WOAH standards and tools to facilitate safe trade



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Agenda

1. WTO principles and WOAH standards
2. Standard-Setting Process
3. Use of standards to facilitate safe trade
4. WOAH tools



What are WOAH international standards?

- Framework to facilitate discussions between exporting and importing countries
- The role of WOAH:
  - Animal health, welfare and zoonosis
  - Standards for trade
    - live animals
    - animal products



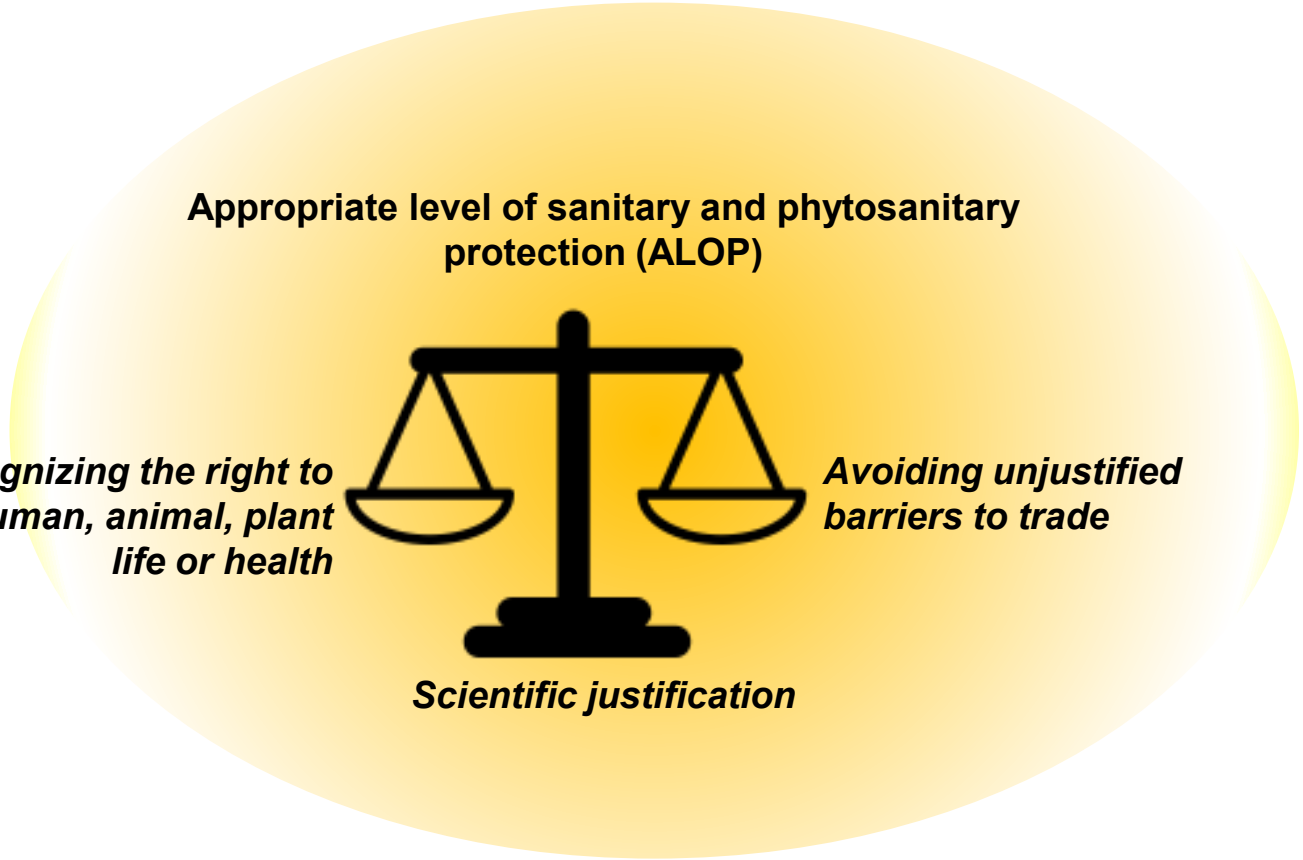
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION





World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

Overview: principles in the WTO SPS Agreement



1. Harmonisation
2. Scientific risk assessment
3. Equivalence
4. Regionalisation
5. No discrimination
6. Least trade restrictive
7. Transparency





WOAH standards and the WTO

- The SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary) Agreement deals mainly with health (sanitary) and safety measures. WTO Member countries should:
  - Use the standards of the designated standard-setting bodies or an import risk analysis as the basis for sanitary measures applied to imported products
  - Not discriminate (without justification) between exporting countries; not discriminate (without justification) between goods produced domestically and imported ‘like’ goods
  - Act in a transparent manner, providing for WTO Members to comment before introducing sanitary measures that affect trade.

WOAH standards and the WTO

- WTO Member countries should respect key principles of the SPS Agreement, as follows:
  - Science and risk analysis are the basis for measures
  - Different measures may provide equivalent health safeguards
  - Pests and diseases may be regionalised: recognition of disease-free zones or compartments
  - Measures should be harmonised with WOAH standards.

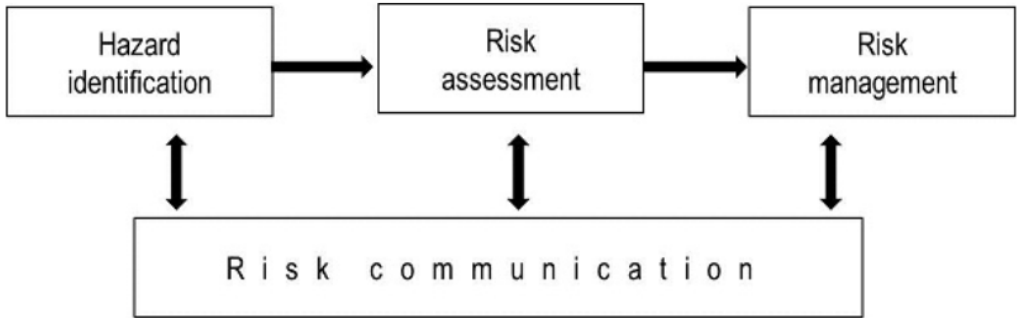




Import risk analysis

- In absence of WOAH standards, or if the importing country wishes to impose import measures more stringent than WOAH standards
- Standards found in Chapter 2.1. Import risk analysis, handbooks on qualitative risk analysis (Vol 1), quantitative risk analysis (Vol 2)

Fig. 1. The four components of *risk analysis*





Chapter 2.1.

Vol 1

Vol 2

Obligations of importing countries

World Organisation for Animal Health

1. To consider the health status of the exporting country
2. Not to impose trade restrictions for d**iseases that exist in the importing country** and are **<u>not</u> the subject of official control measures**
3. To publish relevant information on measures, border posts etc., including by notification to the WTO SPS Committee.



Chapter 5.6. Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities

Chapter 5.7. Border inspection posts and quarantine centres

Obligations of exporting countries

World Organisation for Animal Health

1. To report to the WOAH and to provide health information to trading partners on request
2. To establish systems for inspection and certification by official veterinarians
3. The Veterinary Authority sets the framework for systems and supervises implementation.



Chapter 5.4. Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities

Chapter 5.7. Border inspection posts and quarantine centres


WOAH international standards

What are WOAH international standards?

WOAH international standards

Access standards here:

Codes



Manuals

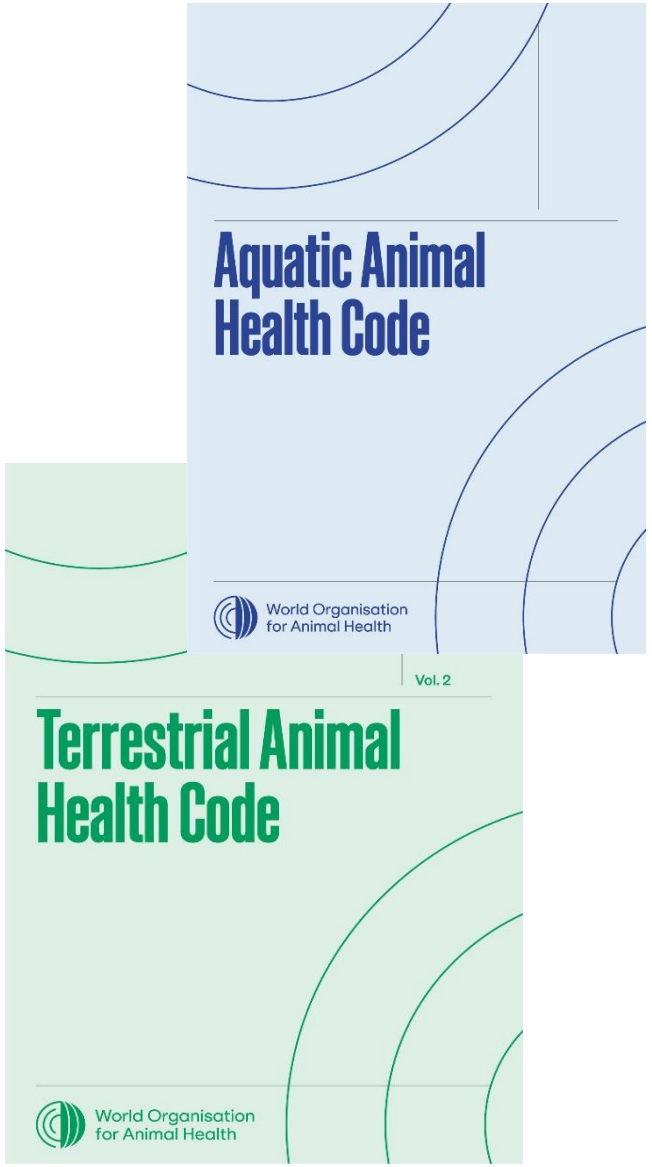


WOAH Codes

- Establishes standards to improve terrestrial animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health

- Support Members in setting up measures for
  - Early detection
  - Internal reporting
  - Notification
  - Control or eradication of pathogenic agents
  - Prevent spread of pathogenic agents via international trade, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade

- Based on most recent scientific and technical information
- 2 Volumes – horizontal (Vol I), disease-specific (Vol II)



Volume I: Horizontal chapters

Sections



Volume II: Disease-specific chapters (overview)

- **Definition of infection/ infestation** and specific epidemiological considerations
- **Safe commodities** where appropriate
  - Safe commodities = based on absence of the pathogenic agent in the traded commodity OR inactivation by processing or treatment that the commodity has undergone
  - Importing countries should not apply trade restrictions to safe commodities with respect to the pathogenic agent concerned
- **Determination of the animal health status** of a country, zone or compartment
  - Self declaration of animal health status

Volume II: Disease-specific chapters (overview)

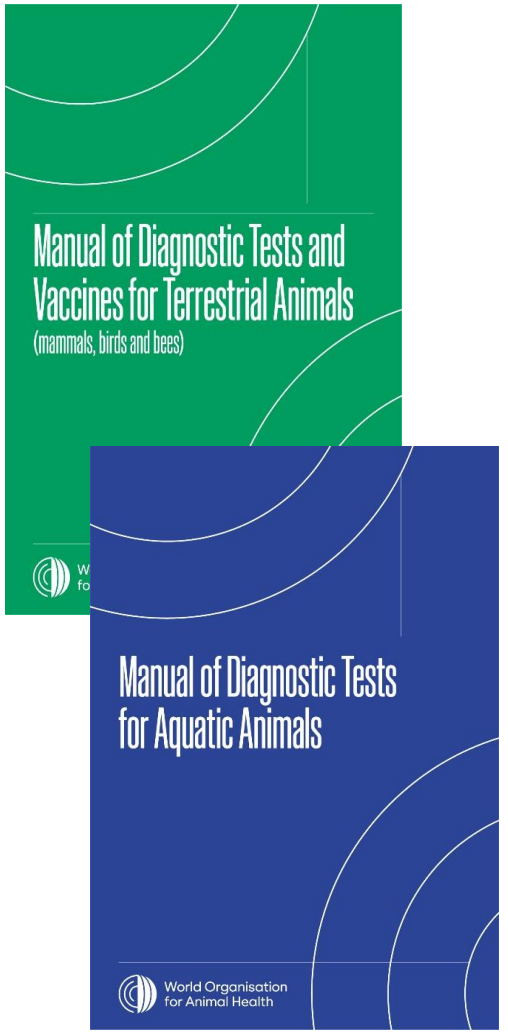
- **Recommendations on safe trade** for live animals, genetic material, other products of animal origin (meat, milk, eggs, skins, etc.)
- **Specific management** of commodities, e.g.
  - Recommendations on inactivation
  - Vector-protection during pre-export quarantine and transport
- **Recommendations on surveillance**
- Surveillance strategies specific to infection/ infestation
  - Link to Chapter 1.4 and 1.5 on animal health and vector surveillance

WOAH Manuals

- **Terrestrial Manual**
  - Part 1: introductory chapters on general standards for the management of veterinary diagnostic labs and vaccine facilities
  - Part 2: elaborates specific recommendations e.g. validation of diagnostic tests and manufacture of vaccines
  - Part 3: standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines for specific listed terrestrial diseases, and other important diseases
    - Table of tests available for each disease and their purpose
    - General epidemiological information, diagnostic methods, vaccines

- **Aquatic Manual**
  - Part 1: introductory chapters on general provisions to support effective lab testing capability
  - Part 2: elaborates specific recommendations for diagnosis of listed aquatic diseases

Differences between terrestrial and aquatic

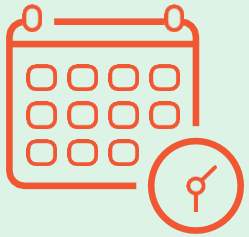




Standard-setting process

WOAH Specialist Commissions

- Four Specialist Commissions;
- Each Commission comprises six members;
- Each Commission meets twice a year to progress items on their respective work programmes (February and September).



3-year term

Elections at 2024 General Session (next one in 2027)

Elected by the World Assembly of Delegates

Experts Selection process

- Open call launched July-Sept. before election year
- Experts worldwide can apply
- Endorsement sought from WOAH Delegate
- Candidates reviewed by a Selection Committee and the WOAH Council
- Council endorsed list shared with Delegates before the election

Specialist Commissions

Reports:

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Code Commission

- Oversees amendments to the *Terrestrial Code*
- Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups
- Advises the Director General on issues relevant to its work

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Scientific Commission

- Assesses Member dossiers for the recognition of official animal health status and endorsement of official control programmes
- Supports disease-specific strategies for disease surveillance, prevention and control
- Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups
- Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

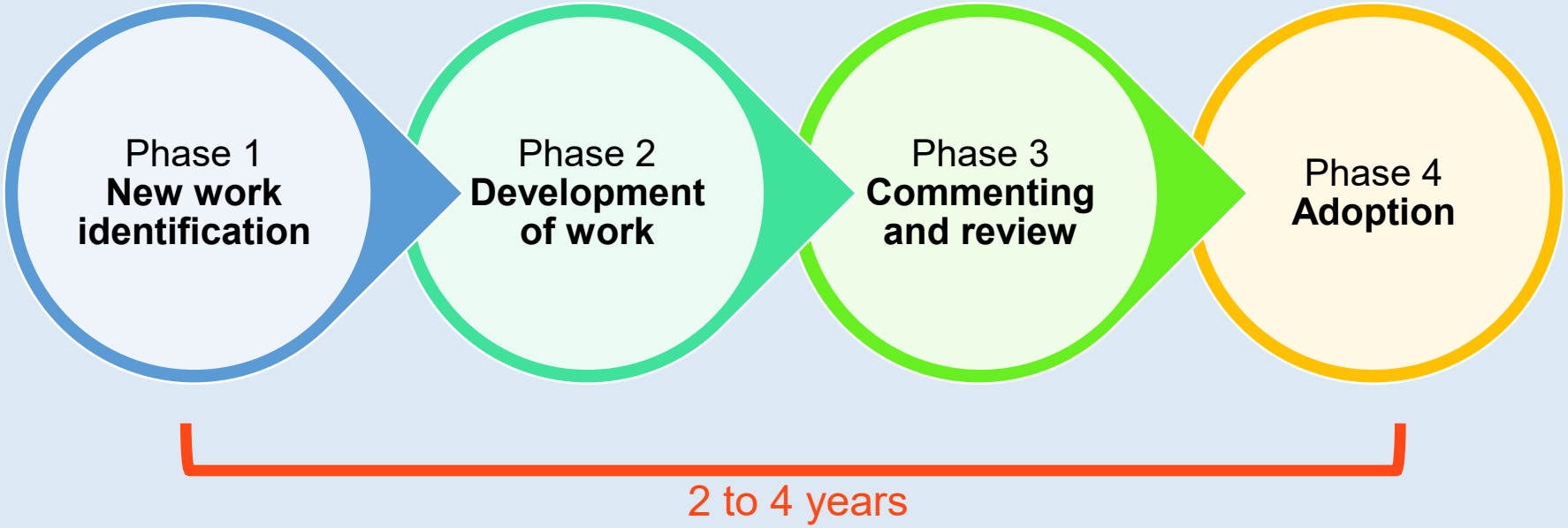
Aquatic Animal Commission

- Oversees amendments to the Aquatic Code and the Aquatic Manual
- Oversee the work of relevant ad hoc Groups
- Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to aquatic animal health and monitors their performance

Biological Standards Commission

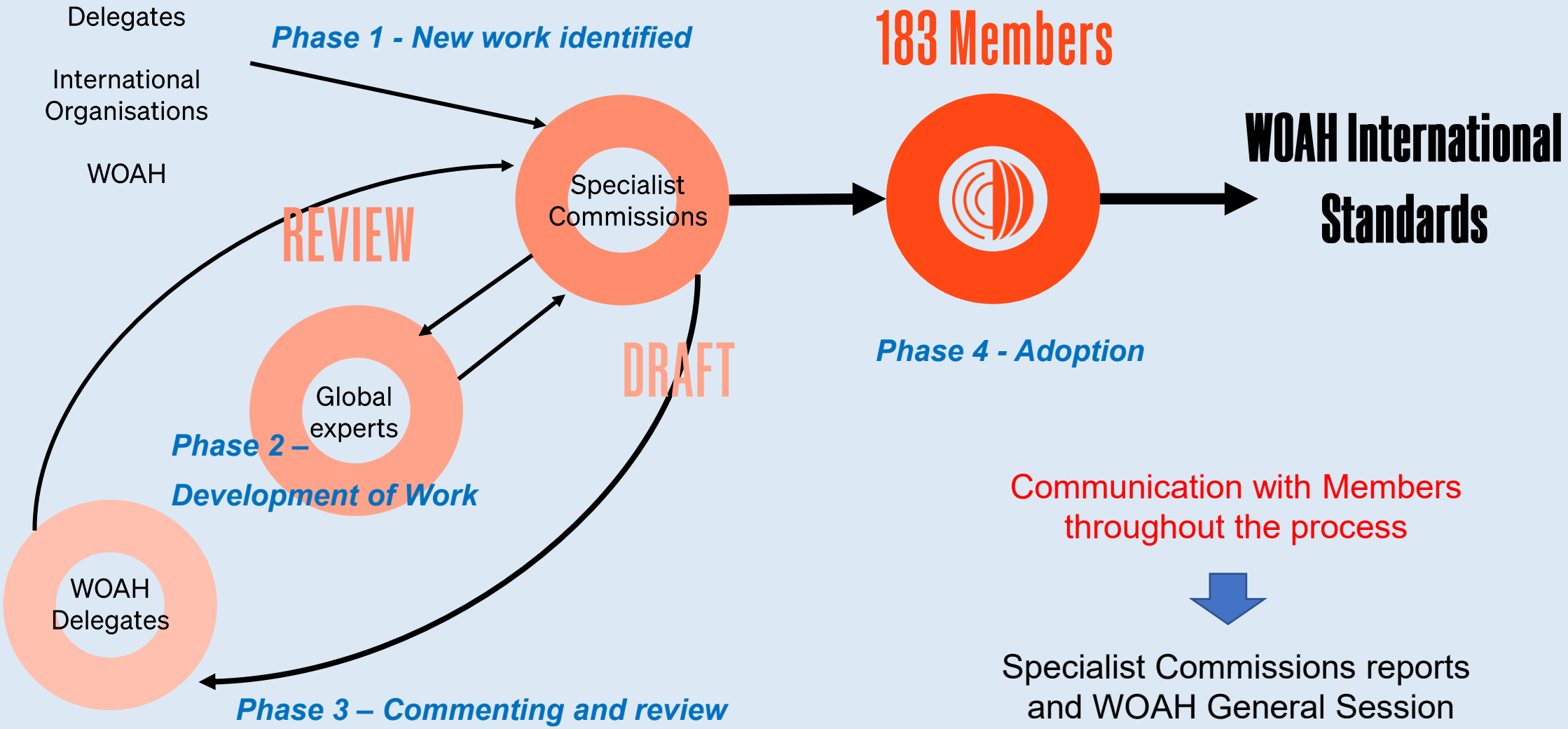
- Oversees amendments to the Terrestrial Manual
- Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to terrestrial animal health and monitors their performance
- Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant

Standard-setting process



A transparent process to ensure that WOAH International Standards address Members needs and are developed based in the latest science and taking into consideration the different contexts among Members to enable implementation.

How are WOAH standards developed?



Communication with Members throughout the process

Specialist Commissions reports and WOAH General Session



Use of standards to facilitate safe trade

Facilitation of safe trade

Even if disease exists in the territory:

- Safe commodities
- Commodity-based recommendations, inactivation parameters
- Zoning
- Compartments

Safe commodities

Article.15.1.2

Safe commodities

When authorising importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any ASF-related conditions, regardless of the *animal health status* of the *exporting country* or *zone*:

1. heat-treated *meat products* in a hermetically sealed *container* with a F_0 value of 3 or above;
2. gelatine;
3. extruded dry pet food;

Article.10.4.2

Safe commodities

When authorising importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Veterinary Authorities* should not require any conditions related to high pathogenicity avian influenza, regardless of the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the *exporting country* or *zone*:

1. heat-treated *poultry meat products* in a hermetically sealed *container* with an F0 value of 3 or above;
2. extruded dry pet food and coated ingredients after extrusion;
3. rendered *protein meal*, blood meal, feather meal, and *poultry* oil;
4. washed and steam-dried feathers and down from *poultry* and other birds.

Other *commodities* of *poultry* and other birds can be traded safely if in accordance with the relevant articles of this chapter.

Criteria for safe commodities:

Inactivation parameters

Procedures for the inactivation of high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in meat products from poultry

The following time/temperature combinations are suitable for the inactivation of high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in *meat products*.

	Core temperature (°C)	Time
Meat products from poultry	60.0	507 seconds
	65.0	42 seconds
	70.0	3.5 seconds
	73.9	0.51 second

These time/temperature combinations are indicative of a range that achieves a 7-$\log_{10}$ reduction of avian influenza virus infectivity. When supported by scientific evidence, variations of these time/temperature combinations may be used if they achieve equivalent inactivation of the virus.

Article.8.12.13

Recommendations for the importation of milk and milk products of bovids

Veterinary Authorities of *importing countries* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the *milk* or *milk* products:

1. have been derived from bovids in a *herd* free from *infection* with *M. tuberculosis* complex; or
2. were subjected to pasteurisation or any combination of control measures with equivalent performance as described in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for *Milk* and *Milk* Products.

Provisions for trade from infected countries/ zones



Article.11.9.6

Recommendations for importation from countries or zones not free from LSD

For bovines and water buffaloes

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

1. showed no clinical sign of LSD on the day of shipment;
2. were kept since birth, or for the past 60 days prior to shipment, in an *epidemiological unit* where no *case* of LSD occurred during that period;
3. were vaccinated against LSD according to manufacturer's instructions between 60 days and one year prior to shipment;
4. were demonstrated to have antibodies at least 30 days after *vaccination*;
5. were kept in a *quarantine station* for the 28 days prior to shipment during which time they were subjected to an agent identification test with negative results.

Article.8.8.16

Recommendations for importation of susceptible animals from countries or zones infected with FMDV, where an official control programme exists

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

1. the *animals* showed no clinical sign of FMD on the day of shipment;
2. if pigs, they have not been fed swill not complying with Article 8.8.35.;
3. prior to isolation, the *animals* were kept in the *establishment* of origin:
   a. for 30 days, or since birth if younger than 30 days, if a *stamping-out policy* is applied to control FMD in the *exporting country* or *zone*, or
   b. for three months, or since birth if younger than three months if a *stamping-out policy* is not applied to control FMD in the *exporting country* or *zone*;

Free zones and compartments

Article.10.4.3

Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza

A country or *zone* may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza when:

- *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses is a *notifiable disease* in the entire country;
- an ongoing awareness programme is in place to encourage reporting of suspicions of high pathogenicity avian influenza;
- absence of *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, based on *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., has been demonstrated in the country or *zone* for the past 12 months;
- an awareness programme is in place related to avian influenza viruses *risks* and the specific *biosecurity* and management measures to address them;
- *commodities* are imported in accordance with Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22.

Surveillance should be adapted to parts of the country or existing *zones* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, *population* data and proximity to recent *outbreaks* or the use of *vaccination*.



Article.10.4.7

Recommendations for importation from a country, zone or compartment free from high pathogenicity avian influenza

<u>For live poultry (other than day-old poultry)</u>

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

1. the *poultry* showed no clinical signs of avian influenza on the day of shipment;
2. the *poultry* originated from a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from high pathogenicity avian influenza;
3. the *poultry* originated from a *flock* that was monitored for avian influenza viruses and was found to be negative;
4. the *poultry* are transported in new or appropriately sanitised *containers*.

WOAH tools



WAHIS

World Organisation for Animal Health | WAHIS

Analytics Reports WOAH EN FR ES

To receive animal disease alerts, subscribe to the distribution list.

Need help or have a question? Contact WAHIS Support.

WAHIS: World Animal Health Information System

WAHIS is the global animal health reference database of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). WAHIS data reflects the validated information since 2005 reported by the Veterinary Services from Member and non-Member Countries and Territories on terrestrial and aquatic Listed diseases in domestic animals and wildlife, as well as on emerging diseases and zoonoses.

WAHIS includes interactive mapping tools and dashboards to support data consultation, visualization and extraction of officially validated animal health data.



WOAH official status recognition & self-declarations



Official Disease Status

Since 1998, the World Organisation for Animal Health has the mandate from the WTO to officially recognise disease-free areas of countries for trade purposes. The procedure for the official recognition of animal health status by WOAH is voluntary and app

Access more info, including SOPs:

Home » What we offer » **Self-declared Disease Status**



Self-declared Disease Status

In accordance with the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) or the Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code), Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from a disease. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the relevant chapters of the Codes.

WOAH PVS pathway

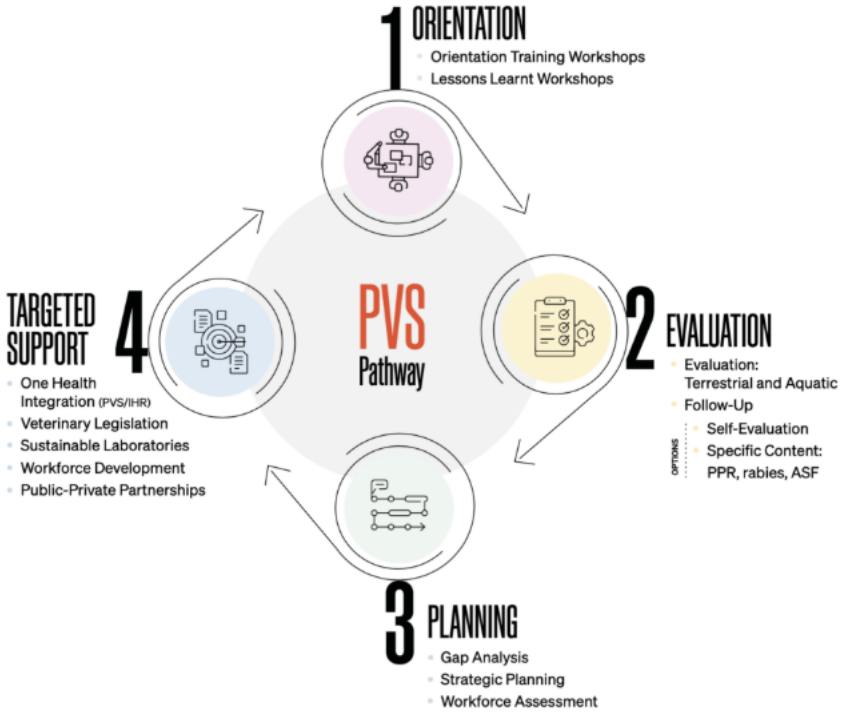
Access information including dashboard here

Home » What we offer » Improving Veterinary Services » **PVS Pathway**



PVS Pathway

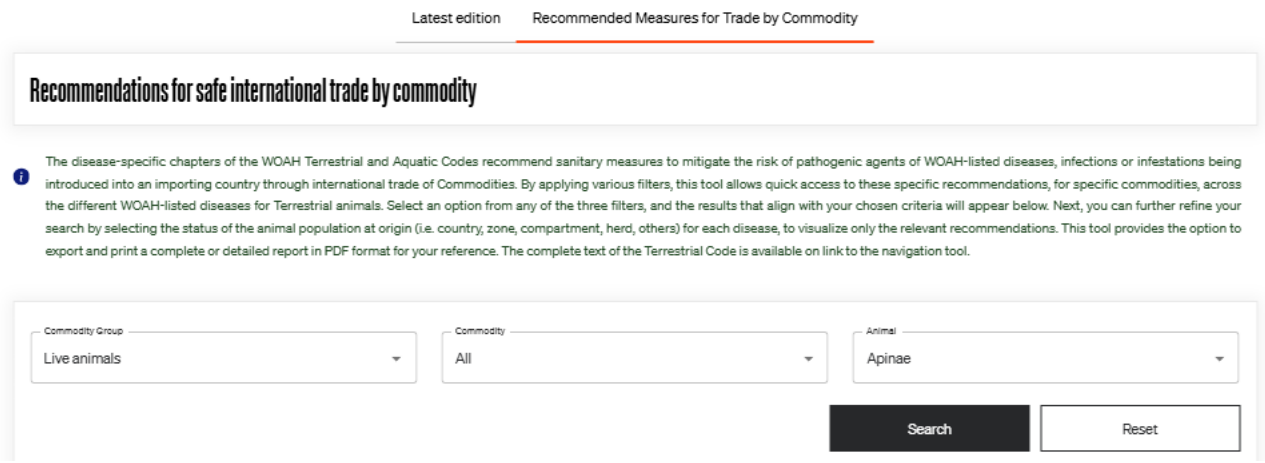
The PVS Pathway for the sustainable improveme
and Aquatic Animal Health Services is our flagsh
independent and in-depth monitoring mechanisr
Services makes it possible to identify their streng
to recommend solutions specifically adapted to e
improvement and investment.



Standards online navigation tool



- Provides single access point for WOAH standards
- Latest adopted versions of Codes and Manuals
- Supports browsing and search by keyword
- Supports search by commodity *(for the moment, terrestrial only, stay tuned for aquatics)*



Take home messages



WOAH standards provide the international reference for safe and fair trade in animals and animal products



Implementation of WOAH standards increases confidence between trading partners and expands market access opportunities



Safe trade is possible even in the presence of disease through science-based risk management measures



Participate in the standing-setting process! Reports and work programmes of WOAH Specialist Commissions are online

Thank you

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