

Assuring food safety: the complementary tasks and standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

S.A. Slorach

Chairperson of Codex Alimentarius Commission (2003-2005); Chairman of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety
Stubbängsvägen 9A, SE-12553 Älvsjö, Sweden

Summary

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization specifically recognises the international standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC). OIE standards focus on animal health and zoonoses and those of the CAC on food safety, but since zoonoses can affect food safety, it is vital that the two organisations cooperate closely to avoid duplication of effort, gaps and conflicting standards. The OIE has established an Animal Production Food Safety Working Group to promote cooperation with the CAC and to act as a steering committee for the OIE's work programme on the development of standards aimed at protecting consumers from foodborne hazards arising from animals at the production level of the food chain. This paper describes briefly how standards are developed by the OIE and the CAC and gives examples of how the tasks and standards of the two organisations complement each other in helping to assure food safety. The areas covered include meat hygiene, the identification and traceability of live animals, model certificates for international trade, antimicrobial resistance, veterinary drugs, animal feed, and salmonellosis.

Keywords

Codex Alimentarius Commission – Cooperation – Food safety – International standards – World Organisation for Animal Health – Zoonoses.

The OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission – two of the three 'SPS Sisters'

The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the 'SPS Agreement') of the World Trade Organization (WTO) specifically recognises the standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses, the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) for food safety, and the

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health. Measures based on the standards of these three 'SPS Sisters' are considered to fulfil international requirements for the protection of animal health, human health and plant health.

In order to ensure food safety and quality it is necessary to consider the whole of the food production, distribution and consumption chain from 'farm to fork' as hazards arising in primary production can often impair the safety of the final food product. Under the SPS Agreement, the OIE has responsibility for developing international standards

related to animal health and zoonoses; it should be noted that zoonoses can affect food safety, the CAC area of responsibility under the SPS Agreement. Thus it is vital that the OIE and the CAC cooperate closely to avoid duplication of effort, gaps and conflicting standards.

Founded in 1924, the OIE is a much older organisation than the CAC, which was established in 1964. The OIE currently has 167 Member Countries and the CAC has 173 member countries and one member organisation (the European Community). Although most countries are members of both organisations, the membership of the OIE and the CAC differs somewhat. The OIE is an intergovernmental organisation, but not a United Nations agency. The CAC is an intergovernmental body operating under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) (also a United Nations agency). Membership of the CAC is open to all countries that are members of FAO or WHO.

Development of OIE standards

The philosophy, policy and procedures of the OIE for the development of its standards are described by Willem Droppers in another paper in this volume of the *OIE Scientific and Technical Review*. OIE standards are prepared by elected Specialist Commissions and by Working Groups bringing together internationally renowned scientists, most of whom are experts within the network of 181 OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories that contribute towards the scientific objectives of the OIE. These standards are adopted by the International Committee, which is composed of the 167 OIE Delegates nominated by their governments. The *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) (12) contains the OIE international standards for terrestrial animals and their products.

Development of Codex standards

The CAC was established by FAO and WHO to develop international food standards, guidelines and recommendations for a dual purpose – to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade. This collection of standards and related texts, called the ‘*Codex Alimentarius*’, or the food code, has become the global reference point for consumers, food producers and processors, national food control agencies and the international food trade.

Responsibility for developing the standards that are adopted into the *Codex Alimentarius* rests with the CAC and its subsidiary bodies. These standards are science-based and are developed taking into account the expert advice provided by joint expert bodies established by FAO and WHO, such as the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA), or by *ad hoc* expert consultations.

The standards contained within the *Codex Alimentarius* are developed through a sometimes lengthy, eight-step process or an accelerated five-step process, as described in the *Procedural Manual* of the CAC (10). Most of the work is carried out by subsidiary bodies (Codex Committees or Task Forces), which submit draft standards to the CAC for adoption at steps 5 and 8 of the elaboration procedure. Draft texts are sent to governments and international organisations for comment twice (at steps 3 and 6) in the eight-step procedure and at step 3 in the accelerated procedure. These members and observers can also participate in meetings of the subsidiary bodies to voice their position and negotiate solutions with other delegations at steps 4 and 7. As one of the recognised international governmental organisations, the OIE participates actively in the development of Codex standards in relevant areas, both by submitting comments on draft standards and participation in the meetings of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies.

Information about the CAC, its membership, subsidiary bodies, organisation and working procedures and the standards it develops (i.e. the *Codex Alimentarius*) can be accessed via the Codex website (www.codexalimentarius.net).

Cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

The OIE is keen to formalise its collaboration with the CAC and has already renewed its cooperation with the parent organisations of the CAC, i.e. FAO and WHO, by ratifying two new mutual agreements. Within this cooperation and at the request of the Executive Committee of the CAC, FAO and WHO will continue discussions with the OIE on how to foster relationship between the CAC and the OIE. The resulting synergies will benefit both organisations. This collaboration should be facilitated by the fact that almost all OIE Member Countries are also CAC Member Countries. The OIE encourages national representatives participating in the CAC and its subsidiary

bodies to coordinate points of common interest in the fields of animal health and food safety with their national counterparts, the OIE Delegates. A framework paper on the 'Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain' developed by the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (see below) was provided to those attending the CAC meeting in July 2006 (13) and is also available on the OIE website (www.oie.int).

The 28th Session of the CAC, meeting in Rome in July 2005, expressed its appreciation for the active participation of the OIE in the work of the CAC and its subsidiary bodies and reiterated its interest in strengthening this cooperation. The CAC endorsed the following recommendations related to the cooperation between the CAC and the OIE:

- the OIE should be encouraged to participate actively in the standard-setting work of the CAC, namely through the work of relevant subsidiary bodies of the CAC
- the OIE should be invited to regularly submit, to relevant Codex subsidiary bodies, reports on its activities relevant to the work of these subsidiary bodies, while these subsidiary bodies continue to seek ways to improve cooperation with the OIE in their respective areas of work and inform the Executive Committee of the CAC of their decisions/recommendations accordingly
- the OIE should be invited to submit a summary report to the regular sessions of the CAC on its activities of relevance to the work of the CAC, including the outcome of the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (see below).

In accordance with the above, the Director General of the OIE presented such a summary report at the CAC meeting in July 2006. The CAC is also expected to review the effectiveness of the current cooperative arrangements by 2007, with a view to considering if further arrangements will be necessary or desirable.

OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group

To help coordination between the CAC and the OIE, the OIE Member Countries gave the Director General a mandate to establish the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (APFSWG). Its current membership includes high-level current and former CAC office holders; the Director of the Department of Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases of the WHO; the Chief of the Animal Health Service of the FAO and experts from OIE Member Countries in all regions. The Working Group's

primary role is to act as a steering committee for the OIE's work programme on the development of standards aimed at protecting consumers from food-borne hazards arising from animals at the production level of the food chain and to promote cooperation with the CAC. The APFSWG held its 5th meeting in January 2006 and a report of its activities was presented to the General Session of the OIE International Committee in May 2006. Through this Working Group, the OIE has been working on several topics of interest for the CAC.

Areas where the tasks and standards of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission complement each other

As previously mentioned, the APFSWG has developed a document on the 'Cooperation between the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the OIE on food safety throughout the food chain' (13). This document provides an introduction on how to address the 'production-to-consumption' continuum from a regulatory point of view and constitutes a framework for subsequent documents on *inter alia* the roles and functions of Veterinary Services in food safety.

Meat hygiene

Following the drafting of the framework document and the parallel work then underway in the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (CCMH), the APFSWG prepared an appendix for the OIE *Terrestrial Code* on 'Guidelines for the Control of Biological Hazards of Animal Health and Public Health Importance through *Ante-* and *Post-Mortem* Meat Inspection'. This appendix complements and refers to the 'Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat' adopted by the CAC in 2005 (7). This appendix was adopted as an international standard by the OIE International Committee in May 2006. The Codex Code, in turn, includes references to the OIE *Terrestrial Code*.

Identification and traceability of live animals

The APFSWG guided the drafting of a chapter for the OIE *Terrestrial Code* on 'Identification and Traceability of Live Animals'. This chapter was adopted as an international standard by the OIE International Committee in May 2006. The OIE is now putting together the main points that constitute a system for identification and traceability for live animals to guide Member Countries in setting up a proper animal identification and traceability system. The

OIE welcomed the finalisation of the 'Proposed Draft Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System' (prepared by the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems [CCFICS]), which were adopted by the CAC in July 2006 at step 5/8 of the elaboration procedure. The OIE has coordinated its work with the CAC in order to minimise gaps and duplication.

Model certificates for international trade

To better address the needs of its Member Countries, the OIE is updating its standards on certification. Considering the relevant work already done by the CAC, cooperation with this organisation is necessary to obtain, when possible, combined certificates in order to promote harmonisation and avoid contradictory standards for both CAC and OIE Member Countries.

The OIE *Terrestrial Code* includes several appendices on certificates for international trade and the procedures related to certification. Those model certificates address trade in animals and their products among OIE Member Countries. The OIE is concerned by the increasing administrative burden that trading partners have to undertake; this is especially relevant for developing countries. Therefore, an effort has to be made to reduce redundant or duplicative certificates. The OIE intends to start the revision of its model certificates, through the setting up of a specific expert group.

As suggested by the APFSWG, the OIE intends to provide its input to the ongoing work of the CCFICS, including participation in the working group established by the CCFICS on the revision of the Codex 'Guidelines for Generic Certificate Formats and the Production and Issuance of Certificates' (3), outlining its proposal for a combined certificate. The OIE agrees with the CCFICS recommendation to the CAC on the need for harmonised attestations for similar certification needs (to minimise misunderstandings and errors) and for specific attestation examples for common types of certification.

Certificate for milk and milk products

The OIE participated to the 7th Session of the Codex Committee on Milk and Milk Products (CCMMP) and contributed to the development of the 'Proposed Draft Model Export Certificate for Milk and Milk Products'. The intent was to provide the basis for allowing OIE and CAC Member Countries to draw up a single certificate per commodity (in this case milk and milk products) that addresses both the animal health and public health aspects relevant to international trade. Therefore, the OIE proposed the inclusion of an animal health attestation in the proposed draft model certificate. The CCMMP did not

take on board the proposal to include an animal health attestation in the model certificate itself but they acknowledged the need to link animal and public health when they are related to food safety and consequently amended the introductory part of the proposed certificate. This amended document now explicitly gives countries the option, if applicable, of including both animal and public health attestations on the same certificate. The OIE is satisfied with this amendment to the text, which was adopted by the CAC at step 5 in July 2006. In order to harmonise the work of the CAC and the OIE on certification, both organisations should revise their standards in close collaboration. The final goal will be to give Member Countries the means to set up a single certificate per product (addressing both public health and animal health) and to simplify the exporting/importing procedures.

Antimicrobial resistance and veterinary drugs

Existing OIE standards

Because of the demand from Member Countries and the impact on animal and human health, antimicrobial resistance is a priority topic for the OIE in its standardisation work. The OIE started to address the matter in 1998 through an expert meeting, which was followed by an international conference in Paris in October 2001. Four guidelines were adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2003 on the basis of the conclusions of the Conference. Three of them were incorporated into the *Terrestrial Code* (12) as appendices 3.9.1, 3.9.2 and 3.9.3 respectively, and the fourth was included in the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Terrestrial Manual* [11]). The 'Guidelines on Risk Analysis for Antimicrobial Resistance', a companion appendix (3.9.4) for the three guidelines adopted in 2003, were adopted in May 2004. During 2004, the OIE convened two meetings of a new *ad hoc* group, the *Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. The *Ad hoc* Group updated the OIE standards on antimicrobial resistance (appendices 3.9.4. and 3.9.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*) taking into account the latest scientific knowledge and the work done during the October 2004 meeting of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF). The updates proposed by the *Ad hoc* Group were endorsed by the APFSWG and subsequently by the OIE International Committee in May 2005. The *Ad hoc* Group has also established a list of critically important antimicrobials for veterinary use which the OIE International Committee has endorsed.

Codex standards

The CCRVDF, hosted by the United States of America (USA), recommends maximum levels for residues (MRLs) of veterinary drugs in foods, develops codes of practice and

considers methods of sampling and analysis for the determination of residues of veterinary drugs in foods. The MRLs for a large number of veterinary drugs in a variety of foods of animal origin, as well as a 'Recommended International Code of Practice for the Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs' (2) and 'Guidelines for the Establishment of a Regulatory Programme for Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Foods' (1) are to be found in Volume 3 of the *Codex Alimentarius*. The CCRVDF has also developed, taking into account the relevant OIE work, a 'Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance', which was adopted by the CAC in July 2005 (9). Scientific advice on MRLs for veterinary drugs is provided by JECFA (which, despite its name, deals with issues other than food additives, e.g. veterinary drug residues, mycotoxins and heavy metals).

Cooperation and future work

Progress in the area of antimicrobial resistance can best be achieved by close cooperation between all organisations working on this important issue, including the OIE, FAO, WHO, the CAC and national governments. The OIE, FAO and the WHO have actively cooperated in this area through joint activities and by participating in the activities of the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Products (VICH). Following a suggestion of the WHO and the CAC, consultations of experts were organised in Geneva (2003), Oslo (2004) and Seoul (2006) by WHO, FAO and the OIE with the aim of gathering all available scientific data and preparing a common action plan for the future.

The first Workshop on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage, held in December 2003 in Geneva, included a preliminary scientific assessment of all non-human uses of antimicrobials in animals and plants, and their role in antimicrobial resistance, based on the available scientific information. Based on the outcome of the first workshop in Geneva, as well as other relevant input (e.g. reports of previous WHO and OIE workshops), the second workshop, held in Oslo in February 2004, considered the broad range of possible risk management options for antimicrobial resistance from non-human use of antimicrobials. In particular, this second workshop focused on potential directions of future CAC, FAO, WHO and OIE work in this area, in order to prevent and minimise antimicrobial resistance at global level. To ensure that the conclusions of the second workshop reflected the perspectives of interested parties, the major stakeholder groups (e.g. members of the pharmaceutical industry, farmers, food processors, consumers, regulatory agencies, and veterinarians) participated in the meeting. The aim of these two workshops was to enable decision-makers in Member Countries to identify risk management options in the field of antimicrobial resistance.

Following these two Expert Workshops on Non-Human Antimicrobial Usage organised by FAO, the OIE and WHO, it was recommended that the concept of 'critically important' classes of antimicrobials for human and animal usage be developed by WHO and the OIE, respectively. The list of Critically Important Antibacterial Agents for Human Medicine was proposed in February 2005 at a WHO working group consultation meeting in Canberra, Australia. In January 2005, the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance proposed to define and designate Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA). This concept was endorsed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission and adopted by the OIE International Committee in May 2005. The OIE referred the task of establishing a list of VCIA to the OIE *Ad hoc* Group on Antimicrobial Resistance. This *ad hoc* group prepared a questionnaire to collect proposals on VCIA as well as comments regarding the definition and aim of the list. The questionnaire was sent to the 167 OIE Member Countries and to International Organisations with a cooperation agreement with the OIE in order to establish a list of VCIA. All proposals to include antimicrobials needed to be scientifically justified. The results were reviewed in January 2006. A general agreement was expressed by respondents on the criteria proposed by the OIE and the list of proposed VCIA was compiled. The report and the executive summary were endorsed by the OIE Biological Standards Commission and subsequently endorsed by the OIE International Committee in May 2006 with the proviso that the conditions of use of all the antibiotics mentioned in the list should also be included (e.g. for animals destined for consumption).

A joint FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Consultation on antimicrobial use in aquaculture and antimicrobial resistance was held in June 2006 in Seoul. Using the complementary expertise of the OIE, FAO and WHO, the Consultation analysed all the available information on antimicrobial use in aquaculture and its consequences for public health. The overall objective of this meeting was to develop strategies and recommendations to minimise the risks related to antimicrobial use in aquaculture and its consequences for human public health and animal health, based on scientific assessment. Another joint expert consultation on critically important antimicrobials for human and animal use is currently being planned.

Moreover, following the recommendations of the workshop held in Oslo endorsed by the OIE, WHO, FAO, and all participants, the OIE supported the proposal to create a joint Codex/OIE task force on the issue of antimicrobial resistance and stated that it was prepared to support such a task force financially. A proposal to establish procedures enabling the establishment of task forces jointly with other intergovernmental organisations, which could have paved the way for establishing a joint Codex/OIE task force on antimicrobial resistance has been

discussed within the CAC and its subsidiary bodies but has not yet been supported. Instead, a proposal to establish a Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on this subject has been made and this proposal was approved at the CAC meeting in July 2006. The Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) is expected to develop guidance on methodology and processes for risk assessment, its application to the antimicrobials used in human and veterinary medicine as provided by FAO/WHO through JEMRA, and in close cooperation with the OIE, with subsequent considerations of risk management options.

Animal feed

The Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Animal Feeding (TFAF), which was hosted by Denmark, developed a 'Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding', which was adopted by the CAC in 2004 (6). The Task Force had then completed the work that had been assigned to it by the CAC. However, discussions about the need for new work on animal feed are ongoing in the CAC. The OIE is further developing its standards on animal feeding by setting up an expert group that will take into account what is already present in the *Terrestrial Code*. The APFSWG has emphasised that in doing this the expert group must consider the Codex 'Recommended Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding' in order to make the standards complementary.

Food hygiene

The Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH), hosted by the USA, develops basic provisions on food hygiene and considers, amends (if necessary) and endorses provisions on hygiene prepared by Codex commodity committees and contained in Codex commodity standards and codes of practice; it also considers specific hygiene problems assigned to it by the CAC. An example of a text developed by the CCFH is the 'Recommended International Code of Practice: General Principles of Food Hygiene' (4) including its Annex 'Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP): System and Guidelines for its Application'. At its meeting in early 2006, the APFSWG addressed the issue of salmonellosis, taking into account CCFH and WHO work on risk reduction for salmonellosis (initially *Salmonella enteritidis* in eggs) and focusing on the draft 'Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products' prepared by the CCFH. The Working Group considered the draft Code as an important tool for Member Countries to ensure safe and suitable eggs and egg products. While the Codex draft Code encompasses the whole food chain, the Working Group considered that the provisions contained in the draft section on 'Flock Management and Animal Health' could be expanded from the viewpoint of the OIE

recommendations for controlling and eradicating animal diseases, including zoonoses. The APFSWG recommended that the Director General of the OIE appoint an *ad hoc* group to develop draft standards on salmonellosis in poultry to complement the ongoing work of the CAC. The standards should address methods for the detection of *Salmonella* spp. in flocks, measures for control and eradication, as well as risk mitigation measures for affected commodities. This recommendation has been accepted.

Other areas for cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

In addition to the above important areas for cooperation between the OIE and the CAC in matters related to the safety of foods of animal origin, the two organisations have a common interest in several other areas (all of which are discussed in more detail below), for example:

- foods derived from biotechnology
- pesticide residues
- fish and fishery products
- general principles for risk analysis.

Foods derived from biotechnology

The first Codex *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology (TFFBT), hosted by Japan, began developing basic texts on the risk analysis and food safety assessment of foods derived from transgenic plants and transgenic microorganisms in 2000 and completed its work in 2003. A new Task Force was established in 2005 and it will deal with foods of animal origin, among others. In 2005 the OIE International Committee adopted a resolution on 'Applications of Genetic Engineering for Livestock and Biotechnology Products' and terms of reference for an *ad hoc* group on biotechnology were drawn up by the Biological Standards Commission according to that resolution. The *ad hoc* group will be working on two main topics in relation to biotechnology: on the one hand vaccines and diagnostic tests and on the other cloning of animals. The APFSWG discussed the terms of reference in light of the current work of the CAC on the use of modern biotechnology and made several recommendations to the OIE and to the Biological Standards Commission on the ongoing work. The active participation of the two organisations in relevant aspects of each other's work was emphasised.

Pesticide residues

The Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) establishes maximum limits for pesticide residues in foods (including foods of animal origin) and animal feed. Scientific advice is provided by the JMPR.

Fish and fishery products

The Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products (CCFFP), hosted by Norway, elaborates worldwide standards for fresh, frozen or otherwise processed fish, crustaceans and molluscs and also develops codes of practice, including codes on hygienic aspects of producing and processing fish and fish products. The Committee developed a 'Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products' the latest amendments to which (section on aquaculture) were adopted by the CAC in July 2005 (8).

General principles for risk analysis

The Codex Committee on General Principles has developed the 'Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius' (5) and is pursuing its work on the development of a risk analysis guidance document for use by governments. The Committee has also dealt with the procedural texts governing the relations between the CAC and other organisations, including international intergovernmental organisations, such as the OIE.

Prospects for future cooperation between the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission

Although there is still no formal agreement between the OIE and the CAC, the prospects for future cooperation between these two 'SPS Sisters' in developing food standards and related work are good. As discussed earlier in this paper, the CAC has reaffirmed its desire for close cooperation with the OIE.

The OIE established the APFSWG in 2002 and the Working Group has held five meetings to date; the next meeting is planned for November 2006. The 74th General Session of the OIE International Committee, held in May 2006, unanimously adopted Resolution No. XXII on

Animal Production Food Safety which describes the future work of the OIE in this field in the short term (14). In the Resolution the Committee recommends that:

1. The Director General continue to rely on the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety to advise him as well as the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions on OIE activities in the area of animal production food safety,
2. The participation of FAO and WHO experts as members of this Working Group be continued to further strengthen the collaboration between OIE and Codex,
3. The Working Group's 2006/2007 work programme be a guide for the OIE's activities on animal production food safety for the next year, and the Working Group be provided with the necessary resources to address the priorities listed,
4. The Working Group give special attention to its work on animal identification and traceability, and to drafting texts dealing with food-borne zoonoses and animal feeding, complementing relevant *Codex Alimentarius* texts, for consideration by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission,
5. An *ad hoc* group be established to revise the current OIE model certificates, bearing in mind the need for a common approach with the other international standards and requirements, and the use of electronic certification. The development of the certificates addressing animal health and food safety be established to minimise the administrative load before product export,
6. The OIE develop a new document on the role and functionality of Veterinary Services in food safety, in order to describe the involvement of Veterinary Services in food safety activities which encompass both public and animal health objectives.

From the above it can be seen that the OIE is firmly committed to cooperation with the CAC and its subsidiary bodies in the development of international standards for food safety and to ensure that the activities of the two organisations in this area complement each other.



Assurer la sécurité sanitaire des aliments : la complémentarité des tâches et des normes de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale et de la Commission du Codex alimentarius

S.A. Slorach

Résumé

Les normes internationales élaborées par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) et par la Commission du Codex alimentarius (CCA) sont reconnues aux termes de l'Accord sur l'application des mesures sanitaires et phytosanitaires de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce en tant que références internationales dans les domaines de compétence de ces deux organisations, à savoir, la santé animale et les zoonoses pour l'OIE et la sécurité sanitaire des aliments pour la CCA. Néanmoins, dans la mesure où les zoonoses ont un impact sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, il est essentiel que les deux organisations travaillent de concert afin d'éviter les chevauchements d'activités, les lacunes et les divergences entre les normes. L'OIE a mis en place un Groupe de travail permanent sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments d'origine animale en phase de production, chargé de promouvoir la collaboration avec la CCA et d'orienter le programme de travail de l'OIE sur l'élaboration de normes visant à protéger les consommateurs contre les risques alimentaires associés aux animaux au niveau de la production. L'auteur décrit brièvement les procédures d'élaboration des normes par l'OIE et la CCA et fournit quelques exemples de la complémentarité des tâches et des normes produites par ces deux organisations dans le domaine de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments. L'hygiène des viandes, l'identification et la traçabilité des animaux sur pied, les modèles de certificats pour le commerce international, la résistance aux agents antimicrobiens, les médicaments vétérinaires, l'alimentation animale et la salmonellose figurent parmi les sujets traités.

Mots-clés

Commission du Codex alimentarius – Coopération – Norme internationale – Organisation mondiale de la santé animale – Sécurité sanitaire des aliments – Zoonose.



Complementariedad de las tareas y normas de la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal y la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius para garantizar la inocuidad de los alimentos

S.A. Slorach

Resumen

En el Acuerdo sobre la Aplicación de las Medidas Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias de la Organización Mundial del Comercio se reconocen específicamente las normas internacionales formuladas por la Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal (OIE) y la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius (CCA). Las normas de la OIE se centran en la sanidad animal y las zoonosis; a su vez, las normas de la CCA se refieren a la inocuidad de los alimentos. Pero puesto que las zoonosis pueden afectar la inocuidad de los alimentos, ambas organizaciones deben trabajar en

estrecha colaboración para evitar las duplicaciones y lagunas así como, en particular, la formulación de normas contradictorias. La OIE estableció un Grupo de Trabajo sobre Seguridad Sanitaria de los Alimentos derivados de la Producción Animal. Su mandato incluye el fomento de la cooperación con la CCA. También le atribuye las funciones de comité de dirección del programa de trabajo de la OIE sobre la formulación de normas destinadas a proteger a los consumidores de las enfermedades transmitidas por los alimentos de origen animal que puedan originarse en la etapa de producción de la cadena alimentaria. En este artículo se describe brevemente la labor de formulación de normas de la OIE y la CCA y se presentan ejemplos de la complementariedad de las tareas y normas de ambas organizaciones para garantizar la inocuidad de los alimentos. Esas normas cubren los ámbitos de la higiene de la carne, la identificación y la trazabilidad de los animales vivos, los modelos de certificados para el comercio internacional, la resistencia a los antimicrobianos, los medicamentos veterinarios, los piensos y la salmonelosis.

Palabras clave

Comisión del Codex Alimentarius – Cooperación – Inocuidad de los alimentos – Normas internacionales – Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal – Zoonosis.

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