

Report of the Meeting of WOAHA *ad hoc* Group on the revision of Chapter 7.6. ‘Killing of animals for disease control purposes’

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1. Welcome and introduction

The *ad hoc* Group (hereafter 'the Group') was convened by the Director General following the request of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) to start the revision of Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes'.

The Group met in person but two members participated via video conference between the 5 and 7 June 2023. The Agenda of the meeting, the list of participants and the Terms of Reference are presented in [Annex 1, 2 and 3](#) respectively.

2. Update on the February 2023 Code Commission meeting and the 90th WOA General Session

The Secretariat informed the Code Commission only discussed the draft Chapter 7.5. circulated for comment in February 2022.

3. Confirmation of the Agenda and the Terms of References (ToR)

The draft agenda of the meeting was adopted without modifications.

The Group reviewed the Terms of Reference and considered that they covered all the points that needed to be addressed, particularly the importance of including animal-based measures that were scientifically justified and could feasibly be put into practice during the killing of animals in emergency situations.

4. Review of the draft Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes'.

During the discussions, the Group agreed with the need to refine the scope of Chapter 7.6. to include killing of animals in circumstances other than disasters. Consequently, the Group agreed to propose a revised name for the chapter: 'Animal welfare at the time of killing'.

The Group proposed to develop the recommendations of this chapter using the structure of the draft Chapter 7.5. 'Slaughter of animal' (formerly called, 'Animal Welfare during slaughter'). The recommendations include measures to assess the welfare of the animals, such as 'animal-based measures'.

The Group also agreed to develop the recommendations for the different killing methods using the following structure:

1. Description of the method.
2. Animal welfare concerns
3. Identification of animal-based and other measures
4. Factors to chose (advantages and disadvantages)
5. Species in which this method can be used
6. Recommendations or requirements for effective use

During the review of the chapter, the Group agreed to add recommendations on methods not currently mentioned in the chapter and for which there are no clear recommendations for use, such as for the use of foam and ventilation shutdown.

The Group did not make significant modifications to the first part of the Chapter, i.e.the guiding principles, organisational structure, responsibilities and considerations in planning the killing of animals, as it considered that the text was still fit for purpose.

The Group proposed not to use the customary 'double underline and strikeout' convention due to the many changes proposed to the existing chapter. Draft a report of the *ad hoc* Group meeting.

The Group agreed to complete their meeting report by end of July 2023.

5. Next steps

The Secretariat informed the group of the process for finalising the report and that upon validation from the WOAHD Director General, the report and its Annexes would be presented to the Code Commission for consideration at its September 2023 meeting.

The Code Commission will decide whether the proposed chapter should be circulated for Member comments or if it needs to be further revised by the *ad hoc* Group, during a new in-person meeting, before it is circulated.

Taking this into consideration, a second Group meeting has been provisionally scheduled for November 2023.

6. Other business

No other new issues were proposed for discussion.

.../Annexes

Annex 1. Adopted Agenda

MEETING OF WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.6. 'KILLING OF ANIMALS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES'

5 to 7 June 2023

1. Welcome.
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
3. Update from the February 2023 Code Commission meeting and the 90th WOA General Session.
4. Discussion of the revised draft Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes'.
5. Next steps and any other businesses.
6. The review and finalisation of the report of the meeting

Annex 2. List of Participants

MEETING OF WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.6. 'KILLING OF ANIMAL FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES'

5 to 7 June 2023

MEMBERS OF THE *AD HOC* GROUP

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**Dr Marien Gerritzen (Remotely
via Zoom)**
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Dr Leopoldo Stuardo
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Annex 3. Terms of Reference

MEETING OF WOA *AD HOC* GROUP ON THE REVISION OF CHAPTER 7.6. 'KILLING OF ANIMAL FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES'

5 to 7 June 2023

Purpose

For the *ad hoc* Group to revise Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes' and to amend the text as appropriate.

Actions to deliver

Ad hoc Group members to:

- Review all working documents;
- Attend the whole meeting on agreed dates;
- Review the chapter and the related definitions and provide a rationale for the decisions made.

Considerations

- Consider scientific evidence relevant to the content of the chapter (scientific references must be provided and included in the draft text);
- Be familiar with the structure of the *Terrestrial Code* and the use of glossary definitions.

Expectations

Ad hoc Group members should:

- Contribute to discussions
- Contribute to drafting text
- Provide rationale to support their decision

Deliverables

- 1) an amended draft chapter.
- 2) A report

Report

The *ad hoc* Group will finalise its report and revised draft chapter by 31 July 2023 for the Commission's consideration at its September 2023 meeting.

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