The mandate of WOAH
The role of WOAH standards in ensuring health safety in international trade of animals and associated commodities (including biological samples)

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Outline of the presentation

1. Brief introduction to WOAH

2. WOAH standards and the standard setting process

3. WOAH disease notification tools

Brief introduction to WOAH

Created in 1924; 183 Members



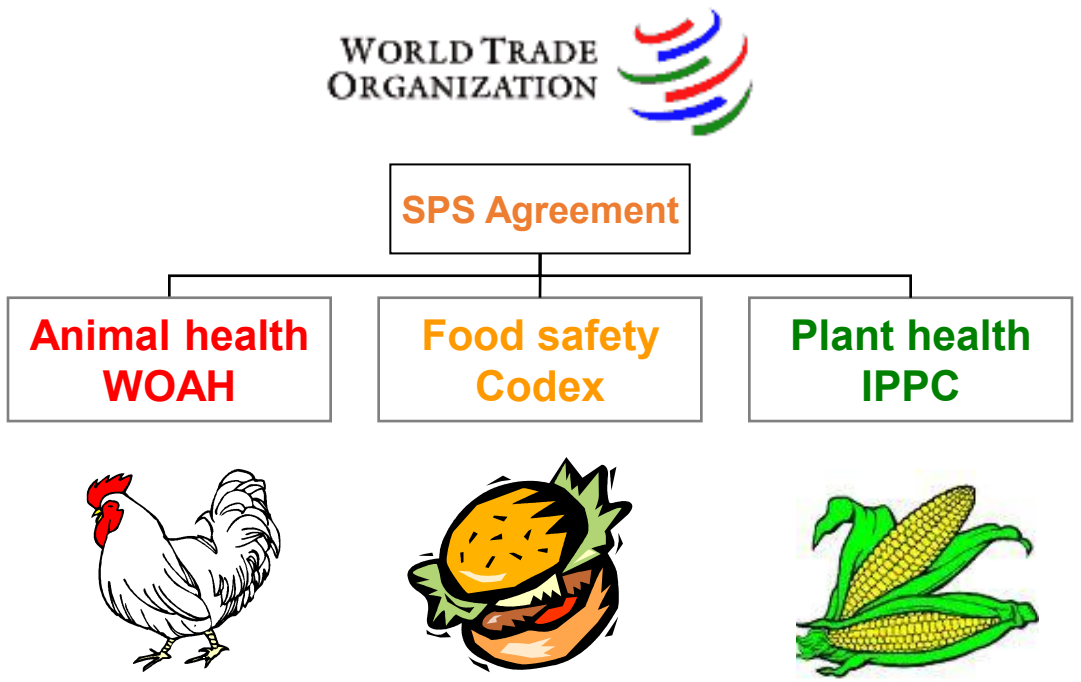
- Transparency
- Scientific information
- International solidarity
- Sanitary safety
- Promotion of veterinary services
- Food safety and animal welfare

WOAH standards and the standard-setting process

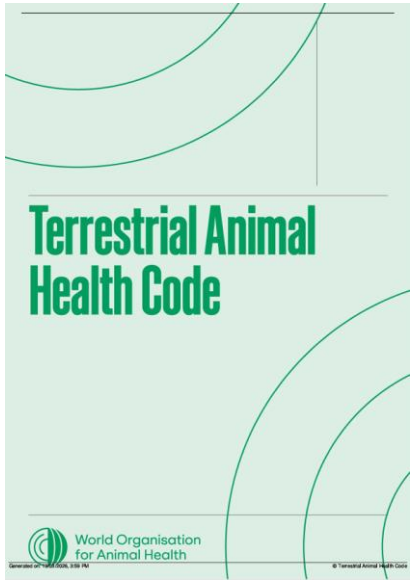
WOAH Standards and the SPS Agreement

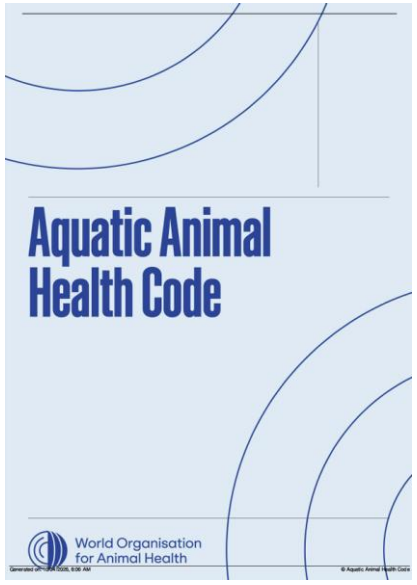
- ✓ The WOAH animal production food safety standards are complementary to the Codex standards – which are the WTO food safety references.

- ✓ As the food production chain is a continuum ‘from farm to fork’, WTO Members should take full account of WOAH recommendations on animal production food safety in setting measures for safe foods of animal origin.



International standard setting organisations – the ‘Three Sisters’

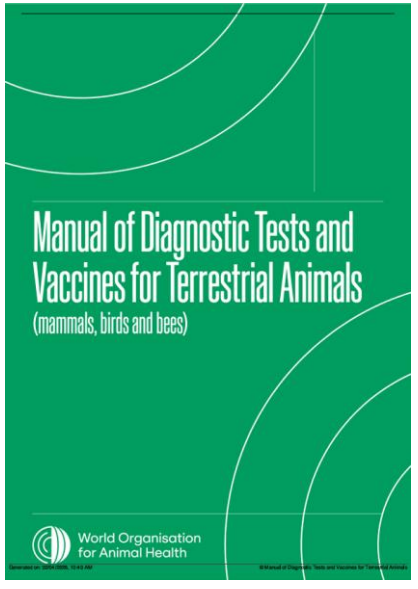


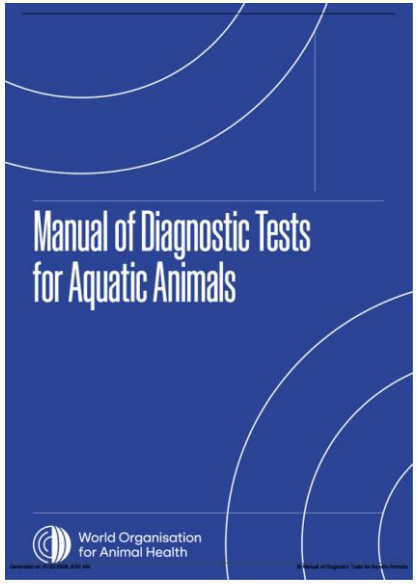


WOAH Codes provides standards for:

- Improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide
- safe international trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products

The Manuals provide a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in each Code





They available online here: [Codes and Manuals - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health]

WOAH Specialist Commissions

- ✓ Four Specialist Commissions responsible for managing updated to the Codes and Manuals.
- ✓ Six Members of the Commission are elected by WOAH Members and for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ 1 President, 2 Vice-presidents, and 3 Members

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	Biological Standards Commission	Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

More information of current Specialist Commissions can be found here:
[Standard-Setting Process - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health]

Standard-setting process

Delegates
International Organisations
WOAH

Phase 1 – New work identified

Specialist Commissions

Global experts

Phase 2 – Development of work

WOAH Delegates

Phase 3 – Commenting and review

183 Members

Phase 4 – Adoption



WOAH International Standards

Communication with Members throughout the process

Specialist Commission and AhG reports and WOAH General Session

Disease-specific code chapters

They cover the following components:

- ✓ Chapter title and number
- ✓ Definition of the disease and the animals hosts, and case definition
- ✓ Safe commodities
- ✓ Provisions for animal health status
- ✓ **Recommendations for safe trade of commodities**
- ✓ Provisions on inactivation of the pathogen agents in animal products, material or fomites
- ✓ **Provisions of surveillance**

Recommendations for safe trade of commodities & provisions for surveillance

Article.14.7.9

Recommendations for importation from PPR free countries or zones

For wild ruminants

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign suggestive of PPRV *infection* on the day of shipment;
2. come from a PPR free country or *zone*;
3. if the country or *zone* of origin has a common border with a country considered infected with PPRV:

   a. were captured at a distance from the border that precludes any contact with animals in an infected country, the distance should be defined in accordance with the biology of the species exported, including home range and long distance movements;

   OR

   b. were kept in a quarantine station for at least 21 days prior to shipment.

Article.14.7.30

Surveillance in wildlife

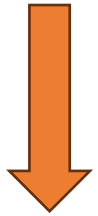
Where a *population* of a susceptible *wildlife* species may act as sentinels indicating the spill over of PPRV from domestic sheep and goats, serosurveillance data should be collected.

Obtaining meaningful data from *surveillance* in *wildlife* can be enhanced by close coordination of activities in a region. Both purposive and opportunistic samplings are used to obtain material for analysis in national or reference *laboratories*. The latter are required because many countries do not have adequate facilities to perform the full testing protocol for detecting antibodies against PPRV in *wildlife* sera.

Targeted sampling is the preferred method to provide *wildlife* data to evaluate the status of *infection* with PPRV. In reality, the capacity to perform *wildlife* sampling is minimal in most countries. However, samples can be obtained from hunted *animals*, and these may provide useful background information.

SECTION 5.

TRADE MEASURES, IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION



13 Chapters that contain standards on:

- ✓ General obligations.
- ✓ Certification procedures.
- ✓ WOAH procedures on the SPS agreement.
- ✓ Border inspections posts and quarantine centers.
- ✓ Laboratory containment of animal pathogens.
- ✓ Model veterinary certificates and passports, and more!!

WOAH notification systems

WOAH notification systems

Occurrence in domestic and wild animal hosts in listed and emerging diseases

Occurrence in domestic and wild non-animal hosts listed and emerging diseases

Occurrence in wildlife in non-listed diseases & undiagnosed diseases

WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

https://wahis.woah.org/#/home & https://wahis-support.woah.org

122 listed diseases and 1 emerging disease

Listed diseases → Chapter 1.3 of the Codes

Article.1.1.5

1. Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases* and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide WOAH with other important *animal* health information.

2. The *Headquarters* shall communicate by email or through the interface of WAHIS to *Veterinary Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.4. and other relevant information.

WildEpi



Any non-listed disease

Key messages

- ✓ Non-safe trading wild animals and their products can contribute to spread disease in animal populations.
- ✓ WOAH Standards include provisions related to disease surveillance in wildlife and safe trade of wild animals and their products, and veterinary certification.
- ✓ Veterinary services in countries oversee the animal population and are responsible to ensure the correct implementation of WOAH Standards
- ✓ Coordination between Veterinary Services and other organization and partners is key to ensure safe trade of animals and animal products.

Thank you!

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