OIE International standards related to control, inspection and approval procedures

SPS Committee Thematic Workshop on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures (Annex C)
9-10 July 2018
WTO, Geneva
Introduction

- OIE related standards
- Future work programme
- Implementation of standards - challenges
OIE Standards
Trade Measures, Import/Export Procedures and Veterinary Certification/Health Certification
Section 5 Terrestrial Code Chapters

Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification

Chapter 5.1. General obligations related to certification
Chapter 5.2. Certification procedures
Chapter 5.3. OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization
Chapter 5.4. Animal health measures applicable before and at departure
Chapter 5.5. Animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country
Chapter 5.6. Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country
Chapter 5.7. Animal health measures applicable on arrival
Chapter 5.8. International transfer and laboratory containment of animal pathogenic agents
Chapter 5.9. Quarantine measures applicable to non-human primates
Chapter 5.1.- General obligations related to certification

Article 5.1.2 Responsibilities of the importing country*1

1) The **import requirements:**
   should comply with the standards of the OIE, or be developed from risk analysis.

2) The **international veterinary certificate:**
   should **NOT** include diseases present in the importing country unless under official control. Conditions should not be more stringent for imports.

3) The **international veterinary certificate:**
   should **NOT** include diseases which are not OIE listed, unless supported by risk analysis.

*also applies to OIE-recognized zones

1 http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Internationala_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/Legal_rights_and_obligations/A_Rights_and_obligations_April_2013.pdf
Chapter 5.4.

Includes recommendations re:
• Animal identification
• Vaccination and testing
• Disinfection
• Premises of origin
• Inspection
• Transport
• Notification
• Certification
## Chapter 5.5.

**TRADE MEASURES, IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION**

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Includes recommendations re:
- Rights and obligations of transit countries
Chapter 5.6.

Includes recommendations re:
- Facilities
- Personnel
- Organisation
- Notification
SECTION 5.

Chapter 5.1. General obligations related to certification
Chapter 5.2. Certification procedures
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Chapter 5.7. Animal health measures applicable on arrival

Includes recommendations re:
- Rights and obligations of the importing country
- Certification
- Notification
- Disease concerns
- Emergency provisions
Section 5 Aquatic Code Chapters

Trade measures, import/export procedures and health certification

Chapter 5.1. General obligations related to certification
Chapter 5.2. Certification procedures
Chapter 5.3. OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization
Chapter 5.4. Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities
Chapter 5.5. Control of aquatic animal health risks associated with transport of aquatic animals
Chapter 5.6. Aquatic animal health measures applicable before and at departure
Chapter 5.7. Aquatic animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country
Chapter 5.8. Frontier posts in the importing country
Chapter 5.9. Aquatic animal health measures applicable on arrival
Chapter 5.10. Measures concerning international transport of aquatic animal pathogens and pathological material
Disease Specific Chapters and trade

- Designed to prevent the pathogenic agents of the OIE listed diseases, infections and infestations being introduced into an importing country
- Take into account the nature of the traded commodity, the animal health status of the country or zone or compartment and risk reduction measures applicable to each commodity.
- Assume that the agent is either not present in the importing country or is the subject of a control and eradication programme
- Recommendations for importation of animals, animal products including semen and embryos, where appropriate
- These standards assume that the agent is either not present in the importing country or is the subject of a control or eradication programme.
OIE standards

OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes
Section 2.
Import Risk Analysis
Import Risk Analysis

Chapter 2.1.

- Guide importing countries in the conduct of risk analysis in the absence of recommendations on particular pathogens or commodities
- Importing country should also use this standard to justify import measures which are more stringent than existing OIE standards
- Details the process of risk analysis
- Based on recognised international principles
OIE standards

OIE Terrestrial Code Section 2.
OIE Aquatic Code Section 5
Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing safe commodities
What is a ‘safe commodity’?- 

SAFE COMMODITY IS DEFINED IN THE TERRESTRIAL CODE

- means a commodity that can be traded without the need for risk mitigation measures specifically directed against a particular listed disease, infection or infestation and regardless of the status of the country or zone of origin for that disease, infection or infestation.

COMMODITY (TERRESTRIAL)

- means live animals, products of animal origin, animal genetic material, biological products and pathological material.

COMMODITY (AQUATIC)

- means aquatic animals, aquatic animal products, biological products and pathological material.
Safe commodities

Criteria to assess the safety of commodities

- Criteria - based on the absence of the pathogenic agent or inactivation of the pathogenic agent by treatment or processing
- The assessment of the safety of a commodity using the criteria relating to treatment or processing can only be undertaken where treatments or processing are well defined.
- Steps considered critical in the inactivation of the pathogenic agent should be detailed.
Future work programme

What are we doing to provide new or updated guidance for Member countries?
Terrestrial Code Commission Work Programme

- Chapters in Section 5 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* already express some recommendations in relation to the import and quarantine of animals and the measures that are applicable on arrival.

- Chapters 5.4. – 5.7 Revision to include: providing recommendations relating to control at border (not just with neighbouring countries), especially for the importation of live animals; considering whether there is a need for additional detailed guidance on the use of quarantine stations (both at departure in the exporting country or at arrival in the importing country); and align the chapters with the relevant listed disease-specific chapters as necessary.
What is the OIE doing about the challenges to implementation of its standards?
What do we know about the challenges

- lack of technical expertise;
- outdated veterinary legislation;
- lack of confidence in applying risk management;
- lack of confidence in transparency; and
- failure on the part of both importing and exporting countries to respect OIE standards
Conclusions of the Technical Item

- The OIE provides standards and recommendations based on evidence and science, reflecting and supporting good regulatory practice.
- Member countries must prioritise their engagement with the OIE.
- Regional collaboration (with involvement of OIE regional offices) is beneficial to harmonisation of policies with international standards.
- Member countries should consider participation in the OIE PVS Pathway.
- The OIE Observatory is a very welcome initiative.
The OIE standards in the context of the SPS Agreement
What our questionnaire revealed!

- 89% of respondents are WTO members.

- The SPS Agreement calls for participation in the development and the use of international standards (harmonisation).

- Measures that are more restrictive than international standards should be supported by scientific evidence & risk analysis.

55% reported that they DO NOT systematically provide scientific justification to trading partners when imposing measures stricter than OIE standards.
Thank you for your attention