OIE International Standards
The OIE Standard Setting Process

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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

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Topics for discussion

- Purpose and consequences of the WTO SPS Agreement
- OIE International Standards: Codes and Manuals
- Standard-setting procedure and your responsibilities
WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures – (SPS Agreement)

Objective of the SPS Agreement?

Recognises the right to protect human, animal, plant life or health

Avoiding unnecessary barriers to trade

Entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on 1 January, 1995
WTO SPS Agreement

- SPS Agreement has significant consequences to the OIE because:
  - OIE is recognised as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.
WTO SPS Agreement
The ‘3 sisters’
Standard-setting organisations

food safety
CODEX

animal health and zoonoses
OIE

plant health
IPPC
A country’s import health measures must be based on an:

- OIE standard;

OR

- Import Risk Analysis:
  - in the absence of a relevant standard; or
  - when a Member chooses to adopt a higher standard of protection than the OIE standard provides.
OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

mammals, birds and bees

amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs
Purpose of the OIE Codes and Manuals

➢ Recommendations for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide;

➢ Recommendations for early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents, including zoonotic, and

➢ Preventing their spread via international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade.
Critical aspects

- Do not use the *Codes* as textbooks on diseases;
- Use them as international standards to evaluate and determine measures to protect animal and public health, including in the trade of animals and animal products;
- Use them as a basis to further elaborate national legislation and regulation;
- Ensure that their application is in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement.
The Standard Setting Process and Your Responsibilities
Why get involved?

- OIE Members are primarily responsible for the setting and adoption of international standards;
- OIE Delegates have a responsibility to participate actively in the debate and setting of international standards;
- Once a standard is adopted Delegate’s are obligated to implement the adopted standard;
- Focal points have an important role in the standard setting procedure, through the preparation of comments for the Delegate for new or revised OIE standards.
How are standards developed and revised?

- **Issue / problem identified**
  
  by Delegates, OIE Commissions, international/regional organisations, industry, scientists….e.g.
  
  - new scientific information, e.g. from research or disease outbreak
  - new diseases – emerging
  - new approach to control, e.g. vaccination

- **Issue addressed as new or revised standard if**:
  
  - relevant scientific information is available
  - proposal fits with OIE’s 5th Strategic Plan priorities
  - wide support from Members

- **Issue addressed by relevant Specialist Commission**:
  
  - using Ad hoc Groups / Working Groups
How are standards developed and revised?

- Proposed new/revised text is circulated for comments
  - to Delegates and Organisations with a cooperative agreement with OIE;
  - relevant Commission may revise proposals on basis of comments received and recirculate for another round of comments or propose for adoption.

- Delegates discuss at OIE World Assembly and text is:
  - adopted OR
  - returned to relevant Commission for further work.

- Adopted texts are published in the next editions of the Codes and Manuals
OIE Standard Setting Process

COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS, DELEGATES

PROBLEM

Specialist Commissions

Review

Advice of experts or other Specialist Commissions

Draft text

1 2

Comments

DELEGATES

Delegates of 178 Members

World Assembly

Adoption

OIE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

OIE STANDARD

DELEGATES

COMMITTEE, COMMISSIONS, DELEGATES
Adoption of OIE standards

- Adoption during the World Assembly in May:
  - By consensus; in most cases
  - By vote (2/3 majority, quorum needed)

- via Resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates;

- ‘Normal’ cycle of adoption = 2 to 4 years

- ‘Fast track procedures’ (in case of new risks to be addressed on an urgent basis) = 1 year
Annual cycle

May

September

October

October to January

February

March

March to May

World Assembly

Specialist Commission meetings

Reports circulated to Members’

Members’ prepare submission of Country comments

Specialist Commission meetings

Reports circulated to Members’

Members’ prepare position for World Assembly
Your Role as OIE Delegate

1. Propose amendments to existing text/new text;
2. Comment on the draft chapters via in-country consultation;
3. Adopt the new/amended chapters;
4. Monitor national legislation to ensure their alignment with OIE standards;
5. Once a standard is adopted you, as Delegate, are obligated to implement the adopted standard, e.g. keep VS and diagnostic labs updated on revised OIE standards.
DELEGATE

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS
PRIVATE VETERINARIANS
PRIMARY PRODUCTION SECTOR
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR
INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS
Opportunities for Member Countries to influence international standard setting

- Member countries are primarily responsible for the setting and adoption of international standards, and

- should therefore always attempt to actively participate in the standard setting process.

- Once adopted, the OIE standards are applicable to all OIE Member Countries.
PROCEDURES USED BY THE OIE TO SET STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE, WITH A FOCUS ON THE TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CODES

1. Introduction

This paper provides an overview of the procedures used by the OIE to set standards and recommendations for international trade, with a focus on the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Animal Health Codes* (the *Codes*). The texts in these publications are developed and revised using an established procedure. There is only one pathway for adoption of OIE standards, i.e. approval by the World Assembly of Delegates (World Assembly) meeting annually at the OIE General Session.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures recognises the OIE standards as fundamental references for animal health and zoonotic diseases. Application and use of the standards by WTO Members is important to facilitate safe international trade in animals and their products.

The OIE procedures provide a basis for rapidity, responsiveness, scientific rigour and transparency in the setting of standards. Important features of the standard-setting procedures are outlined in this paper.

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2. OIE standards and recommendations for international trade

2.1. The OIE publications

The publications that are commonly referred to, collectively, as the OIE standards are:
Summary....

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Ump0QJdjYc&list=UUYWwT1w9Yv2qpKChz9Hoomg
Thank you for your attention!