of the recommendations in Chapter 7.4 are a duplication of the IATA Live Animal Regulation (LAR) and vice versa and it is difficult to ensure that Chapter 7.4 and the IATA LARs are always aligned.

The Code Commission reiterated the importance of ensuring that the relevant content of the IATA LAR be publicly available for use by Veterinary Authorities and relevant stakeholders and that there are mechanisms for Members to propose changes to the text of the LAR. The

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Commission requested the Secretariat to analyse some options to include relevant information regarding the transport of animals by air, which is not currently in the LAR in the new Chapter 7.X. 'Transport of animals by land and water' and requested that the *ad hoc* Group review these options.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to provide an update on progress at its September 2024 meeting.

#### **4.2.10. Revision of chapters on equine encephalitides (Chapter 8.10. Japanese encephalitis, 12.4. Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) and 12.11. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)**

##### Background

In September 2022, the Code Commission agreed to include the revision of Chapter 8.10. 'Japanese encephalitis' in its work programme following requests from Members. The Commission also noted that the revisions of Chapter 12.4. 'Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)' and Chapter 12.11. 'Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis' had been included in its work programme in February 2020, but that work had not been yet initiated.

Considering the epidemiological similarities across these three diseases, the Commission agreed to undertake the revision of these three disease-specific chapters together, to ensure a consistent logic is applied to all three chapters. The Commission also agreed that Chapter 8.21. 'West Nile fever' should also be taken into consideration.

While acknowledging that a major revision of these chapters will be needed, before discussing revised texts of the chapters, the Code Commission requested a scientific assessment of the animal hosts, their epidemiological role and their relevance for surveillance and disease prevention and control be undertaken in collaboration with the Scientific Commission together with an assessment of these diseases against the criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the WOAHP list of notifiable terrestrial animal diseases in accordance with Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission was informed by the Secretariat that the requested assessments for Japanese encephalitis, equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western), and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis had been undertaken by subject-matter experts.

The Commission acknowledged the progress of this work and agreed with the proposed next steps and reminded that Chapter 8.21. 'West Nile fever' should also be taken into consideration for the future work to ensure a consistent approach for these diseases.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the conclusions of [the Scientific Commission provided in its September 2023 report](#) on the assessment of Japanese encephalitis (JE), Eastern (EEE) and Western equine encephalomyelitis (WEE), and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, and agreed that they meet the listing criteria. The Commission noted that the assessment reports did not provide sufficient information on the role of the different animal hosts and their significance in the epidemiology of the disease, as previously agreed between the two Commissions. The Commission highlighted that it considered this information essential to review the corresponding chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and requested that these considerations be explicitly discussed by the *ad hoc* Group.

The Code Commission agreed to revise *Terrestrial Code* chapters on equine encephalitides and considered the draft Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group.

The Code Commission revised the Terms of Reference to clarify that the *ad hoc* Group should consider all chapters that address the five encephalitides [i.e., EEE, WEE, JE, West Nile fever and VEE]; assess whether Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis should be covered in separate chapters; define the animal hosts to be targeted for each disease, and whether the names of diseases containing specific country names should be re-considered, taking into account the relevant WHO guidelines.

The Code Commission requested the Secretariat to report back at its September 2024 meeting.

#### **4.2.11. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapter 11.5.)**

Comments were received from China (People's Republic of), New Caledonia, Switzerland, the EU and the WRO.

##### Background

At its September 2018 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to review Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *Mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)' (CBPP) to harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status, and endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes with other disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission considered the amendments proposed by the Secretariat for harmonisation, as well as other changes that had been proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on CBPP in October 2015 and considered by the Scientific Commission at its February 2016 meeting. The Code Commission reviewed all proposals and introduced additional amendments for clarity and consistency with other chapters and circulated the revised chapter for comments.

The revised Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)' has been circulated three times for comments.

##### Discussion

##### **General Comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Code Commission addressed all comments received and requested that the Secretariat forward some specific comments to the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission for their advice.

Acknowledging the agreement between the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission regarding the impact that the potential adoption of the revised Chapters 11.5. and 12.1. would entail on the procedure on annual reconfirmation for maintenance of officially recognised status of CBPP or AHS of Members and the related administrative work for both Members and WOA, the Code Commission agreed not to propose the chapter for adoption at the 91st General Session and rather re-examine in September after review of possible consequences on the procedure by the Secretariat.

The Commission agreed to address this chapter with the inputs from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commissions, at its September 2024 meeting.

#### **4.2.12. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea) (New Chapter 11.X.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Switzerland, the UK the USA and the EU.

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## Background

In September 2022 the Code Commission agreed to add the development of a new Chapter 11.X. 'Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea)' to its work programme and drafted a new chapter, consisting of one single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, based on a case definition endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

At the September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission also agreed to amend the disease name in Article 1.3.2. to 'Infection with bovine pestiviruses (Bovine viral diarrhoea)' and to circulate the proposed amendment for comments.

The proposed new Chapter 11.X. 'Infection with bovine pestivirus (Bovine viral diarrhoea)', was circulated three times, the last time in the September 2023 meeting report.

## Discussion

### **Article 11.X.1.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission acknowledged comments proposing amendments to the taxonomy of pestivirus, due to a change at the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV), that had revised the species names for bovine pestiviruses by adopting the binomial species names in November 2022. The Commission noted the agreement of the Biological Standards Commission to this proposal, which will also be proposed for the corresponding *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter that is currently being revised.

In point 1, the Code Commission did not agree with comments to limit the case definition and subsequent notification to persistently infected animals, based on the justification already provided in the Code Commission reports from the February and September 2023 meetings. The Commission did not agree either with a comment to add a new point 3 referring to definition of occurrence based on serological positivity, based on the rationale provided in the February 2023 and September 2023 meetings reports. Referring to these two comments, the Commission reminded Members that the definition of occurrence is set for the mandatory notification to WOA of confirmed cases, and they are not intended for epidemiological investigations of suspect cases, for which Members are not precluded from using other diagnostic methods, or for disease control strategies, for the purpose of which different definitions may be used by Members.

Noting that the amendments being proposed to the definition of the pathogenic agents would depend on the adoption of the proposed revised *Terrestrial Manual* Chapters at the upcoming General Session, the Commission agreed not to propose this chapter for adoption at the 91st General Session, but to address this item again at its September 2024 meeting.

### **4.2.13. Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1.)**

Comments were received from Australia, China (People's Republic of), South Africa, Switzerland, the EU and the WRO.

## Background

At its February 2021 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to review Chapter 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus', to harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status, and endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes with other disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission reviewed the amendments proposed by the Secretariat for harmonisation, as well as other changes that had been proposed by the *ad hoc* Group in December 2016 and considered by the Scientific Commission in February 2021, and amended the draft chapter, as relevant, and circulated the revised text for comments.

The revised Chapter 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus' was circulated three times for comment.

## Discussion

### **General Comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Code Commission addressed all comments received and requested that the Secretariat forward some specific comments to the Scientific Commission for its advice.

Acknowledging the agreement between the Bureaus of the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission regarding the impact that the potential adoption of the revised Chapters 11.5. and 12.1. would entail on the procedure for annual reconfirmation for maintenance of officially recognised AHS or CBPP status of Members and the related administrative work for both Member and WOA, the Code Commission agreed not to propose the chapter for adoption at the 91st General Session and rather re-examine in September after review of possible consequences on the procedure by the Secretariat.

The Commission agreed to address this chapter with the inputs from the Scientific Commission, at its September 2024 meeting.

#### **4.2.14. Revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie and use of terms 'greaves'**

Comments were received from Canada, China (People's Republic of), Switzerland, the UK, the EU and the WRO.

### Background

At its February 2021 meeting, the Code Commission noted that a revision of Chapter 14.8. 'Scrapie' had been on its work programme for many years and agreed to progress this work.

At its September 2021 meeting, the Code Commission reviewed a background document prepared by the Secretariat and recalled the previous discussions between the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission on this chapter and noted that the main issue pending was the assessment of scrapie against the listing criteria in accordance with Chapter 1.2., as reported in the September 2014 report of the Scientific Commission. Therefore, the Commission requested that an assessment against the listed criteria be conducted following the relevant SOP. In February 2022, the Secretariat informed the Code Commission that the WOA, DDG ISS had considered the request for an assessment and concluded that an assessment was not justified. The Code Commission noted that the Scientific Commission was informed of this decision at its February 2022 meeting and encouraged Members to refer to that report for more information.

At its February 2023 meeting, in response to comments to prioritise the work to review Chapter 14.8., the Code Commission agreed to progress this work, noting that the Members requested that, as part of the update, live animal testing and testing for genetic resistance to scrapie be included as valid methods for ensuring the safe trade of sheep and goats. At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered a discussion paper prepared by the Secretariat and noted that there was no precedent in the *Terrestrial Code* of providing such recommendations that take into account genetic resistance of animal hosts to a disease, and that it would need in-depth discussions, including consultations with the Scientific Commission, the Biological Standards Commission and relevant experts, when drafting the revised chapter.

In September 2023, the Code Commission acknowledged that a range of requests to revise Chapter 14.8. had been submitted by Members over the last years and requested that the Secretariat develop a plan to undertake the revision of the chapter, including Terms of Reference



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for an *ad hoc* Group. At the same time, the Commission noted that the term 'greaves' was only used in Chapter 14.8. and reviewed the use of the term in the chapter, and, considering the recent adoption of a revised Glossary definition for 'protein meal', the Code Commission agreed to remove 'greaves' from the Glossary and from Chapter 14.8. Acknowledging that a revision of Chapter 14.8. would be undertaken after its next meeting to address other issues previously raised by some Members, the Commission agreed to circulate for comments the proposed removal of the term 'greaves'.

#### Discussion

##### **a) Revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie**

The Code Commission reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* Group who will revise Chapter 14.8 'Scrapie' taking into consideration some Member comments already sent on some specific issues. The Commission reminded Members that this revision will be comprehensive to ensure it reflects the latest scientific knowledge.

The Code Commission noted the requested consideration of diagnostic tests on live animal and testing for genetic resistance to scrapie as valid methods for ensuring the safe trade of sheep and goats. The Commission agreed to include these considerations in the reviewed Terms of Reference to ensure they would be considered by the *ad hoc* Group. The Commission requested the Secretariat to also discuss this point further with the Biological Standards Commission.

The Code Commission requested the Secretariat to report back on progress at its September 2024 meeting.

##### **b) Use of term 'greaves' in Chapter 14.8.**

Comments were received from Canada, China (People's Republic of), Switzerland, the UK, the EU and the WRO.

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed deletion of the term 'greaves' from Chapter 14.8 'Scrapie'.

#### **General Comments**

In response to a comment noting that there is no code-line for 'protein meal' in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (generally referred to as "Harmonized System" or simply "HS"), the Code Commission explained that the purpose of the use of specific terms in the *Terrestrial Code* differs from the purpose of codes in the Customs HS and therefore there is not always a need to align terminologies. Nevertheless, the Code Commission suggested that the Secretariat communicate with the WCO to discuss harmonisation of some terminologies between the two organisations. The Code Commission reminded Members that a certifying veterinarian could include additional information in the international veterinary certificate when trading protein meal, such as source species and ingredients.

Acknowledging that no objection has been raised to the proposed removal of the term 'greaves' from Chapter 14.8. the Commission agreed that this will be done in the upcoming revision of the chapter.

#### **4.2.15. New chapter on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever**

##### Background

In February 2016, the Code Commission agreed to include the development of a disease-specific chapter on Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in its work programme, in response to a Member comment.

In February 2022, in response to a comment to develop a new chapter for CCHF as it is high priority zoonotic disease in Asia and Africa, the Code Commission agreed to initiate this work once a draft case definition was developed by the Scientific Commission and recognised this item as priority.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission was informed that [the Scientific Commission, at its September 2023 meeting](#), had endorsed a draft case definition for infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) that had been developed by subject-matter experts, and that it had been posted on the WOAHP website to facilitate Members notification, in the absence of a *Terrestrial Code* chapter.

The Code Commission was also informed that the corresponding Chapter 3.1.5. 'Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever' of the *Terrestrial Manual* has been amended to include serological tests, taking into consideration the new draft case definition, and would be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

The Code Commission reviewed the draft case definition with a view to developing a new chapter, consisting of one single article for the general provisions, including the definition of the disease and of its occurrence. The Commission noted that some of the amendments being proposed in the *Terrestrial Manual* were critical to developing a disease-specific chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* and agreed to postpone this work until after the adoption of Chapter 3.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

### **4.3. Items under consideration for inclusion in the work programme**

The Code Commission discussed several topics for which a request for inclusion in the Commission's work programme had been previously considered, but a decision was not yet made pending the provision of more data or information. The Code Commission highlighted the following topics for which a decision was made at this meeting:

#### **4.3.1. Infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva* (Chapter 11.10.)**

##### Background

The revised Chapter 11.10. 'Infection with *Theileria annulata*, *T. orientalis* and *T. parva*' was adopted during the 89th General Session in May 2022, but, at the time of adoption, the President of the Code Commission noted some comments raised during or submitted before the General Session that would be considered at a future meeting of the Commission.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment that *T. orientalis* should be delisted, noting that the listing assessment had been well justified and that the chapter only refers to *T. orientalis Ikeda* and *T. orientalis Chitose* and not the other strains of *T. orientalis*. Nevertheless, the Commission requested the Secretariat to seek further advice from the Scientific Commission, to review and consider the references provided by the Members along with their comments, before further considering this item for inclusion in the work programme.

In February 2023, the Scientific Commission noted the request and sought the advice from the experts who had conducted the listing assessment in 2019. The Scientific Commission considered the expert advice at its September 2023 meeting and forwarded its opinion to the Code Commission.

##### Discussion

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The Commission agreed with the opinion from the experts and the Scientific Commission that there is significant evidence of clinical signs, pathogenicity and economic losses associated with infection with Ikeda and Chitose strains of *T. orientalis*, and therefore *T. orientalis* (Ikeda and Chitose) should remain listed.

With this consideration, the Code Commission agreed that there was no need to add any further work on this matter to its work programme.

#### **4.4. New requests for inclusion in the work programme**

The Code Commission considered the following new requests for developments or revisions of standards in the *Terrestrial Code*.

##### **4.4.1. Revision of Chapter 8.13. New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old World screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)**

The Code Commission considered a proposal from the Scientific Commission to amend Chapter 8.13. 'New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old World screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)', to incorporate a draft case definition for New World Screwworm and Old World Screwworm that had been developed by subject-matter experts and endorsed by [the Scientific Commission at its September 2023 meeting](#).

The Chapter 8.13. was first adopted in 1992 and updated in 1998. The current chapter contains recommendations for international trade but lacks definition of the diseases and their occurrence.

The Code Commission considered the draft case definition and requested that the Scientific Commission clarify some points on the epidemiological significance of animal hosts, notably birds, noting the divergent opinions of experts. The Code Commission also discussed whether to develop separate disease-specific chapters, noting that the diseases are found in different areas of the world and are caused by different pathogenic agents with possibly different epidemiological patterns, and thus requested the opinion of the Scientific Commission on this point too.

The Code Commission agreed to include this item in its work programme, and to consider progressing it once these points have been clarified.

##### **4.4.2. Revision of Chapter 8.7. Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus**

###### Background

The Commission was informed on a comment seeking clarification about differences between the English, French and Spanish versions of Chapter 8.7. 'Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease (EHD)'. The English version of Chapter 8.7. defines EHD as an infection of cervids and 'bovids' with EHD virus, while the French and Spanish versions use the terms 'bovins' and 'bovinos', respectively. In line with recent agreement at the Code Commission and the amendments proposed to the User's Guide, in the English version, 'bovids' would include cattle, goats and sheep, whereas for the French and Spanish versions, 'bovins' and 'bovinos' respectively, refer only to Bovinae subfamily, which excludes goats and sheep. This difference between the three versions has consequences on the scope of the chapter, as well as on the species to which the trade articles would apply.

###### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the current Chapter 8.7. and the *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.1.7. 'Epizootic haemorrhagic disease (Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus)'. The Commission acknowledged the abovementioned differences and highlighted that Chapter 3.1.7. of the *Terrestrial Manual* states that 'EHD is a vector-borne infectious noncontagious viral disease of

domestic and wild ruminants, primarily white-tailed deer and cattle. Sheep, goats and camelids might also be susceptible but usually do not develop overt disease.’

The Code Commission reviewed the history of the development of Chapter 8.7, which was first adopted in 2015, and last updated in 2016, and agreed that an editorial error had been made in the adopted English version in 2015. The Commission confirmed that the Spanish and French versions were correct.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to amend the 2024 English edition of the *Terrestrial Code* by replacing ‘bovids’ with ‘bovines’.

Nevertheless, noting that almost ten years had elapsed since the last revision of Chapter 8.7 and that the *Terrestrial Manual* was updated in 2021, and that there has been an evolution in the epidemiology of the disease, including emergence and spread in Europe, the Commission agreed to include a comprehensive review of Chapter 8.7. in its work programme. The Commission requested the Secretariat to undertake an analysis, in consultation with experts and the Scientific Commission, on the points to be taken into consideration in a future revision.

#### **4.4.3. New requests from Members**

##### **a) ‘Extruded dry pet food’**

The Code Commission acknowledged a request to further specify the thermal nature of the extrusion process of “extruded dry pet food” for its inclusion as a safe commodity in relevant disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission noted that this item was in its work programme and that work had been ongoing. Nonetheless, the Commission reminded Members that the *Terrestrial Code* does not provide standards for processing of commodities and that the Commission normally refers to other international standards, or guidelines or advice provided by partner international organisations representing the industry sectors, on globally standardised industrial practices or processing to support the inclusion in safe commodities in relevant chapters. For this specific commodity, the Commission has worked in close cooperation with the Global Pet Food Alliance (GAPFA). The Commission invited Members to also refer to Item 5.13. of this report.

##### **b) Implications of historical detections of pathogenic agents on animal health status**

The Code Commission acknowledged a comment referring to the rapid advancements in diagnostic sequencing technologies, particularly in the field of metagenomics, which has increased the capacity and research focus for pathogen detection globally. The comment highlighted that sequencing performed on historical samples (e.g. archived samples or museum specimens or samples/specimen banks) dating back decades or even centuries can offer valuable insights into pathogen ecology, history, and epidemiology, but noted that the potential implications on the notification obligations or animal health status of such historical detections is unclear within the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Code Commission noted that no specific modifications were requested and that the Commission had not been informed of any specific issue in this regard that would necessitate any changes in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission also noted that ‘notification’ in the Code Glossary was related to the occurrence of disease, infection or infestation, which are all related to animals and that any new diagnostic technologies should be first validated, in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission requested the Secretariat analyse this request further and to report back to the Commission if any potential impacts on the *Terrestrial Code* are identified.

##### **c) Reinstatement of low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry as a listed disease**

The Code Commission considered a comment requesting reinstating low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in poultry as a listed disease, because high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI)

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clade 2.3.4.4b virus has evolved and acquired new characteristics, including increased infectiousness to wild birds and a heightened ability to adapt to various species achieved through genetic reassortment with LPAI viruses as evidenced by a new research paper.

The Code Commission noted that the listing of avian influenza viruses had been recently reviewed, as well as the corresponding standards, and stressed that the current priority was for Members to implement the revised standards and that further changes should only be based on broader evidence gathering, including those from the implementation of the new standards. Also, the Commission highlighted that in the past, notification of LPAI in poultry had led to serious and unjustified trade restrictions and had not contributed to the improvement of the global epidemiological situation of HPAI. The Commission did not agree to request a new assessment of low pathogenic avian influenza in poultry as a listed disease but requested that the Secretariat inform the Scientific Commission and the WOAHH DDG ISS of this comment.

#### **d) Revision of Glossary definition for 'poultry'**

##### Background

In May 2023, at the 90th General Session, some Members requested that the revision of the definition of 'poultry' be included in the Commission's work programme to ensure it provided Members with greater flexibility and to clarify issues for non-poultry birds or birds that played no epidemiologically significant role.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the request as well as comments received to review the Glossary definition for 'poultry' and agreed to add the revision of the definition for 'poultry' to its work programme as priority 4, noting that this work should be addressed as part of its future work to review Section 10 Aves.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission considered requests from some Members to increase the priority order for the work item on a revision of the definition of 'poultry'. The Commission thanked the Members for the thorough information provided on the implementation challenges for the current definition in the context of recent global epidemics of avian influenza but was not able to agree on a suitable amendment that could address these challenges and be circulated at this stage. The Commission reminded that, being a Glossary definition, its application was not limited to one disease but to the whole *Terrestrial Code*, and that careful consideration should be given before introducing further changes.

The Commission acknowledged the challenges raised and agreed to increase the priority of this item to priority order '2', and requested the Secretariat to engage in consultation with experts to prepare for further discussion at the next Code Commission meeting in September 2024.

#### **4.4.4. Prioritisation of items in the work programme**

Based on several considerations and the progress of the different topics since its last meeting, as well as relevant exchanges during this meeting, the Code Commission discussed the prioritisation of ongoing and future work, and agreed to amend the work programme as presented below:

##### New items added:

- Consideration to determine whether several types of highly processed products (such as blood meal, dried plasma, rendered fats, and hydrolysed protein) have a globally standardised production process and meet criteria to be considered safe commodities as regards to specific diseases.
- Revision of the Glossary definition for 'disinfection'

- Development of a new Glossary definition for 'pathogenic agent'
- Revision of the Glossary definition for 'laboratory'
- Development of a new Glossary definition for 'isolation'
- Development of a new Glossary definition for 'suspected case'
- Revision of Chapter 8.7. 'Infection with epizootic haemorrhagic disease virus'
- Revision of Chapter 8.13. 'New world screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and Old world screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)'

The Code Commission updated its work programme in accordance with the changes in the priorities or the level of advancement of respective items.

The Commission reminded Members that the order of prioritisation used in the work programme reflects the level of priority agreed upon by the Commission, through the rigorous assessment of each item, in terms of its necessity and urgency, taking into consideration Members requests and proposals from the Secretariat.

The Code Commission highlighted that the inclusion of an item in the work programme means there is a collective agreement of the Commission on the need to undertake certain work, but this does not mean that the work would be immediately initiated. The decision as to when to commence each work item depends on the overall consideration of priorities, the progress of ongoing work and the resources and data available. The prioritisation order aims to provide a guide to plan and organise the work of the Commission and the Secretariat, as well as to improve 'Members' awareness of the progress of the different topics. The Commission highlighted that the prioritisation order used in its work programme is not necessarily parallel to the progress of each work, which depends on the complexity of each task.

The Commission reminded Members that, although it reviews its work programme at each meeting and reconsiders the prioritisation of items according to changes in necessity and urgency, it would not significantly modify the prioritisation order frequently.

Additionally, the Commission thanked Members who commented on work items at an early stage, and encouraged Members to also consider the work items in the Commission's work programme that have not yet started or are in preparation (prioritisation orders 3 and 4). Members are invited to submit to the Secretariat their points of interest for a specific work, as well as available information, evidence, or expertise that could be taken into consideration in each work.

The Code Commission reminded Members that the schedule of planned *ad hoc* Group meetings is presented on the WOAHP website and that WOAHP Delegates can propose names of experts for specific *ad hoc* Groups, in particular for those that are in the planning phase and not yet formally established, by using the dedicated link.

The updated work programme is presented in [Annex 3](#), for comments.

## 5. Texts proposed for adoption in May 2024

The Code Commission discussed the following new or revised texts that will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### 5.1. Glossary

#### a) 'animal products', 'germinal products' and 'commodity'

Comments were received from the USA and the EU.

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## Background

At its September 2019 meeting, the Code Commission considered the use of the terms 'commodity', 'animal product', 'product of animal origin' and 'animal by-product' for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* based on a discussion paper prepared by a Commission member. The Commission acknowledged the importance of clarifying the use of these terms and whether to develop definitions for some of them. It agreed to continue this work between sessions.

At its February 2020 meeting, the Code Commission considered again this issue and agreed to discuss it further at its future meetings.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission agreed that the Glossary definition for 'commodity' should be revised and new definitions should be developed for 'animal product' and 'germinal products', and worked on a draft text and sent proposed revised and new definitions for comments.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission noted that all comments received were in support of the proposed amendments. The revised Glossary definition for 'commodity' and the new Glossary definitions for 'animal product' and 'germinal products' were circulated for comments.

## Discussion

The Code Commission noted comments in support of the proposed amendments.

### **'animal product'**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'by-product' as it considered that it was implicitly included in the proposed text.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'or produced using', as the term as defined implied that the product actually contains some material derived from animals, whatever the production process.

The Commission did not agree with a comment to include 'germinal products' in the definition as it considered that it would be confusing to have too many subsets in Glossary definitions, as 'animal product' is already a type of commodity, as 'germinal products', and both cover specific usages for the purposes of the Code.

### **'germinal products'**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed new Glossary definition.

### **'commodity'**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete 'germinal products' from the definition, since it did not agree that the proposed definition for 'animal product' includes 'germinal products', which is a type of commodity per se.

The revised Glossary definition for 'commodity' and the new Glossary definitions for 'animal product' and 'germinal products' are presented as part of [Annex 4](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **b) New Glossary definition for 'biological products'**

Comment was received from New Zealand.

## Background

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At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission discussed the terms ‘commodity’, ‘animal product’, ‘product of animal origin’ and ‘(animal) by-product’ for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission agreed to develop a new Glossary definition for ‘animal product’ and to revise the Glossary definition for ‘commodity’. In addition, the Commission proposed a new Glossary definition for ‘germinal products’ (see item (a) above).

With regard to the term ‘biological product’ used in the definition for ‘commodity’, the Code Commission agreed that there was a need to develop a new Glossary definition and requested that this be discussed with the Biological Standards Commission at the next meeting of the Bureaus in September 2023.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered an analysis prepared by the Secretariat presenting the use of ‘biological product’ in the *Terrestrial Code* and related terms in the *Terrestrial Manual*, as well as Glossary definition for ‘biological product’ in the *Aquatic Code*. The Code Commission developed a new definition for ‘biological product’, which was agreed by the Biological Standards Commission, and circulated the proposed new definition for comments.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to replace ‘reagents’ with ‘agents’, but it agreed to delete the term ‘reagents’ for clarity.

The new Glossary definition for ‘biological product’ is presented as part of [Annex 4](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **c) ‘artificial insemination centre’**

##### Background

As part of the work to revise Chapter 4.6. ‘General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres’ (see item 5.3. of this report) the Commission agreed to replace the term ‘artificial insemination centre’ with ‘semen collection centre’. The Commission also introduced editorial amendments noting that ‘approved’ was a defined term, and the definition of ‘semen collection centre’ includes the condition of approval. The Commission circulated the revised text for comments.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The replacement of the Glossary definition for ‘artificial insemination centre’ with ‘semen collection centre’ is presented as part of [Annex 4](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **d) ‘greaves’**

##### Background

At its September 2023 meeting, noting that the Glossary definition for ‘protein meal’, which was adopted at the 90th General Session in May 2023, covers both Glossary definitions for ‘meat-and-bone meal’ (that was removed from Glossary in May 2023) and ‘greaves’, the Code Commission agreed to remove ‘greaves’ from the Glossary and from Chapter 14.8. (refer to item 4.2.14. of this report). The proposed deletion was circulated for comments.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission noted all comments received were in support of the proposed deletion of ‘greaves’ from the Glossary.



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The deletion of definition for 'greaves' is presented as part of [Annex 4](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **e) Definitions for 'death', 'euthanasia', 'slaughter', 'stunning', and 'suffering'**

Comments were received from Australia, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the WRO.

##### Background

As part of the work to revise Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter, the Code Commission agreed to revise the Glossary definitions for 'death', 'euthanasia', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the comments received.

##### **'death' (deletion)**

The Commission noted that no specific comment was received on the proposed deletion of the Glossary definition for 'death'.

##### **'euthanasia'**

The Code Commission agreed with comments to delete the words 'for welfare purposes' as euthanasia could be performed for reasons other than animal welfare.

The Commission did not agree with a comment to delete the mention of a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness, as this is an essential part of the welfare concerns when performing euthanasia.

##### **'slaughter'**

The Commission noted that no specific comment was received on the revised Glossary definition for 'slaughter'.

##### **'stunning'**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to reword the definition as it did not improve the clarity.

The revised Glossary definitions for 'euthanasia', 'slaughter' and 'stunning', and the deletion of the definition for 'death', are presented as part of [Annex 4](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **5.2. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAAH (Chapter 1.3.)**

Comments were received from New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland and the EU.

##### Background

During recent work on the development of new or revised disease-specific chapters, the Code Commission noted the several issues in Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAAH' and agreed to amend Chapter 1.3. to:

- reorder the articles to align with the order used in Sections of Volume II,

- align the animal categories noted in the first paragraph of each article with titles of relevant Sections of Volume II, i.e., scientific names of animal categories, using ‘nouns’, not ‘adjectives’ (e.g. replace “The following are included within the category of equine diseases and infections” with “The following are included within the category of diseases and infections of equidae.”),
- reorder the diseases in each article in alphabetical order; and
- change disease names to align with the title of the corresponding disease-specific chapter, as relevant.

Noting that these were editorial changes, at its September 2023 meeting, the Commission considered that these amendments could be presented for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

Also, in view of the progress of several new and revised disease-specific chapters, the Code Commission had agreed to circulate the following changes in names of listed diseases:

- in Article 1.3.1., to replace ‘Q fever’ with ‘Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)’; in Article 1.3.1., to replace ‘Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*)’ with ‘Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)’
- in Article 1.3.2., to replace ‘Bovine viral diarrhoea’ with ‘Infection with bovine pestiviruses (Bovine viral diarrhoea)’;
- in Article 1.3.4. to replace ‘Contagious equine metritis’ with ‘Infection with *Taylorella equigenitalis* (Contagious equine metritis)’; in Article 1.3.4. to replace ‘Equine piroplasmiasis’ with ‘Infection with *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi* (Equine piroplasmiasis)’;
- in Article 1.3.7. to replace ‘Rabbit haemorrhagic disease’ with ‘Infection with pathogenic rabbit lagoviruses (Rabbit haemorrhagic disease)’;
- in Article 1.3.9. to replace ‘Camelpox’ with ‘Infection with camelpox virus’.

### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the difference in the order in which the diseases are presented in the three linguistic versions, as it follows the alphabetical order for each language. The Commission noted that the order between the articles in Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAH and Sections of the *Terrestrial Code* should be the same. However, since the list is presented with the names of diseases only, the Commission noted that there is no negative impact from this difference in the three versions.

The Code Commission reminded Members that the name of ‘Nipah virus encephalitis’ and entry of the disease in the list of Chapter 1.3. will be amended and proposed closer to adoption of the new draft Chapter 8.Y.

In response to a comment on the harmonisation of ‘equine encephalitis (Eastern)’ of Article 1.3.1. and the Section 12 Equidae of the *Terrestrial Code*, the Commission noted that the revision of chapters on equine encephalitis will be discussed by the *ad hoc* Group and the harmonisation will be considered accordingly (see item 4.2.10. of this report).

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to apply consistent spelling for ‘hemorrhagic’ or ‘haemorrhagic’ in the names of the diseases Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever and Infection with epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. However, noting possible inconsistencies with the spelling used in the corresponding chapters of the *Terrestrial Manual*, and with the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) spelling, the Commission requested the Secretariate to further coordinate with the Biological Standards Commission to harmonise both the *Manual* and the *Code* with the ICTV.

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The Code Commission agreed with a comment to add '(*Pasteurella multocida* serotypes 6:b and 6:e)' to the name of 'Haemorrhagic septicaemia' to align with the title of corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In response to a comment that the names 'fowl typhoid' and 'pullorum disease' are separated in Article 1.3.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*, while they are grouped in *Manual* Chapter 10.7.3. 'Fowl typhoid and pullorum disease', the Code Commission noted that it will be considered after the case definitions of these diseases are developed.

The revised Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAH' is presented as **Annex 5** (in track changes) and **Annex 6** (cleaned text) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.3. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres (Chapter 4.6.)**

Comments were received from China (People's Republic of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland, the UK and the EU.

#### Background

At its September 2019 meeting, the Code Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to revise Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres' and Chapter 4.7. 'Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen', as well as provisions in relevant disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*. The *ad hoc* Group was also requested to consider the inclusion of provisions to address semen of equids in relevant chapters.

The *ad hoc* Group met virtually during 2020 and 2021 and produced a revised draft Chapter 4.6., which was considered by the Code Commission at its September 2021 and September 2022 meetings.

The revised Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres' was circulated three times for comments, the first time in the Code Commission September 2022 meeting report.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission also circulated a proposed amendment to the Glossary definition, replacing the term 'artificial insemination centre' with 'semen collection centre' for consistency. (see item 5.1. of this report)

#### Discussion

##### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

##### **Article 4.6.1.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'will' before 'reduce' as this is an objective of the chapter. The Commission made additional amendments for clarity. The Code Commission did not agree to add 'other microorganisms, some of which may be' before the 'pathogenic' as the text was clear as written and refers to WOAH listed diseases.

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete the first sentence as it was considered redundant.

In the third paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete 'or for domestic distribution' as it considered that the Veterinary Authority should provide the regulatory framework and standards not only for international trade but also for domestic distribution, and this chapter will also be suitable to prevent the spread of diseases at national level.

#### **Article 4.6.2.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to reinstate the sentence 'The semen collection centre should be approved by the Veterinary Authority', as this is already addressed by the use of the Glossary term 'approved' and the definition of the term "semen collection centre."

In the last sentence of the third paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to replace 'Veterinary Services' with 'Veterinary Authority'. The Commission highlighted that not all issues should necessarily be reported to the Veterinary Authority and hence, the term Veterinary Services is deemed more adequate as it covers a broader range of possible schemes of supervision and communication, including with government authorities, such as the Veterinary Authority. The Code Commission highlighted that the roles of the Veterinary Services and Veterinary Authority were mentioned in Article 4.6.1.

In the fourth paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add additional biosecurity measures for equipment used and procedures in the semen collection centre, as it was already covered in point 6.

In point 2, in response to a comment to clarify the meaning of 'other animals', the Code Commission explained that it did not refer to multiple species for semen collection as written in the first sentence, but to animals for other purposes (for example riding horses or dogs for herding donor animals).

The Code Commission agreed to include a new point 3, in response to with a comment to include recommendations on the need for the isolation facility to be cleaned and disinfected before each batch of animals enters the facility.

#### **Article 4.6.3.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to add 'and' after 'housing' as the text was clear as written and refers to 'housing pens.' The Code Commission agreed to delete 'and the bedding renewed as often as necessary to ensure it is dry and clean' as it was clearly addressed in a sentence below in the sixth paragraph of this article.

#### **Article 4.6.4.**

In the fourth paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'in case of contact with animals that do not meet the same health requirements as those in the centre' at the end of the paragraph, as the current text provided the necessary flexibility.

In the sixth paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'be designed in such a way as to' after 'should' as it is considered grammatically correct.

In the seventh paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add sentences referring to the cleaning and disinfection of the floor and walls of the semen collection area as this article was about the semen processing facility and these actions are covered in Article 4.6.2.

#### **Article 4.6.5.**

In the fifth paragraph, in response to a comment to add 'and equipment for preparation and cleaning of artificial vaginas and' after surfaces, the Code Commission did not agree as it was considered not relevant there and already included in the eighth paragraph.

In the sixth paragraph, in response to a comment to delete 'animal health status', the Code Commission recalled the previous discussion at the September 2023 meeting to amend the term 'animal health status'

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and replaced it with 'health requirements.' The Code Commission also made additional amendments to improve clarity.

In point 6 of the last paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to introduce a recommendation to explicitly capture the need to provide in the international veterinary certificate information about the antibiotics used and added a new sentence at the end of the point to capture that.

#### **Article 4.6.6.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'Cryogenic tanks, if not new, should be disinfected before being introduced to the semen collection centre' at the beginning of the paragraph, to ensure safety of storage.

In the third paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete 'safe' before 'disinfection', as considered it should be done safely for the semen.

In the sixth paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add a sentence addressing the need for detailed storage and identification information to be ensured for international trade purposes, as it considered this addition would provide added value for the safety of the storage.

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to add a sentence 'Only semen from the same species and from donors that meet the same health requirements should be stored in same liquid nitrogen.' and proposed to add it as a seventh paragraph as it considered that it was relevant to ensure safety of the stored semen.

The revised Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres' is presented as [Annex 7](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **5.4. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.7.) (Partial revision)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Switzerland, the USA and the EU.

##### Background

As noted in the items 5.3. and 4.2.6. of this report, the Code Commission agreed to undertake a full revision of Chapter 4.6. 'General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres' and Chapter 4.7. 'Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen'.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Commission highlighted that the current Chapter 4.7. should be fully revised. Noting that the revised Chapter 4.6. was being circulated and would be proposed for adoption in May 2024, the Commission agreed to propose at the same time the deletion of current Articles 4.7.5., 4.7.6. and 4.7.7., to avoid inconsistencies after the potential adoption of the proposed new text for Chapter 4.6.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Commission noted several comments outside of the scope of this partial revision, referring to inconsistencies between some articles in the current Chapter 4.7. and some disease-specific chapters. The Commission reminded Members that relevant articles will be addressed in the comprehensive revision of Chapter 4.7. (see item 4.2.6. of this report) and requested the Secretariat to ensure these comments are taken into consideration during that revision.

#### **Article 4.7.2.**

In point b, in response to a comment that there was no Article 8.11.5., the Code Commission agreed to amend 'point 3 or 4 of Article 8.11.5.' with 'Article 8.12.7.', as it provided the correct information. Nevertheless, the Commission reminded Members that the comprehensive revision of this chapter will ensure having no cross-references to any disease-specific chapter.

The partially revised Chapter 4.7. 'Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen' is presented as [Annex 8](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

## **5.5. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Chapter 6.10.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Japan, New Caledonia, Switzerland, the UK, the USA, the AU-IBAR and the EU.

### Background

At its February 2019 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to include the revision of Chapter 6.10. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine' in its work programme, in response to Member comments.

Based on advice from the WOAHA Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR Working Group), the Commission agreed not to launch the work to review Chapter 6.10. until the revision of the Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CXC 61-2005) had been finalised and adopted, to avoid inconsistencies between the respective texts.

At its February 2022 meeting, the Code Commission noted that the revised Codex Code of Practice had been adopted in November 2021, and agreed to initiate the development of a revised Chapter 6.10. in collaboration with the AMR Working Group.

At its September 2022 meeting, the Code Commission considered the revised chapter drafted by the AMR Working Group, made some additional amendments to improve clarity and ensure alignment with other chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, and agreed to circulate it for comments.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered all comments received and requested the advice of the AMR Working Group to address some of them.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the feedback from the AMR Working Group and further amended the text and circulated it for comments.

The Code Commission also requested the Biological Standards Commission to provide its opinion on comments referring to the establishment of clinical breakpoints. The Biological Standards Commission addressed this request at its September 2023 and February 2024 meetings.

The revised chapter 6.10. has been circulated twice for comments.

### Discussion

#### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the revised chapter.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to have separate descriptions for the 'Responsibilities of veterinarians' in handling food-producing and non-food-producing animals. The Commission acknowledged that food-producing animals and non-food producing animals are kept for different purposes and that antimicrobial use occurs in very different contexts and settings. Selection of antimicrobials for use in these two categories of animals still needs to follow the same principles for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials. The Commission stressed that cost of antimicrobial treatment is not part of these principles.

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The Commission discussed a request for advice on the use of italics for some defined Glossary terms, such as '*animal*' or '*feed*', which could be used in different manners and contexts. The Commission agreed that a defined term that is a noun should be in italics only if it is used as a noun; but if this noun is used as an adjective and not just a part of another defined term, it should not be in italics (example: an *animal*, animal health, animal environment, animal species, *animal welfare*).

### **Title of the Chapter**

The Code Commission did not agree with a request to amend the chapter title from 'Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents in Veterinary Medicine' to 'Responsible and Prudent Veterinary Medical Use of Antimicrobial Agents', as it was deemed unnecessary and that changing the title of the chapter at this point of the review process could be detrimental and misleading to Members.

### **Article 6.10.1.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission discussed a request to add 'prescribing' to the existing list of activities. The Commission agreed to add the term 'prescription' for additional clarity, especially as prescription rules differ between countries and it could help to discourage the use of antimicrobials without a prescription.

In the third paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with comments to amend the text and added 'the indications for use' after 'relevant regulatory approval' and added 'including off label use'. The Commission considered that these changes improved the clarity of the paragraph. The Commission agreed to add the text 'All measures to keep animals healthy, such as preventing infectious animal diseases through vaccination, biosecurity measures, good agricultural and animal husbandry practices and adequate nutrition', to improve clarity. The Code Commission agreed with a comment to reinstate 'good agricultural', as the alternative 'farming' was not easily translatable.

### **Article 6.10.2.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to remove 'veterinary medical', because 'Veterinary medical use of antimicrobial agents' is already defined in Article 6.9.2.

In point 1 of the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete 'both' and 'and safety'. The Commission agreed that irresponsible use of an antimicrobial, such as incorrect dosing and route of administration or inappropriate use for the age or species, could have a negative impact on animal health or welfare. The Commission agreed with a comment to replace the current text with 'the effectiveness of antimicrobial agents used in veterinary and human', amending the text accordingly.

In point 3 of the first paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'relevant animal', and noted that some other comments were also addressed by this amendment. The Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete point 4, due to the similarities with point 1 and noted that this amendment also addressed several other comments.

In point 5 of the first paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'consumer' with 'human', for consistency and clarity.

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add the term 'antimicrobial resistant' before 'microorganisms' for clarity. The Commission also agreed with a comment to delete 'relevant animal' as it was considered unnecessary and for consistency with amendments made in previous points. The Code Commission agreed to delete 'and' and add 'and alternatives to the use of antimicrobials'. In the same sentence, the Commission agreed that access to diagnostic tests is key to ensure responsible use of antimicrobials and added 'access to laboratory testing' after vaccination strategies.

### **Article 6.10.3.**

In the first paragraph of point 1, the Code Commission did not agree with comments to include 'crop' as this was already covered by the term 'plant' used in the text. The Commission also did not agree with the addition of 'relevant animal' before 'environment', as it was considered unnecessary here. The Commission agreed with a comment indicating that development and implementation of training sessions for professionals was key for the implementation of the national plans and agreed to add 'and professional training programmes' after 'communication strategies'.

In the second paragraph of point 1, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'educate' with 'inform' for clarity.

In the third paragraph of point 1, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'as appropriate' for clarity.

In the fifth paragraph of point 2, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace the redundant 'treatment, control and prevention of diseases' with 'veterinary medical use, which excludes growth promotion', more clearly defining the scope of the regulatory approval.

In the seventh paragraph of point 2, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to revert from 'may' to 'should', as it did not add clarity, and referred to the rationale provided by the AMR Working Group in its August 2022 report. The Commission did not agree to delete 'as relevant', as it referred to withdrawal periods that are not applicable to companion animals, which are also covered by this chapter. The Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'treatment' with 'administration', since prevention and control of diseases are also appropriate uses.

In the eighth paragraph of point 2, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'treatment' with 'other' and to add 'the use of' for clarity. The Commission did not agree with a comment to include a reference to the WHO List of Critically Important Antimicrobials. The Commission considered that this would be redundant as the recommendations included in the WOAHA List of Antimicrobials of Veterinary Importance already take into consideration the WHO List of Critically Important Antimicrobials.

In point 3, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to remove 'antimicrobial agents and' from the title or to amend the subtitle to add 'containing antimicrobial agents' after 'veterinary medicinal products'. The Commission agreed that the use of "antimicrobial agents" refers to antimicrobials as raw materials that are used to prepare Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMP) and compounded (i.e. extemporaneous) products, not only as feed additives.

In the first indent of point 4(a)(i), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to replace 'pathogenic agents' with 'pathogens' and 'non-pathogenic' agents with 'non-pathogens' as it did not add clarity. The Commission did, however, agree that a definition of 'pathogenic agents' should be considered for inclusion in the Glossary in the future.

In the third indent of point 4 (a)(i), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to remove the last sentence. The Commission considered that the rationale provided was not sufficient to warrant the change and that the text was correct as written.

In the fourth indent of point 4(a)(ii), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'when possible' as it did not add clarity to the text. Nevertheless, the Code Commission agreed to add 'as appropriate' to the chapeau text of point 4(a)(ii), while deleting it at the third indent.

In point 4(b), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'therapeutic' to align with the removal of the word in other parts of the chapter. The Commission discussed the potential need for a definition of the term 'antimicrobial resistance determinants' but no change was made at this time.

In point 8(j), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'and route of administration' with '(i.e. dose, frequency of dosing and route and duration of administration)', to emphasise all components of dosage regimes.

In point 8(s), the Code Commission agreed with a comment and amended the text for clarity.



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In point 9, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to replace 'veterinary medicinal product' with 'antimicrobial agent'. The Commission considered that while antimicrobial susceptibility testing is conducted with the antimicrobial agent, the Competent Authority regulates the use of the veterinary medicinal product and the post-marketing AMR surveillance would be related to the product for which the regulatory approval was given.

In point 10, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete the heading. The Commission noted that although part of its content is repeated in the text under it, a heading was still considered necessary.

In the fourth paragraph of point 10, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'Competent Authority' by 'Veterinary Services' and also added 'and implement' after 'develop' because it is the Veterinary Services that should develop and implement effective procedures for these activities.

In point 11(b), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to amend the text for clarity.

In point 13, the Code Commission agreed to the addition of 'breeders' and 'owners' for consistency with other instances throughout the text and the *Terrestrial Code*.

In point 15, the Code Commission agreed to replace 'industry' with 'private' to ensure funding from the private sector other than industry, such as academia or foundations, is covered. In the following sentence, the Commission agreed to add 'including' and remove 'but not limited to' for clarity.

#### **Article 6.10.4.**

In point 1(c), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to amend the text for better grammar and clarity.

In point 3(b), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'or to the general public' after 'keeper,' because the general public also plays a role in the responsible use of antimicrobials and tackling AMR.

#### **Article 6.10.5.**

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to insert 'sale' in point 2 and replace 'supply' with 'sale' in point 2(a) to cover all transactions, purchases and sales.

#### **Article 6.10.6.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to include 'the use of' before 'antimicrobials' because there is no agreed definition of the term 'alternatives to antimicrobials' and no specific regulatory requirements for such products.

In point 1(f), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'appropriate' with 'adequate'; and to delete the end of the sentence after 'supportive therapy' and replace it with 'if appropriate' for clarity.

In point 2(d), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'prescribing guidelines' because it considered that appropriate prescribing guidelines may not be available in all countries for the target animal species and pathogenic agents. The Commission replaced 'and route of administration' with '(i.e. dose, frequency of dosing and route and duration of administration)' for clarity.

In the heading of point 3, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'veterinary medical' after 'Appropriate' and delete 'veterinary medicinal' after 'selected', to better reflect the content of point 3 and make it consistent with other part of the chapter and the code.

In the first paragraph of point 3, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'exclude growth promotion and' after 'should', for consistency with the definition of 'veterinary medical use' and the point 2 of Article 6.10.2. on the regulatory approval.

In the second paragraph of point 3, the Code Commission agreed with comments to amend the text and agreed to remove 'the food animal' before 'breeder' and add 'or any other person responsible for administering the product' after 'keeper,' as it considered this made the text more inclusive and added clarity.

In the third paragraph of point 3, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add the recommendation that the veterinary medical use of veterinary medical products should be in line with the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC), or equivalent; it was not considered to add clarity to the text and it is already covered in other sections of this article. The Commission also did not agree with a comment to replace 'and' with 'or' in the same paragraph.

In point 4(h), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'duration' when referring to treatment schedules as it considered that a schedule normally includes the duration.

#### **Article 6.10.8.**

In point 2(j), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to amend the text for veterinarians to be responsible for maintaining data corresponding to the use of antimicrobials by the breeders. The Commission reminded Members that this point has been addressed in previous meetings, and that whoever has the data should maintain it, either the veterinarians, the breeders or others.

In point 2(k)(i), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'or the active pharmaceutical ingredient' after 'product', for proper use of the term.

#### **Article 6.10.9.**

In point 4, the Code Commission did not agree with comments to amend this text for editorial purposes, as it did not add clarity.

The revised Chapter 6.10. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine' is presented as [Annex 9](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.6. Slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5.)**

Comments on Chapter 7.5. were received from Australia, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, the USA, the AU-IBAR and the EU.

#### Background

In February 2018, the Code Commission agreed to revise Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals' and Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes' and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work as well as the revision of associated Glossary definitions (see item 5.1 of this report)

The *ad hoc* Group has met on eight occasions since 2018 to develop a revised draft Chapter 7.5.

The revised Chapter 7.5. and associated Glossary definitions have been circulated five times for comments.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the comments received and proposed the following amendments.

#### **General Comments**

The Code Commission did not agree with the comment to add Oxford commas in several Articles, as they are not in line with WOA's style guide.

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The Code Commission did not agree with several comments to replace 'killing' with 'slaughter', as the use of one term or the other will depend on the context of the Article.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment in several articles regarding the identification of animal-based and other measures, the addition of 'reflex' and 'absence of' and the deletion of 'or' because they refer to the same indicator and are normally assessed at the same time.

**Article 7.5.2.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission discussed a request to add 'camels' as part of the scope of this chapter. Due to the number of camelids slaughtered globally, particularly in the Middle East and Africa, the Commission decided to include 'camelids', noting that there may be some exceptions where species-specific recommendations are needed. In the same paragraph, the Code Commission agreed to delete 'and' to simplify the sentence structure.

**Article 7.5.5.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with the comment to include 'considered alongside animal-based measures' at the end of the paragraph, because the insertion of a comma would be sufficient instead. In the same paragraph, the Commission did not agree to add 'always' as this is implicit from the nature of the recommendations.

**Article 7.5.7.**

In the second paragraph, the Commission did not agree with the comments to add 'suffering' to this list of signs to be identified by animal handlers. Suffering has been previously removed from the draft chapter and replaced by 'pain, fear and distress'.

**Article 7.5.8.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to include a list of parts of a slaughterhouse or abattoir, as it was agreed that examples were not necessary.

In the first paragraph, seventh indent, the Code Commission agreed with a request to delete 'need' as it was unnecessary in this sentence.

In the second paragraph, the Commission did not agree to replace 'to eliminate' with 'be free from', as the addition did not add clarity to the sentence.

**Article 7.5.9.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'specification' with 'capacity', as 'capacity' is a more accurate term and easier to understand.

**Article 7.5.10.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'and thus minimize negative experiences during the sacrifice of animals' as it considered it redundant.

In the second paragraph the Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'preventing' with 'minimising' as it would be more appropriate when applied to slaughter.

**Article 7.5.12.**

In the second paragraph of point 1, the Code Commission agreed with the proposal to replace 'increased' with 'prolonged', as the term 'prolonged' is more time based and therefore more appropriate.

In the second paragraph of point 2, the Commission did not agree to replace 'emergency' with 'emergently' when referring to emergency killing, as it was deemed unnecessary.

In point 3, fourth paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to add 'providing access to food' as this paragraph refers to the timeframe immediately after unloading. Also, in this point 3, fifth paragraph, the Commission did not agree with the proposal to add 'isolated' here as it is implied from 'appropriate care'.

In point 4, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to keep the last sentence which was proposed to be deleted as it did not provide added value.

#### **Article 7.5.13.**

In point 1, the Commission agreed with a proposal to replace 'will' with 'may', as in other parts of the code, when it is not a sure fact.

In point 3, the last sentence, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to remove 'voluntarily' and include 'as to prevent' earlier in the sentence instead for clarity.

In the sixth paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to replace 'rise' with 'move independently', as these words do not have the same meaning in this sentence.

In the thirteenth paragraph, the Commission did not agree with comments to add 'animals known to be' before 'pregnant' as this addition did not add clarity.

#### **Article 7.5.14.**

In point 2(d), the Commission discussed a comment to remove 'carcass bruising' and instead add 'bruising' to point 4(d). The Commission agreed that as carcass refers to an animal post-slaughter, this should be kept as a separate point, exclusive to carcasses. Therefore, 'bruised carcass' was added as a new point for clarity.

In Point 3, the second paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to change 12 hours to 24 hours. The Commission noted that it is important to consider the planning of slaughter operations and agreed that normally animals should not stay more 24 hours in the slaughterhouse.

In point 3, the ninth paragraph, the Code Commission rearranged the first part of the paragraph for improved clarity and agreed with a comment to add 'without delay' to emphasise the urgency of conducting euthanasia in downed animals.

#### **Article 7.5.15.**

In point 2(b), the Code Commission did not agree with the addition of 'of conscious animals', as struggling is a conscious behaviour only.

In point 2(f), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'frequency of' for consistency as this has also been removed in Article 7.5.13.

#### **Article 7.5.16.**

The Code Commission did not agree to replace 'render' with 'caused' in the second paragraph as the word 'render' is widely used in the context of the stunning operations.

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'except when multiple animals are placed in the restrainer simultaneously. In such cases, all the animals shall be stunned as quickly as possible.' The Commission agreed that animals should always be stunned as quickly as possible and that the proposed sentence does not provide added value to the paragraph.

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#### **Article 7.5.17.**

The Code Commission did not agree with comments to modify the text of point 1, as the sentence was too long and confusing. Instead, the Commission deleted the first three sentences of the paragraph, rearranged the rest of the paragraph, including by adding a new sentence to address skull fractures in young calves.

In point 1, second paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'ideally a single shot,' or a proposal to use a silencer as a single shot should always be the goal. However, the Commission agreed with a comment to add 'as well as certain extensively reared animals.' As captive wild animals should be included since they can be slaughtered in slaughterhouses, the Commission further amended the text to read 'certain extensively reared domestic and captive wild animals.'

#### **Article 7.5.18.**

Regarding the recommended electrical parameters, the Code Commission reminded Members that these correspond to minimum recommendations that need to be adapted to each situation, considering the different species and types of animals. It is important to use the appropriate electrical parameters that give a satisfactory outcome for the welfare of animals by primarily using animal-based measures.

In point 4, paragraph 2, second indent, the Code Commission agreed to delete 'slaughter' for consistency with the rest of point 4. The Code Commission did not agree with the comment to change the figures in the last two indents as it was deemed unjustified.

#### **Article 7.5.19.**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'Where aversive gases are used, the period before loss of consciousness should be minimised' at the end of the first paragraph of point 4, due to the risk of an incomplete stunning. The Code Commission highlighted the need to balance welfare concerns when stunning pigs in a group and amended the sentence to reflect this.

#### **Article 7.5.20.**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'The restraining should be maintained until the animal is unconscious' as it was deemed too prescriptive and not in line with the language used in the *Terrestrial Code*.

#### **Article 7.5.21.**

In point 1, the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to replace 'not' with 'unlikely,' 'may' with 'is more likely to' and 'impacts' with 'affect'. The Commission considered the sentence clear as written and the proposed amendments were not in line with the style of the *Code*. Instead, the Commission replaced 'impacts' with 'effects' for ease of translation. In the same paragraph the *Code* Commission did not agree with a comment to replace 'considered not to achieve consciousness' with 'considered unconsciousness' as it did not improve the clarity of the sentence.

#### **Article 7.5.23.**

In point 2(a), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'restraint' to this paragraph for the additional clarity.

#### **Article 7.5.25.**

In point 2(a), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to delete 'strike against the facilities' as 'collide with facility' was deemed more appropriate.

#### **Article 7.5.26.**

In point 1(b) the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'leading to thermal stress as poor ventilation would cause additional problems beyond thermal stress.

#### **Article 7.5.27.**

In point 1(c), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'shackling or' before 'stunning'. After consideration, the Commission deleted 'before stunning' and added the word 'inappropriate' at the beginning of the phrase, as the hazard is inappropriate handling and removal of animals from containers.

In point 1(e), the Code Commission agreed to include 'or are not properly aligned' regarding conveyor belts as the belt alignment is also important.

The Commission agreed with the comment to remove 'animals' from the list, for consistency with the rest of the items on the list provided in point 2(a).

In the fourth paragraph of point 3, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'birds' with 'animals' as there could also be animals other than birds such as rabbits.

#### **Article 7.5.28.**

In point 1(b) instead of adding 'and rabbits', the Code Commission agreed to replace 'birds' with 'animals' for consistency where this has been applied throughout the chapter.

In point 2(e), the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to include 'rabbits' after 'respiratory distress', as the recommendation was not deemed only applicable to rabbits.

The Code Commission, in the third paragraph of point 3, did not agree to add 'conveyance' as it was already considered part of the shackling process.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to remove a reference to the shackling of heavy birds as there is a greater welfare concern with the shackling of heavy birds and it should be avoided when possible.

#### **Article 7.5.29.**

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to add 'of animals in containers' in the heading of this article for consistency with the category of animals covered by this section.

In the first paragraph of point 1 the Commission did not agree with a comment to reinstate 'wool', as this part of the text corresponds to animals arriving in containers at the slaughterhouse.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to modify the first paragraph of point 3 as it did not add value to the current text.

In point 4 on species-specific recommendations, the Code Commission did not agree to add a new text at the end of the recommended minimum electrical parameter. However, the Commission reworded the text to include a reference to Chapter 7.1. 'Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare', to clarify the first sentence of this point.

#### **Article 7.5.30.**

In point 1, the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to indicate that the entry of the ramp leading to the electrical water-bath stun equipment should not be electrically charged to avoid pre-stun shocks.

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In point 1, the third paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add other examples of factors that could affect the individual bird electrical resistance, as the list of factors provided are already implicit in the current text.

In point 3, the fifth paragraph, the Commission agreed with a comment to clarify the purpose of water level adjustments, and added 'to minimise overflow' at the end of the paragraph.

In point 3, the sixth paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to replace 'and' with 'or,' to be consistent with Article 7.5.29.

In point 3, the eighth paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree to delete the entire paragraph regarding the use of constant current stunners, as this recommendation is based on expert opinions that this is a better option on animal welfare grounds. However, the Commission deleted 'always' for clarity.

Regarding comments on the twelfth paragraph of point 3, the Code Commission did not agree to delete the entire paragraph. However, it amended the text to highlight the potential negative animal welfare consequences, and to encourage Members to seek alternative methods.

In point 4, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete the species-specific recommendation on use of high frequencies regarding the electrical parameter for ducks, geese, chicken and turkeys, as these recommendations are supported by scientific data.

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to modify the second paragraph of point 4 to emphasise how to select the effective electrical parameters.

#### **Article 7.5.31.**

In point 1, the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add references regarding the misapplication of mechanical stunning methods as it did not add further value to the section.

Regarding some comments on the use of cervical dislocation and decapitation in point 1, the Code Commission agreed to delete both methods, as they are not methods recommended for the purpose of stunning animals.

In point 2, the Code Commission did not agree with comments to modify the use of palpebral and corneal reflexes as the animal-based measures to assess effective and ineffective stunning, as both reflexes are used at the same time.

#### **Article 7.5.32.**

In point 1, the first paragraph, the Code Commission partially agreed with a comment to add high stocking density as another aspect to consider for the efficient stunning by controlled atmosphere.

#### **Article 7.5.33.**

In point 2, the third paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add a mention to the ineffectiveness of bleeding duration process regarding the presence of 'red skin,' as the birds would already be dead.

The Code Commission agreed that decapitation should not be used as a bleeding method in conscious animals in the last paragraph of point 3.

The revised Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals' is presented as [Annex 10](#) (in track changes) and [Annex 11](#) (cleaned text), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.7. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8.) and Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for foot and mouth disease (Chapter 1.11.)**

Comments on Chapter 8.8 were received from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Republic of), Japan, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Thailand, the USA, the WOAHA Americas Region, the EU and the WRO.

Comments on Chapter 1.11 were received from New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland and the EU.

### Background

The most recent updates to Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' were adopted in 2015. Since then, the chapter has undergone a comprehensive revision to address requests from Members and to align with other chapters, and has been circulated five times, the first time in September 2015.

The *ad hoc* Group on foot and mouth disease (FMD) contributed to the development of the revised chapter (see its June 2016 and June 2020 reports for details). The revised chapter has been reviewed by the Code Commission and the Scientific Commission throughout the revision process, and inputs have also been sought from the Biological Standards Commission, as relevant.

The revised chapter was proposed for adoption at the 90<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2023. At the General Session, the President of the Code Commission acknowledged irreconcilable diverging views expressed by Members on the proposed text and some inconsistencies within it, and decided to withdraw the proposed chapter to continue working towards building a clearer and consensual version. He informed that the Commission would continue working on the draft chapter with solid scientific rationales and expertise to develop a new proposal together with a revised Chapter 1.11. 'Application for official recognition by WOAHA of free status for FMD' with the aim of proposing them for adoption in 2024.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered comments received, together with the inputs from the Biological Standards Commission, the Scientific Commission, and experts who were requested to address specific points. The Code Commission agreed to circulate the revised chapter using the version proposed for adoption at the 90<sup>th</sup> General Session in May 2023, highlighting only the amendments introduced in this meeting. The Code Commission also considered a draft revised Chapter 1.11. with input by the Scientific Commission to ensure alignment with the revised Chapter 8.8. The Commission agreed to circulate the revised Chapter 1.11. for comments.

### Discussion

#### **a) Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8.)**

The Code Commission considered comments received, together with the inputs from the Biological Standards Commission, the Scientific Commission, and experts who were requested to address specific points.

#### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Commission noted that a comment to simplify the requirements for maintenance of official FMD status was outside of its scope and requested that the Secretariat forward the comment to the Scientific Commission for its consideration. The Commission also forwarded to the Scientific Commission some comments that referred to the interpretation of some points of Chapter 1.11.

#### **Article 8.8.1**

In point 6, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to change the risk of FMD virus (FMDV) transmission from African Buffalo to domestic livestock from 'rare' to 'not negligible'. The Commission agreed that there was no added clarity with this change and referred to prior considerations received from the Scientific Commission.



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### **Article 8.8.1bis**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add processing requirements to the safe commodities 'UHT milk and derivatives thereof' and 'protein meal'. Adding such processing requirement to specifically address FMD risk would mean that they are not safe commodities. The Code Commission also did not agree to add a specification that 'extruded dry pet food' cannot be processed 'using cold extrusion method', as this was not used for this commodity. The Commission stressed that these commodities have already been evaluated and determined to meet the criteria for safe commodities.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete 'protein meal' and 'extruded dry pet food' from the list of safe commodities. Experts have confirmed that the production of 'protein meal' according to the definition in the Glossary involved a standard processing that includes a minimum time and temperature treatment that inactivates pathogenic agents such as FMDV. Likewise, experts have established that processing for extruded dry pet food is adequate to inactivate FMDV.

The Code Commission acknowledged a comment proposing to add 'rendered fats' to the list of safe commodities. The Commission considered that the supporting documentation had some valuable information but noted that more data on the standardised processes for production of different categories of rendered fats were needed to propose them as 'safe commodities'.

### **Article 8.8.2**

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment that vaccinated animals should not be imported into countries or zones that are recognised as free from FMD where vaccination is not practised. The Code Commission considered that the import conditions proposed provide adequate risk mitigation measures for rendering those vaccinated animals safe to be imported. Therefore, there would be no need to limit the number of imported vaccinated animals nor specify purpose of such imports.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment that import requirements in Article 8.8.11. for vaccinated animals should be more stringent in line with requirements outlined in this article for emergency vaccination of zoo animals, notably in terms of post-import monitoring. The Commission highlighted that the provisions in Article 8.8.2. referring to the emergency vaccination of zoo animals, refer to an exceptional situation where vaccination is done in response to an imminent threat of FMDV circulation. The Commission highlighted that considering the risk mitigations have been applied before the animals are imported, they should be considered safe and thus do not need post-import measures.

In point 1, the Code Commission amended the text for consistency with previous changes made to Article 8.8.3 point 1(b).

The Code Commission acknowledged a comment about the potential need for additional surveillance if a country or zone recognised as free from FMD where vaccination is not practised imports vaccinated animals. However, it noted that in accordance with the relevant articles of the chapter, the surveillance strategies are to be chosen by the Members' Veterinary Authority for a country or zone depending on the structure and vaccination status of the target populations, and that would include any type of situation where vaccinated animals are present. This would be part of the dossier sent to WOAHP for recognition or annual reconfirmation of status.

The Code Commission amended point 5 in response to several comments to clarify that movements of all commodities between zones of different animal health status within a country will be permitted if they comply with the same requirements as for importation between countries of different animal health status. The added sentence implied that there was no need of repeating in different articles similar conditions for transfer between zones as were in articles for importation. Thus, the Code Commission agreed to delete the Article 8.8.9bis, which became superfluous and potentially misleading.

In response to a question regarding the deleted text in point 5, the Code Commission confirmed that vaccinated animals may be imported into a country or zone recognised as free from FMD where vaccination is not practised without affecting its free status, regardless of the status of the exporting

country. The Commission stressed that the import or movement should be carried out in accordance with this chapter to be considered safe.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to restore Article 8.8.5bis to its previous location as part of Article 8.8.2, as it is more clearly defined in its current location.

#### **Article 8.8.9bis**

The Commission noted that the sentence added in Article 2 point 5 implied that there was no need of repeating in different articles similar conditions for transfer between zones as were in articles for importation. Thus, the Code Commission agreed to delete the Article 8.8.9bis, which became superfluous and potentially misleading.

#### **Article 8.8.11**

The Code Commission noted comments that were already addressed by the changes proposed to Article 8.8.2.

In point 3, the Code Commission, in agreement with the opinion of the Scientific Commission, amended the text to request a virological test to be performed instead of a serological test, recognizing that virological testing was more appropriate to detect recently sub-clinically infected animals, which is the risk to be mitigated in that situation.

#### **Article 8.8.11bis**

The Code Commission noted comments that were already addressed by the changes proposed to Article 8.8.2., and made no change to that article.

#### **Article 8.8.12**

In point 5(b), the Code Commission amended the text for consistency with other Articles.

#### **Article 8.8.25**

In point 1(a), the Code Commission replaced 'establishments' with 'herds' for consistency with *Terrestrial Code* conventions, and 'FMD' was amended to 'FMDV' for clarity.

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to allow for an option of single high-temperature short-time HTST treatment for milk originating from herds not infected or suspected of being infected with FMDV and added the option to point 1(a). The Commission noted that in general in the *Terrestrial Code*, there was a difference in terms of risk mitigation between articles describing requirements and conditions for safe trade of commodities, and articles only describing treatments that inactivate the pathogenic agent in commodities, and that it explained why treatments required for trade may be different from those required for inactivation.

#### **Article 8.8.31**

The Code Commission noted a comment suggesting that pH testing of meat could be done prior to maturation of the meat, and that muscle groups other than the longissimus dorsi be selected for pH testing. The Code Commission requested that appropriate data be provided to justify alternate options to consider amending the provision, that could be taken into consideration in a future revision.

In point 3, the Code Commission agreed with a comment regarding the proper notation for water activity and amended the text to use lowercase italic 'a' and subscript 'w', in all places of the chapter where it was used.

#### **Article 8.8.40**

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In response to a comment suggesting the development of guidelines for surveillance for countries or zones that are free without vaccination and import FMD vaccinated animals, the Code Commission commented that this item was discussed in the February 2023 report and highlighted that any such guidelines intended to support Members in implementing adopted standards are not part of the WOAHP standard setting process. The Commission referred the matter to the Secretariat for further consideration.

The Code Commission did not agree with an editorial comment to change 'surveillance for FMD' to 'surveillance for FMDV.' The Commission noted that the current language is consistent with the conventions of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In Point 2, the fourth paragraph, the Code Commission agreed to replace 'animals' with 'animal populations', for clarity and consistency with the rest of the chapter and other relevant chapters.

#### **b) Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for foot and mouth disease (Chapter 1.11.)**

##### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Commission forwarded some comments received to the Scientific Commission for its consideration.

The Code Commission, in agreement with the Scientific Commission, concurred with a general comment that changes proposed in Article 1.11.3 should also be replicated in other articles for consistency.

##### **Article 1.11.1**

In the eighth paragraph, the Code Commission added the time frame required for the declaration of freedom from FMD to 12 months to be consistent with the revised four points that follow, and with Article 1.11.3, which was circulated in September 2023.

In point 1(c), the Code Commission added a summary description of wildlife habitat to the information to be provided for wildlife demographics. This is consistent with changes made to point 3 of Article 8.8.2, and the change that was made to Article 1.11.3.

In point 5(c), the Code Commission added a requirement to describe how previously vaccinated or newly introduced vaccinated animal populations are considered in the strategy and design of the surveillance programme.

In point 6(d), the Code Commission included vaccination status as an item to be considered when implementing import control procedures.

In point 8, the Code Commission made editorial changes for consistency in numbering the points referenced in the sentence.

##### **Article 1.11.2**

In the eighth paragraph, the Code Commission added the time frame required for the declaration of freedom from FMD to 12 months to be consistent with revisions to the four points that follow, and with Article 1.11.3, which was circulated in September 2023.

The Code Commission added a paragraph after point 5 to require 24 months of surveillance in accordance with Chapter 8.8, as well as regulatory measures for the prevention and control of FMD.

In point 8, the Code Commission made editorial changes for consistency in numbering the points referenced in the sentence.

### **Article 1.11.3**

In point 1(c), the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add a summary description of wildlife habitat to the information to be provided for wildlife demographics, and to reflect this change in other relevant articles of the chapter. This is consistent with changes made to point 3 of Article 8.8.2.

In point 5(c), the Code Commission added 'populations' after animal for clarity and consistency with Chapter 8.8. The Code Commission agreed with a comment that this point should be conditional to changes in corresponding information in Chapter 8.8.

In point 8, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to remove reference to point 6, as there is a point 6.

### **Article 1.11.4.**

The Commission amended the text for consistency with the changes proposed to other articles.

The revised Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus', and Chapter 1.11. 'Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for foot and mouth disease' are presented as [Annex 12](#) and [Annex 13](#), respectively, and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.8. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.16.)**

Comments were received from Switzerland and the EU.

#### Background

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission was informed that the revised Chapter 3.1.19. 'Rift Valley fever (Infection with Rift Valley fever virus)' of the *Terrestrial Manual* was adopted at the 90th General Session in May 2023.

Following the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Commission noted that the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter had been amended to include diagnostic tests suitable for trade in live animals and proceeded to review relevant articles of Chapter 8.16. 'Infection with Rift Valley fever virus' to ensure alignment, and circulated the revised Article 8.16.8. for comments.

#### Discussion

#### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'Rift Valley fever virus' before the abbreviation, RVFV, as the first use was already addressed with the Article 8.16.1.

The revised Article 8.16.8. of Chapter 8.16. 'Infection with Rift Valley fever virus' is presented as [Annex 14](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.9. Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.18.)**

Comments were received from Switzerland, Thailand and the EU.

#### Background

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission was informed that the revised Chapter 3.1.22. 'Trichinellosis (Infection with *Trichinella* spp.)' of the *Terrestrial Manual* was adopted at the 90th General Session in May 2023.

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Following the recommendations of the Biological Standards Commission, the Commission noted that the *Terrestrial Manual* chapter had been amended and included a change to the number of taxon of the pathogenic agent, and proceeded to review relevant articles Chapter 8.18. 'Infection with *Trichinella* spp.' to ensure alignment, and circulated the revised Article 8.18.1 for comments.

### Discussion

#### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

#### **Article 8.18.1.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to add a reference to the specific 'L1 larval stage' because this is the only larval stage that lives in the muscles. The Commission made editorial amendments for clarity.

In the sixth paragraph, the Code Commission considered a comment on the appropriate way of referring to Codex Alimentarius Standards and requested the Secretariat to consult with the Codex Secretariat. The Commission agreed not to introduce any change to the text at this stage.

The revised Article 8.18.1. of Chapter 8.18. 'Infection with *Trichinella* spp.' is presented as **Annex 15**, and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **5.10. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) (New Chapter 8.X.)**

Comments were received from Singapore, Switzerland, the UK and the EU.

### Background

In September 2022, the Code Commission agreed to add the development of a new chapter for Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) in the *Terrestrial Code* to its work programme and drafted a new chapter, consisting of one single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, based on a case definition endorsed by the Scientific Commission.

The Code Commission also agreed to amend the name of the listed disease in Article 1.3.1. to 'Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)' but to circulate this amendment closer to adoption, after considering the comments on the proposed new disease-specific chapter.

The proposed new Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)', was circulated three times, the last time in the September 2023 Code Commission meeting report.

### Discussion

The Commission noted comments supporting the proposed new chapter.

#### **Article 8.X.1.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'in relation to the species defined for the purpose of the *Terrestrial Code* or for human infection' at the end of the sentence, but amended the text for clarity.

In the same paragraph, in response to a question about the necessity of reporting of Q fever detected in free roaming dogs and cats, the Code Commission answered that it should be reported because if animals are domesticated, even if free-roaming they would play a role in the cycle of transmission. Similarly, in response to a question about the evidence of the epidemiologically significant role of wild and feral

animals, the Code Commission reiterated that this evidence was provided in the *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.1.17. 'Q fever' and described in previous reports of the Commission.

The new Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)' is presented as [Annex 16](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.11. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra) (New Chapter 8.Z.)**

Comments were received from Argentina, Brazil, China (People's Republic of), Switzerland, the UK, the WOAHA Americas Region, the EU and the WRO.

#### Background

The Code Commission and the Scientific Commission agreed that three separate chapters on animal trypanosomes should be developed to address different trypanosome species and host animals.

Between 2015 and 2018, a draft new Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)', and a revised Chapter 12.3. 'Dourine', were developed, circulated for comments and extensively discussed but due to the need to clarify the scope of these chapters in terms of animal hosts and pathogenic agents, in February 2018, both Commissions agreed to put Chapters 8.Z. and 12.3. on hold and to progress work on Chapter 8.18. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma brucei*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. vivax*', which was adopted in May 2021. Both Commissions had also agreed that, notwithstanding diagnostic issues, the scope of the new Chapter 8.Z. should address surra of multiple species including equids and that the scope of Chapter 12.3. should remain as dourine of equids. The Commissions agreed that work on these two chapters should recommence after the adoption of the new Chapter 8.18.

At its February 2021 meeting, the Code Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group also consider relevant comments that had been received in 2018.

In June 2021, a meeting of the *ad hoc* Group was convened to draft a new Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)'.

In September 2022, the Code Commission reviewed the draft new Chapter 8.Z. and the *ad hoc* Group report, together with the opinion of the Scientific Commission at its September 2021 meeting. The Code Commission identified a number of critical points that were not clearly explained in the supporting reports, and agreed not to circulate the proposed draft chapter for comments until it clarified these points.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered information provided by the Secretariat to address the points that it had requested clarification on, made amendments and circulated the draft chapter for comments.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the comments together with the inputs from the *ad hoc* Group, made amendments and circulated for comments.

#### Discussion

##### **Article 8.Z.1.**

The Code Commission reminded Members that [the \*ad hoc\* Group](#) noted that *T. evansi* can infect a large range of domestic and wild mammals, but it proposed that for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, surra can be defined as an infection of susceptible animals with *T. evansi*. The *ad hoc* Group also noted that 'susceptible animals' in this chapter means domestic and wild animals from the Equidae, Camelidae, Bovidae, Suidae, Canidae, Felidae families, the orders Rodentia and Lagomorpha, and non-human primates.

##### **Article 8.Z.2.**

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The Code Commission noted a comment to reconsider the reinstatement of meat as a safe commodity or elimination of the maturation of meat in Article 8.Z.11bis 'Recommendations for importation of fresh meat from susceptible animals from countries or zones infected with *T. evansi*',. In agreement with experts and the Scientific Commission, the Code Commission considered that meat of susceptible animals having been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse/abattoir and subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favourable results did comply with the requirements of Chapter 2.2. It therefore added this commodity in the list and deleted Article 8.Z.11bis.

The Code Commission acknowledged a comment to add 'rendered fats' into the list of safe commodities. The Commission noted that a clear definition of the commodity, including standardised processing or treatment, notably the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the pathogenic agent of concern, supported by sound scientific evidence and data, is needed. The Commission noted that this may be discussed in the future if the data is provided.

#### **Article 8.Z.6.**

The Code Commission modified the title of the article to be consistent with the animal species described in the disease definition in Article 8.Z.1., while considering the risks at international trade of those animals, and the risk mitigation methods available to guarantee safe trade.

#### **Article 8.Z.7.**

As for Article 8.Z.6., the Code Commission modified the title of the article to be consistent with the animal species described in the disease definition in Article 8.Z.1., while considering the risks at international trade of those animals, and the risk mitigation methods available to guarantee safe trade.

In this regard, the Code Commission agreed with the opinion of the Scientific Commission at its February 2024 meeting, to exclude 'camelids' from the scope of recommendations for importation from countries or zones infected with *T. evansi* because of the lack of evidence regarding the pathogenesis and dynamics of the immune response in camels, and the consequent impossibility to guarantee the health status of the imported animals with the current recommendations.

The Commission reminded Members that the absence of articles on import recommendations for particular commodities does not preclude the application of appropriate sanitary measures, and noted that in that case the measures for the importation of animals of relevant species other than those for which recommendations for trade are provided in this chapter, should be based on a risk analysis according to Chapter 2.1. 'Import risk analysis' of the *Terrestrial Code* and Chapter 3.1.21. of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

In point 2, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'agent identification (microscope or molecular)' due to the lack of sensitivity of this test. This applied to similar comments to Article 8.Z.8. and Article 8.Z.11.

The Commission reminded Members that the *ad hoc* Group considered that lack of sensitivity and impracticality of employing agent identification test (i.e. molecular and microscopic techniques) for these purposes, and therefore recommended that diagnostic testing should be conducted using antibody detection test, such as the card agglutination test (CATT) or ELISA test which are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

#### **Article 8.Z.9.**

The Code Commission considered a comment to clarify the scope of the recommendations, and made editorial amendments for clarity and consistency with other chapters.

The new Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)' is presented as [Annex 17](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### **5.12. Revision of Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Rabbit haemorrhagic disease (Chapter 13.2.)**

Comments were received from China (People's Republic of), Switzerland, Thailand and the EU.

### Background

At its February 2022 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to add the revision of Chapter 13.2. to its work programme in response to a Member comment.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered a case definition that had been endorsed by the Scientific Commission in its September 2022 meeting and agreed to revise Article 13.2.1. accordingly. The Commission, in agreement with a recommendation of the Scientific Commission, also amended Article 13.2.2. to reflect the expanded animal host range of the case definition.

The revised Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Chapter 13.2. were circulated twice for comments.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to amend the disease name in Article 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. from 'Rabbit haemorrhagic disease' to 'Infection with pathogenic rabbit lagoviruses (Rabbit haemorrhagic disease)' and decided to circulate the proposed amendment for comments.

### Discussion

#### **General Comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

The Commission acknowledged comments on the need to further revise the chapter and requested the Secretariat to record these points for future work.

#### **Article 13.2.1.**

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with comments to replace 'RHDV' in the parenthesis with 'RHDV 1' as it is consistent with the corresponding chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

The revised Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Chapter 13.2. 'Rabbit haemorrhagic disease' is presented as [Annex 18](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **5.13. Revision of Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus**

Comments were received from Australia, China (People's Republic of), the UK, the EU and the WRO.

### Background

At its February 2023 meeting, in response to a comment from a Member to add 'extruded dry pet food' as a safe commodity to Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus, the Code Commission agreed to add this item to its work programme.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission reviewed the information on the production process and heat treatments provided by the GAPFA, against the criteria described in Article 2.2.2., and agreed that 'extruded dry pet food' meets the criteria for a safe commodity for this disease and should therefore be added to the list of safe commodities in Article 15.1.2. The Code Commission also agreed to amend point 1 of Article 15.1.2., following the terminology agreed by the Commission in February 2022 for this commodity, i.e., 'heat-treated *meat products* in a hermetically sealed container with a F<sub>0</sub> value of 3 or above' for consistency.

### Discussion

The Code Commission considered the comments received.



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In point 1, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to clarify the timing of heat treatment in relation to the packaging. The Commission explained that the text was clear as written that heat treatment is conducted after the hermetical sealing.

In response to comments on point 3 requesting clarification on the standards for processing that were taken into consideration in assessing 'extruded dry pet food' as a 'safe commodity' at its last meeting, the Code Commission reminded Members that the assessment was based on the description of the standardised industry production processes and heat treatments provided by GAPFA. According to those data, 'extruded dry pet food' is an extruded dry kibble coated with a palatant, wherein ingredients of animal and plant origin are combined with micronutrients and pre-conditioned with water and heat for 120 to 180 seconds prior to extrusion under pressure at a minimum temperature of 80°C throughout its substance. The kibble is further dried under heat following a time/temperature regimen sufficient to reduce moisture of the kibble from around 22 – 28% moisture to around 8 – 10% moisture. The kibble is coated with a palatant which has been treated to a minimum process of 70°C for 30 minutes. The finished product is shelf stable with water activity that will not support microbial growth. These elements will allow the Code Commission to consider the inclusion of 'extruded dry pet food' in the list of safe commodities each time a disease-specific chapter will be reviewed.

The Code Commission agreed with a comment to include 'protein meal' in the list of safe commodities, for the same reasons discussed in the item 5.7. of this report.

The Commission acknowledged a comment to add 'rendered fats' to the list of safe commodities. The Commission noted that a clear definition of the commodity, including a standardised processing or treatment, notably the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the pathogenic agent of concern, supported by sound scientific evidence is needed. The Commission noted that this may be discussed if the data is provided in the future.

The revised Article 15.1.2. is presented as [Annex 19](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

#### **5.14. New chapter Infection with *Camelpox* virus (Chapter 16.Z.)**

Comments were received from Canada, Switzerland, the UK, the USA and the EU.

##### Background

At its September 2020 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to include the development of a new chapter on *Camelpox* in its work programme and requested the Secretariat to seek expert advice. The Code Commission also agreed with the Scientific Commission on the importance of developing a case definition for this disease to support Members' notification.

In September 2022, the Code Commission considered the case definition that was endorsed by the Scientific Commission in February 2022, the experts' inputs, opinions of the Biological Standards Commission and Chapter 3.5.1. '*Camelpox*' of the *Terrestrial Manual* adopted in 2021. The Commission drafted a new Chapter X.Z. 'Infection with *Camelpox* virus', consisting of a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence.

At its September 2023 meeting, in view of the progress of the proposed amendments, the Code Commission agreed to amend the disease name in Article 1.3.9. from '*Camelpox*' to 'Infection with *Camelpox* virus' and to circulate the text for comments.

The proposed new Chapter 16.Z. 'Infection with *Camelpox* virus' was circulated for comments three times.

##### Discussion

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

## Article 16.Z.1.

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with comments that 'camel-pox' should be capitalised as well as italicised and amended the text following the recommendations of the ICTV.

In the same paragraph, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'New World camelids' as animal hosts and reiterated the explanation provided in its previous reports that, based on the advice provided by experts, these animals are not considered to play a significant role in the epidemiology of the disease.

In point 2, the Code Commission agreed with a comment that the first letter of the word 'orthopox' should be capitalised and amended the text for consistency.

In point 4, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'that was or is' before 'showing' and 'which is' before 'epidemiologically' as it considered the text was clear as written. The Commission responded that it was not required that clinical signs and antibodies be present at the same time to confirm a case.

The new Chapter 16.Z. 'Infection with *Camel-pox virus*' is presented as [Annex 20](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

### 5.15. Terminology: Use of terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'

Comments were received from New Caledonia, New Zealand, Switzerland, the AU-IBAR and the EU.

#### Background

At the 89th General Session in May 2022, revised Glossary definitions for '*Competent Authority*', '*Veterinary Authority*' and '*Veterinary Services*' in the *Terrestrial Code* were adopted. The revision of these definitions was done in coordination with the Aquatic Animals Commission. Revised Glossary definitions for '*Competent Authority*', '*Veterinary Authority*' and '*Aquatic Animal Health Services*' for the *Aquatic Code* were also adopted in May 2022. Both Commissions agreed to revise the use of these definitions in the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code*, respectively, to ensure consistent use, when relevant.

In September 2022, the Code Commission considered the use of the terms '*Competent Authority*', '*Veterinary Authority*' and '*Veterinary Services*' in the *Terrestrial Code* (2022 edition), based on the rationale for the use of these terms provided by the Code Commission in its September 2021 report, and agreed that several amendments would be needed.

In February 2023, both the Code Commission and the Aquatic Animals Commission proposed some amendments and circulated them in their respective February 2023 reports to allow Members to consider them at the same time. The Code Commission also agreed to propose amendments for the use of these terms in the User's Guide.

The proposed amendments have been circulated four times.

#### Discussion

The Code Commission noted that a comment for '*animal for slaughter*' should be discussed along with the revision of Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals' and associated Glossary definitions (see item 5.6. of this report).

In response to a comment for Article 8.3.15. to replace '*Veterinary Services*' with '*Veterinary Authority*', the Code Commission did not agree as it considered that it is more accurate to use *Veterinary Services* in reference to surveillance activities.

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In response to a comment for Article 12.2.8. and Article 12.7.8. to avoid using twice the term ‘*Veterinary Services*’ in the same sentence at the beginning and at the end, the Code Commission agreed to amend the text to avoid that repetition.

The revised texts are presented as [Annex 21](#), and will be proposed for adoption at the 91st General Session in May 2024.

## 6. Texts circulated for comments

The Code Commission discussed the following new or revised texts and circulated them for comments.

### 6.1. User’s Guide

Comments were received from New Zealand, Switzerland, the EU and the WGW.

#### Background

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to revise the User’s Guide, following a discussion at the 90th General Session in May 2023. The Commission proposed several amendments to part B *Terrestrial Code* content, to incorporate a more detailed explanation of the disease-specific chapters, in line with the newly developed ‘Framework for *Terrestrial Code* standards’ (see item 7.3.), and to develop a new point to explain the use of terms referring to animals (hosts) used in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Code Commission highlighted its commitment to continuing working on the User’s Guide and circulated the proposed amendments for comments.

#### Discussion

### B. *Terrestrial Code* content

In point 10, second indent, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to refer solely to ‘case definition’. The Commission highlighted that there was a difference, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, between the ‘definition of the disease’ and the definition of its ‘occurrence’, which could also be referred to as ‘case definition’. The Commission explained that the ‘definition of the disease’ describes and defines the disease by naming the pathogenic agent(s) and the animal host(s) that are covered by a disease-specific chapter (such as notification, animal health status, safe trade, surveillance etc.) and other relevant provisions in the *Terrestrial Code*. The definition of the ‘occurrence’ of the disease provides the criteria and different options to confirm a ‘case’ of the disease (as defined in the Glossary: an animal infected by a pathogenic agent), with the primary objective of enabling Members to comply with their notification obligations to WOA. The Commission amended the text for clarity.

The Code Commission also introduced amendments to different bullet points, for clarity.

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission amended the text to clarify that the first article of a disease-specific chapter is not limited to providing the definition of occurrence for the purpose of notification to WOA, but that it may include other provisions.

### C. Specific issues

In point 3, the Commission agreed with a comment to amend the text for clarity.

### D. Name of animal species

The Commission acknowledged a comment from the WGW to review the genus referred to as ‘ducks’. The Commission noted that this should be taken into consideration in future work on Section 10 of the *Terrestrial Code*, and requested the Secretariat to seek further advice from the WGW on the matter.

The Commission acknowledged a comment from the WGW querying whether the term 'Suidae' would include peccaries and agreed that they are included. The Commission noted that the family 'Tayassuidae' is not mentioned in the table because they are not included in the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission agreed with a comment from the WGW and amended the taxonomy listed for 'new world camelids' so that it would also cover vicuña and guanaco.

The revised User's Guide is presented as [Annex 22](#) for comments.

## **6.2. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Chapter 7.1)**

Comments were received from Canada, Colombia, Japan, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, the UK, the USA, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the ICFAW.

### Background

In February 2022, the Code Commission agreed to consider a comment to include the 'five domains' concept in Chapter 7.7. Dog population management and requested that the Secretariat and the WOAHA Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres (AWCC) prepare a background document for its consideration.

In September 2022, the Commission reviewed the background document and noted that the 'five domains' as an animal welfare concept is recognised internationally, and it may be relevant to include it in Chapter 7.1. 'Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare' rather than Chapter 7.7. The Commission agreed that given this was still a relatively new concept, it should develop a document to explain the concept to Members and how it is linked to the concept of 'five freedoms' currently used in the Code. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft text for inclusion in Chapter 7.1. in consultation with the AWCC.

At the September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission discussed an explanatory note prepared by the WOAHA AWCC ([Annex 27](#)) and proposed some modifications to Chapter 7.1. to Members and circulated the revised chapter for comments.

### Discussion

#### **General comments**

The Code Commission noted comments expressing support for the proposed amendments.

In response to a comment requesting information regarding the rationale for the proposed amendments in the chapter and access to the explanatory document discussed at the September 2023 meeting, the Commission agreed to provide the relevant content from that document as [Annex 27](#) for information.

#### **Article 7.1.1.**

In the second paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with several comments to delete 'severely or for a long time' as brief but severe suffering should be also considered as an important welfare problem. In the same paragraph the Code Commission agreed to add the word "avoidable" to reinforce the idea of minimising any negative experience.

The Commission did not agree to include a sentence regarding an opportunity to experience positive states as this is addressed in the last paragraph of this article.

#### **Article 7.1.2.**

In point 2, the Code Commission did not agree to add text to explain the concept of 'five freedoms' and 'five domains', and agreed to include an extract of the explanatory note on five domains mode (see [Annex 27](#)).

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Also, the Code Commission did not agree to develop a definition for 'mental state', as the term is consistently used in the chapter and not widely used in the *Terrestrial Code*.

In the same point, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to reword the whole paragraph as it is not the intention to take out the 'five freedoms' concept and replace it with the 'five domains' concept, but to add the five domains for a more complete view of existing tools for the assessment of animal welfare.

The Commission agreed to replace 'behavioural interaction' with 'behaviour' for clarity.

In point 4, the Code Commission did not agree with the rewording of this point as the proposal did not add clarity.

In point 5, the Commission did not agree to delete the reference to animals used for recreation and entertainment, as these animals need to be covered in the guiding principles mentioned in this chapter. In the same point, the Commission did not agree to include a reference to the use of animals collected from wildlife, as the proposed text was deemed as a recommendation and not a guiding principle. The relevant recommendations can be found in the specific chapters in Section 7.

In point 6, the Commission did not agree with a comment to add a provision regarding the environment that animals could share as it is not within the scope of this chapter.

In point 7, the Commission agreed to delete 'often', as it does not add value to the sentence and animal welfare does not necessarily improve productivity or food safety.

#### **Article 7.1.3.**

Regarding comments in point 1, the Code Commission did not agree to modify the title of the article as all articles in this chapter are implicitly applicable to the rest of Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code*. Also in point 1, the Commission did not agree to add an additional explanation regarding the assessment of the welfare of animals. Instead, the Commission agreed to include a new text at the end of point 2.

In point 3, the Code Commission did not agree to include some terms such as pleasure, contentment or distress, but agreed to include 'negative and positive' before 'affective states', and to delete the examples.

The Code Commission did not agree to include details on how to measure or determine the strength of animal preferences, as those details can be found in other chapters in Section 7 by species or operations.

The Code Commission did not agree to add text to explain the assessment of different management methods, as this is covered in Articles 7.1.4 and 7.1.5.

#### **Article 7.1.4.**

In point 1, the Code Commission did not agree to delete the sentence concerning the consequences of a treatment and its applicability. However, the text was modified to make it clearer that the recommendation of the *Terrestrial Code* may include some specific aspects depending on the environment, the resources, and management of the production systems under which the animals are kept.

In point 4, the Commission noted a comment to provide a clearer wording and amended the text accordingly.

The Commission agreed in part with a comment in point 5 to clarify the end users of the standards when choosing relevant measures. Therefore, to avoid being too prescriptive it modified the wording to make it more generic.

In point 6 the Commission amended the text to clarify the fact that changes in practices are needed and should be applied when animal welfare outcomes are unsatisfactory.

### Article 7.1.5.

In point 1, the Code Commission did not agree to include 'prioritise' when using genetic selection, as prioritisation is not the intention of the guiding principles. This recommendation can be found in the different species-specific chapters on animal welfare and animal production systems.

The Commission did not agree to reinstate 'parasites' in point 2, as this risk related to local conditions is included in the term 'disease.' On the other hand, the Commission agreed to reword the text to take into account the adaptability to local conditions.

For consistency with point 2, the Commission also deleted 'parasites' from point 3.

In point 4, the Commission agreed with a comment that resting and movement should be both comfortable and safe, and amended the text accordingly.

The Commission agreed partially in point 5 with a comment to include the concept of promoting positive social behaviour, but only replaced 'allow' with 'promote' to keep the text concise.

In point 6, the Commission agreed with a comment to improve clarity regarding the environmental conditions for housed animals and amended the text accordingly.

The Commission did not agree with comments on Point 7 regarding the provision of feed and water 'at all times,' as this is a recommendation that contradicts e.g. with Chapter 7.5 'Animal welfare during slaughter'. The Commission considered this can be challenging in some agroecological conditions. Also, the Commission did not agree to change the last part of this point as the intention is to prevent hunger and thirst as well as malnutrition and dehydration.

In point 9, the Code Commission agreed with comments to include a new text at the beginning of this point to highlight the importance of using alternatives to some painful procedures as a general principle.

The Commission did not agree with some comments on point 10 as they did not add clarity. In addition, some of the suggestions are already addressed in the other chapters of Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Code*.

In point 11, the Code Commission agreed to add 'training' to complement the competencies that owners and handlers should have to treat animals with which they are in contact.

The revised Chapter 7.1. 'Introduction to the recommendations on animal welfare' is presented as [Annex 23](#), for comments.

The extract of the explanatory notes on five domains prepared by the WOAHA Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres, is presented as [Annex 27](#) for information.

### 6.3. Killing for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.6.)

#### Background

In February 2018, the Code Commission agreed to revise Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animals' and Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes' and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work as well as the revision of related Glossary definitions.

At its June 2023 meeting, the *ad hoc* Group started work on Chapter 7.6. and developed a draft revised chapter and submitted its report together with the draft chapter to the Code Commission for consideration at its September 2023 meeting.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission considered the *ad hoc* Group report and the draft revised Chapter 7.6., provided feedback on the proposed text, and requested that the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to continue working on the draft chapter.

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## Discussion

The Code Commission acknowledged the work of the *ad hoc* Group and considered a draft revised Chapter 7.6., together with some comments made by the members of the Code Commission in preparation of this meeting.

The Code Commission noted a proposal from the *ad hoc* Group to amend the title of the revised chapter to 'Animal welfare at the time of killing'. The Commission agreed in principle with this proposal taking into account the expanded scope of the revised chapter, which is not only about the killing of animals for disease control purposes but also under other circumstances, such as natural and man-made disasters. Also, the Commission noted that the revised chapter appeared to focus on the welfare issues related to mass killing of animals and that the text in the articles should reflect that.

The Code Commission reviewed the draft chapter and agreed to circulate for comments the first eight articles of the draft revised chapter, which include general recommendations.

The Code Commission agreed to continue working in the intersession and discuss the rest of the chapter during their September 2024 meeting.

The Articles 7.6.1 to 7.6.8 of the draft revised Chapter 7.6. Killing for disease control purposes, are presented as [Annex 24](#), for comments.

### **6.4. New chapter on infection with Nipah virus (Chapter 8.Y.)**

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland, the USA and the EU.

## Background

At its February 2022 meeting, the Code Commission was informed that in September 2021 the Scientific Commission had endorsed the draft case definition developed by subject matter experts for Nipah virus encephalitis. The Code Commission reviewed the experts' reports and the Scientific Commission's opinion and agreed that the rationale provided for the case definition was not sufficient to support commencing the work to develop a single-article chapter. The Code Commission highlighted that if a change was considered for either in pathogenic agents or in its animal hosts, that this should be done through an assessment against the listing criteria in accordance with Chapter 1.2.

In February 2023, following the Code Commission request, and after consultation between the Biological Standards Commission and the Scientific Commission, the Scientific Commission amended the draft case definition, and forwarded it to the Code Commission for consideration.

At its September 2023 meeting, the Code Commission agreed to draft a new Chapter 8.Y. 'Infection with Nipah virus', consisting of a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence. The Code Commission also agreed to include an option for seroconversion only (i.e., without any further conditions) in the proposed point 3 of Article 8.Y.1., based on the opinions of the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission.

Regarding the name of the listed disease in Chapter 1.3., the Code Commission agreed to amend it from 'Nipah virus encephalitis' to 'Infection with Nipah virus' and moved from Article 1.3.5. (diseases of suidae) to Article 1.3.1. (diseases of multiple species), and to propose these amendments to Chapter 1.3. closer to the adoption of the new draft Chapter 8.Y.

## Discussion

In the first paragraph, the Code Commission considered comments to add other species as animal hosts or as carriers. The Commission noted that the pigs and horses are the species considered to play a significant role in the epidemiology of the disease, which was aligned with *Terrestrial Manual*. However,

the Commission added a text to clarify that the Nipah virus can infect a wide range of species but pigs and horses are the only species that play a significant role in the epidemiology of the disease.

In the same paragraph, the Code Commission agreed with a comment to change the order of 'horses' and 'pigs' as it considered that the infection of Nipah virus of pigs is highly contagious.

The Code Commission did not agree with a comment to delete point 3 as it considered that for that disease, evidence of active infection detected by seroconversion, as defined in the *Terrestrial Manual*, would constitute a confirmed case.

In points 3 and 4, the Code Commission did not agree with a comment to add 'infection with a cross-reactive virus' as it is inconsistent with the language mentioned at the start of the sentence 'antibodies specific to Nipah virus'.

In point 4, the Commission disagreed to a comment to delete 'suspected' but noted that it would work on a Glossary definition for 'suspected' case in the future.

The Code Commission reminded Members that the amendment of 'Nipah virus encephalitis' in Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA will be proposed when the new draft Chapter 8.Y. will be proposed for adoption.

The new Chapter 8.Y. 'Infection with Nipah virus' is presented as [Annex 25](#), for comments.

## **6.5. Revision of Chapter 12.3 Dourine**

### Background

The Code Commission and the Scientific Commission had agreed that three separate chapters on animal trypanosomes with different coverage of trypanosome species and animal hosts should be developed.

Between 2015 and 2018, a draft new Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)' and a revised Chapter 12.3. 'Dourine' were developed, circulated for comments and extensively discussed, but due to the need to clarify the scope of these chapters in terms of host species and pathogenic agents, in February 2018, both Commissions agreed to put Chapters 8.Z. and 12.3. on hold and to progress work on Chapter 8.19. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma brucei*, *T. congolense*, *T. simiae* and *T. vivax*', which was adopted in May 2021. Both Commissions had also agreed that, notwithstanding diagnostic issues, the scope of the new Chapter 8.Z. should address surra of multiple species including horses and that the scope of Chapter 12.3. should remain as dourine of equids. The Commissions agreed that work on these two chapters should recommence after the adoption of the new Chapter 8.19.

The *ad hoc* Group was convened in July 2023 to draft a revised Chapter 12.3, in line with the approach used for the draft Chapter 8.Z. 'Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (Surra)' for comments, that was circulated for comments in February 2023

In September 2023, the Scientific Commission reviewed the *ad hoc* Group's report and the draft revised Chapter 12.3. and forwarded it to the Code Commission.

### Discussion

The Code Commission considered [the \*ad hoc\* Group report](#) and opinions of the Scientific Commission together with the draft revised Chapter 12.3. 'Dourine'.

The Code Commission reviewed the draft revised Chapter 12.3. and made amendments to the draft text for clarity and consistency. The Code Commission reminded Members to refer to the *ad hoc* Group report and the Scientific Commission's September 2023 report in conjunction with this report, and noted that the explanations provided in the previous reports are not repeated in this report.



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In Article 12.3.1., point 1, the Code Commission agreed to include a reference to 'surra'. The Commission acknowledged that it was not conventional to refer to other diseases in a disease-specific chapter, but agreed to the opinion of the *ad hoc* Group to justify this:

“In the first part of the case definition on the observation of trypanosomes with *Trypanozoon* morphology, the Group discussed that having an epidemiological link to a confirmed case of dourine would unequivocally render the equid a case. However, if the same equid had only a ‘suspected previous association or contact’, it would not be sufficient, regardless of the molecular techniques used, to definitively classify the equid as infected with *T. equiperdum*. Therefore, to be classified as a case, the equid should also show clinical signs consistent with dourine as proposed by the *ad hoc* Group. Notwithstanding, if neither an epidemiological link to a confirmed case nor suspected case may be established, to avoid misclassification with surra, the Group proposed to add that the case should be from an area where surra is not known to occur.”

The Commission noted that due to the large number of amendments proposed, the revised chapter is only presented as clean text.

The revised Chapter 12.3 ‘Dourine’ is presented as [Annex 26](#), for comments.

## 7. Updates on WOAHS initiatives relevant to the Code Commission

### 7.1. WOAHS Standards Online Navigation Tool

The Code Commission was updated on the WOAHS Standards Online navigation tool project, which is an innovative project aimed at providing users with streamlined access and navigation of WOAHS Standards.

The project will deliver three new user interfaces, on the WOAHS Website:

- Navigation and search tool; this interface will provide a guided navigation experience that will allow users to navigate through the WOAHS Codes and Manuals.
- Recommendations for safe international trade, by commodity; this interface will enable users to easily visualise recommendations for safe international trade by commodity through a comprehensive filtering system.
- Management of Standards; this interface will enable WOAHS staff to efficiently manage and update WOAHS International Standards, following adoption of new or revised text at the WOAHS General Assembly.

The tool will be demonstrated at a kiosk at the 91st General Session in May 2024 and is projected to go ‘live’ in July 2024.

This project represents a significant milestone in WOAHS’s commitment to enhance access and utilisation of WOAHS standards and contributes to the objectives of the 7th Strategic Plan to implement digital transformation, respond to Members’ needs and improve WOAHS efficiency and agility.

### 7.2. WOAHS Global Animal Welfare Strategy

#### Background

As part of the ongoing implementation of the WOAHS Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS), a two-year work plan (2022-2023) had been developed. This work plan includes nine activities that address the four pillars of the Strategy: ‘Development of animal welfare standards’, ‘Capacity building activities’, ‘Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies’ and ‘Communication with governments and the public’.

#### Discussion

The Secretariat provided an update of the Global Animal Welfare Forum, which is one of the relevant activities of the GAWS work plan.

The 2023 forum, 'Developing national animal welfare legislation; Different paths for the same destination', focused on presentations and discussions to bring knowledge, shared experience and support for the development of national animal welfare legislation. The topic was selected given that national veterinary legislation is the foundation for the implementation of WOAH international standards and for achieving good governance in animal health and welfare.

Key outcomes from the discussions during the forum were the need to agree on a common language and terms when developing legislation and regulations and the importance of monitoring and evaluating policies, alongside the need to influence human behaviour to improve animal welfare. The complex relationship between sustainability and animal welfare featured in discussions throughout the forum. The participants also noted the potential for policymaking to be more creative and less prescriptive, which may make policies easier to enforce.

Also, participants agreed that collaboration amongst WOAH Members was important and that those more advanced in the development and implementation of legislation could support those less advanced, and share lessons learned. WOAH capacity building tools such as the WOAH PVS Pathway and Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, were identified as key tools to be used by WOAH Members to improve their animal welfare regulatory framework.

The Code Commission acknowledged the information provided and noted that WOAH standards are not regulations *per se*, but serve as guidance to develop national regulations.

The Secretariat informed the Commission that the full report of the forum is [available on the WOAH website](#).

### **7.3. Framework for *Terrestrial Code* Standards**

#### Background

At the February 2021 Code Commission meeting, the Secretariat proposed developing a framework for *Terrestrial Code* Standards that would serve as a useful guide to ensure a consistent approach when undertaking work on the development or revision of a chapter. Noting the differences in the objectives and structure of the chapters within Volume I and Volume II of the *Terrestrial Code*, and within the different sections of Volume I, the Commission requested the Secretariat to begin by working on the content of disease-specific chapters, i.e. Volume II.

Since then, the Code Commission has worked closely with the Secretariat, in consultation with the Scientific Commission, and based on previous discussions and agreements between the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission and, where relevant, with the Biological Standards Commission, to develop a document that provides a detailed description of the structure and content of a disease-specific chapter, including the key references to other parts of the *Terrestrial Code* and other WOAH Standards, and conventions regarding the use of terms, wording and structure.

The Code Commission acknowledged that the framework is a living document and should be used as the reference for those undertaking work on the development of new or revised chapters. The Commission also agreed that the framework would help Members gain a better understanding of disease-specific chapters in the *Terrestrial Code* and could eventually be made available to Members at a later stage.

In September 2023, the Code Commission reviewed the document and requested the Secretariat to finalise a first edition as of February 2024 and requested that it be shared at the same time with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission. Moreover, the Code Commission requested the Secretariat to use the framework in upcoming disease-specific chapter revisions and provide feedback with the Commission.

#### Discussion

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The Secretariat presented to the Code Commission a consolidated framework document which had been also shared with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission at their February 2024 meeting, as well as a list of identified issues by the Commission at its September 2023 meeting to be addressed in the future.

The Commission commended the work done and agreed to close this as a first edition of the document, to be used initially for internal purposes, and requested the Secretariat to use it in the upcoming work to review or develop disease-specific chapters. The Commission emphasised that this should be a living document that, while striving for harmonisation and consistency, should allow for evolution.

The commission reviewed the list of issues to be further discussed and agreed to continue working to progressively address them, together with other items that may arise. The Commission noted that some of the priority items identified were already being considered in the upcoming works on 'animal hosts' (see item 4.2.1 of this report), 'zoning' (see item 4.2.6. of this report), the User's guide (see item 6.1. of this report) and on 'commodity' (see item 7.4. of this report).

Noting the progress in the development of the new tool to visualise the recommendations for international trade by commodity (see item 7.1. of this report), and the progress on the work on 'commodity' (see item 7.4. of this report), the Commission agreed to initiate, when possible, a discussion to improve the structure of the articles containing trade recommendations.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back at its next meeting and to incorporate the maintenance of the 'framework' as a standing item for every Code Commission meeting.

## **7.4. Commodities**

### Background

At its September 2021 meeting, the Code Commission agreed on an internal procedure to manage commodities' names and their listing as safe commodities in *Terrestrial Code* chapters. Since then, the Commission has been working with the Secretariat to develop a consolidated approach to managing commodities' names.

In September 2023, the Code Commission discussed a set of rules and a categorised tree, considering the WCO HS, to achieve consistency in the naming of commodities in the context of the WOH internal SOP. The Commission agreed with the proposed approach, provided feedback to the Secretariat and noted that this would be a continuous work aiming at progressively developing a standardised approach and requested the Secretariat to consolidate this work with the framework for *Terrestrial Code* Standards.

The Code Commission noted that there was a need to consider some groups of commodities such as 'dairy commodities', 'egg commodities' or commodities associated with 'rendering' to clarify the standard terminology and associated industrial process and requested the Secretariat to continue developing a standardised approach in collaboration with relevant partner organisations and report back at a future meeting.

### Discussion

The Secretariat updated the Commission on the progress of this work based on the Code Commission's feedback on the proposed set of rules and categorised tree discussed at its September meeting. The Secretariat informed that these had been taken into consideration for the development of the new WOH Standards online navigation tool (See items 7.1. of this report), and that the project will provide additional insights and tools to progress this work on commodities.

With regards to the clarification of some commodity groups, the Secretariat reported that it has been working with partner organisations, particularly with the World Renderers Organisation, that had established a working group dedicated to standardizing definitions for the most significant and commonly traded rendered products.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back on the progress of work at its next meeting.

### **7.5. Transparency of the WOAH process for the elaboration of Standards**

The Secretariat updated the Code Commission on progress that had been made to improve the transparency of the WOAH process for the elaboration of Standards, in particular the publication of comments submitted by Members and partners.

The Secretariat informed the Commission that the Director General communicated this initiative to Members in December 2023 and that a [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) had been developed for the submission of comments during the process for the elaboration of WOAH international standards](#), as well as [a guide on how to submit and present comments](#), and that these documents have been published on [the WOAH website](#) and on the Delegates' website.

The Secretariat reminded the Commission that this is a progressive process, that will start in March/April 2024 with the publication on the Delegates' website of comments considered on new and revised standards during February 2024 Commission meetings, at the same time as the publication of the respective February 2024 Commission report. This process takes a step-wise approach and includes an evolution of the Commission reports towards transparency of comments considered and Commission responses, which will result in better documentation and traceability of the WOAH process for the elaboration of Standards.

### **7.6. WAHIAD and WAHIS Platform updates**

The Code Commission was updated on the development and evolution of the WAHIS platform during 2023 which included the optimisation of the early warning, biannual report modules, and the development of the annual report module. The Commission was reminded that sessions were organised with members of all the Specialist Commissions to demonstrate how to use WAHIS functionalities and to gather feedback on needs. Similar sessions will be convened in 2024 and all Commissions are encouraged to participate.

The Commission was briefed on the relevant updates of the WAHIS Reference Tables made in December 2023. The objective of this work was to align with the changes adopted in the WOAH International Standards at the 2023 General Session.

The Commission commended this work and encouraged the communication between the Secretariat and WOAH World Animal Health Information and Analysis Department (WAHIAD) to continue evaluating changes to the WOAH Standards that may need to be reflected in WAHIS.

### **7.7. New WOAH Emerging Diseases *ad hoc* Group**

The Code Commission was updated on the establishment of a 'WOAH *ad hoc* Group on Emerging Diseases (including re-emerging diseases) and Drivers of Disease Emergence in Animals', presented as "WOAH's Emerging Diseases Group (EDG)", which met for the first time in December 2023. The Secretariat reported that this Group was an evolution of the *ad hoc* Group on COVID-19 and would be proposed to work permanently with specific Working Group Terms of Reference (ToR).

The Secretariat reported that the Group discussed their dual role of supporting WOAH, that is in a response function and in a business-as-usual operational function, and that the experts deliberated and identified existing gaps in the current framework for addressing emerging diseases in WOAH and formulated a set of deliverables and a work plan for the first year of operation.

The Code Commission noted the update from this Group and its ToR. The Commission regretted that it had not seen the ToR previously, as this group will have potential work on some aspects of the *Terrestrial Code*. It provided feedback and expressed concerns on some points covered in the first meeting report, especially a biased understanding of the term 'emerging disease', which is defined in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* (not only 'for the purposes of trade'). The Commission highlighted the importance of maintaining a close alignment with the existing mechanisms for the assessment of 'emerging diseases' and coordination with the Scientific Commission who oversees that process. While acknowledging the

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importance of some of the topics discussed by the Group, especially the possible role of hazard identification by WOAAH, the Commission stressed that it was critical to respect the principles of notification of emerging disease to WOAAH, and the existing related standards. The Commission reminded that notification to WOAAH of 'emerging diseases' as defined in the Glossary was an obligation for Members and it was aimed 'to minimise the spread of important animal diseases, and their pathogenic agents, and to assist in achieving better worldwide control of these diseases' as described in Article 1.1.2. of the *Code*, and that going beyond this could imply unjustified burden to Members. On the other hand, the Commission considered that, in the case of apparently emerging events and findings of importance yet to be evaluated, the WOAAH Scientific Network, notably the WOAAH Reference laboratories and Collaborating Centres, would be best placed to help in defining the actual and potential impacts of each of these events.

The Commission thanked the Secretariat for the information provided and expressed its willingness to contribute to this work, as relevant.

### **7.8. Publication of the Observatory thematic study on zoning**

A representative of the WOAAH Observatory informed the Code Commission about the [Thematic Study on Zoning Report](#) (Part 1), which was published in January 2024. They explained that it is a descriptive report on the use, challenges and impact of zones established due to infection with avian influenza (AI), African swine fever (ASF) and foot and mouth disease (FMD) in WOAAH Members from 2018-2022. Members were asked to complete three questionnaires to provide information on their use of zoning for AI, ASF and FMD. They had good response rates with 50-60% of Members having responded to the different disease questionnaires. Members responded that zoning had a positive impact on the control of the three diseases (81%-91%). The top challenges for implementation of zoning were staffing and availability of other resources of Veterinary Services, enforcement of biosecurity and animal identification and traceability. Members reported that recognition of zones by trading partners can take more than two years, and is mainly driven by transparency and trust in certification systems.

The Code Commission supported one of the recommendations of the report that WOAAH organise an inter-regional forum where Members from different parts of the world could share experiences in establishing disease-free zones and discuss practical approaches, solutions, and tools to be considered for creating and successfully maintaining a disease-free zone. The Commission also noted that, besides the conclusions of the referred report, if such activity was organised, the outcomes could provide valuable inputs that could be considered for the development of the new Chapter 4.X. on implementation of zoning (see item 4.2.6. of this report).

## **8. Updates on the other standard-setting bodies and international organisations**

The Code Commission was updated on work of other standard-setting bodies and international organisations relevant to its work.

### **8.1. One Health Global Coordination**

The Code Commission was updated on the ongoing activities undertaken at WOAAH to ensure global coordination of One Health activities.

The Code Commission was informed of the current activities conducted under the 'Quadripartite', coordination action between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Health Organization (WHO) and WOAAH.

Also, the Commission was provided with an update of the ongoing works at WHO to negotiate a new international agreement to strengthen global pandemic prevention, and if necessary to review the International Health Regulations (IHR), which WOAAH has been following closely as an observer.

The Commission discussed different aspects of this work, and agreed with the importance of ensuring good coordination of these activities between international organisations, as well as promoting the practical implementation of the 'One Health approach'.

The Commission noted that the ongoing discussions should be an opportunity to reinforce for the coordination between the human and animal health sectors. The Commission noted that Veterinary Services play a critical role in surveillance, detection, prevention, and control of animal diseases, including zoonoses and emerging pathogenic agents. The Commission reminded that the 'One Health approach' is deeply incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code*, not only because it addresses directly animal diseases and zoonoses, but also because the impact in human health is at the core of many of the recommended measures, as it is part of the vital role of Veterinary Services. In addition to disease specific measures, the Commission also noted that the *Terrestrial Code* contains one whole section dedicated to veterinary public health (Section 6), including areas like food safety systems and antimicrobial resistance. The Commission stressed that it would be important to ensure that key aspects of these standards for both organisations are well coordinated and expressed interest in supporting this effort.

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.../Annexes

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## Annex 1. Adopted Agenda

### MEETING OF THE WOAHP TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 6 to 16 February 2024

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1. **Welcome**
  - 1.1. Director General and Deputy Director General
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Cooperation with other Specialist Commissions**
  - 3.1. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
    - 3.1.1. SOP for listing decision for pathogenic agents
    - 3.1.2. SOP for determining whether a disease should be considered as emerging
      - 3.1.2.1. Ongoing assessments and new requests
    - 3.1.3. Case definitions
    - 3.1.4. Animal hosts to be targeted by WOAHP Standards for a listed disease
    - 3.1.5. Notification obligations
    - 3.1.6. Removal of questionnaire chapters (Chapters 1.7. to 1.12.)
    - 3.1.7. Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation
  - 3.2. Biological Standards Commission
    - 3.2.1. Biological Standards Commission's recommendations to the *Terrestrial Code*
  - 3.3. Aquatic Animals Commission
    - 3.3.1. Aquatic Animals Commission work on chapter on implementation of compartmentalisation
4. **Code Commission's work programme not including texts proposed for comments or adoption**
  - 4.1. **Ongoing work items (not in order of priority)**
    - 4.1.1. Animal hosts to be targeted by WOAHP Standards for a listed disease
    - 4.1.2. Wildlife health
    - 4.1.3. Emergency Management
    - 4.1.4. Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation
    - 4.1.5. Revision of Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
    - 4.1.6. Revision of Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea, 7.3. Transport of animals by land and 7.4. Transport of animals by air
    - 4.1.7. Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes
    - 4.1.8. Revision of Chapter 12.3. Dourine
    - 4.1.9. Revision of chapters on equine encephalitis (Chapters 8.10. Japanese encephalitis, 12.4. Equine encephalitis (Eastern and Western) and 12.11. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)
    - 4.1.10. Revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie

- 4.1.11. Revision of Chapters 5.5. and 5.7. and associated glossary
  - 4.1.12. Revision of Chapter 1.6. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH
  - 4.1.13. New Chapter Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
  - 4.2. Items under consideration for inclusion in work programme**
  - 4.3. New proposals and requests for inclusion in work programme**
    - 4.3.1. New World screwworm and Old World screwworm
    - 4.3.2. Comment on EHD
    - 4.3.3. New requests
  - 4.4. Prioritisation of items in work programme**
  - 5. Texts circulated for comments**
    - 5.1. Glossary: 'animal product', 'biological products', 'commodity', 'death', 'euthanasia', 'germinal products', 'greaves', 'semen collection centre', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'
    - 5.2. Disease, infections and infestations listed by WOAH (Chapter 1.3.)
    - 5.3. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centre (Chapter 4.6.)
    - 5.4. Revision of Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
    - 5.5. Revision of Chapter 6.10. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine
    - 5.6. Slaughter of animals (Chapter 7.5.) and associated Glossary definitions
    - 5.7. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8.) and Application of official recognition by WOAH of free status for foot and mouth disease (Chapter 1.11.)
    - 5.8. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.16.)
    - 5.9. Infection with Trichinella spp. (Chapter 8.18.)
    - 5.10. Infection with Coxiella burnetii (Q fever) (New Chapter 8.X.)
    - 5.11. Infection with Trypanosoma evansi (New Chapter 8.Z.)
    - 5.12. Infection with Mycoplasma mycoides subsp. Mycoides SC (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapter 11.5)
    - 5.13. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea) (New Chapter 11.X.)
    - 5.14. Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1.)
    - 5.15. Revision of Articles 13.2.1. and 13.2.2. of Rabbit haemorrhagic disease (Chapter 13.2.)
    - 5.16. Revision of Chapter 15.1. Infection with African swine fever virus
    - 5.17. New chapter Infection with Camel pox virus (Chapter 16.Z.)
    - 5.18. Terminology: Use of terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority' and 'Veterinary Services'
  - 6. Updates on WOAH initiatives relevant to the Code Commission**
    - 6.1. User's Guide
    - 6.2. Glossary: 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'border post', 'container', 'point of exit', 'quarantine station', 'swill' and 'vehicle/vessel'
    - 6.3. New Chapter on biosecurity (Chapter 4. X.)
    - 6.4. Revision of Chapters 5.4.
    - 6.5. Revision of Chapters 5.6.
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- 6.6. Revision of Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
  - 6.7. New Chapter Infection with Nipah virus (Chapter 8.Y.)
  - 6.8. Revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie
  - 7. **Updates on the other standard-setting bodies and international organisations**
    - 7.1. WOAHS standards navigation tool
    - 7.2. WOAHS Global Animal welfare strategy (Forum)
    - 7.3. Framework
    - 7.4. Commodities
    - 7.5. Publication of Member comments
    - 7.6. WAHIAD and WAHIS Platform updates
    - 7.7. New WOAHS Emerging Diseases *Ad hoc* Group (EDG)
    - 7.8. Publication of the Observatory thematic study on zoning
  - 8. Updates on the other standard-setting bodies and international organisations
    - 8.1. Updates of WOAHS and IHR
  - 9. **Meeting review**
  - 10. **Date of next meeting**
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## Annex 2. List of Participants

### MEETING OF THE WOAHP TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 6 to 16 February 2024

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#### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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**Dr Etienne Bonbon**

(President)

Seconded National Expert  
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Brussels,  
BELGIUM

**Prof Salah Hammami**

(Vice-President)

Epidemiologist and virologist,  
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Medicine,  
Sidi Thabet,  
TUNISIA

**Dr Gaston Maria Funes**

(Vice-President)

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Tokyo,  
JAPAN

**Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo**

**Goñi**

(member)

Veterinarian  
Béjar (Salamanca)  
SPAIN

#### WOAH HEADQUARTERS

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**Dr Gillian Mylrea**

Head

Standards Department

**Dr Francisco D'Alessio**

Deputy Head

Standards Department

**Dr Joyce Bowling-Heyward**

Chargé de mission

Standards Department

**Dr Leopoldo Stuardo**

Chargé de Mission

Standards Department

**Dr Laura Davis**

Chargée de mission

Standards Department

**Dr Su Youn Park**

Chargée de mission

Standards Department

**Dr Akinobu Kawamura**

Chargée de mission

Standards Department

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