OIE – LIVESTOCK TRADE
INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

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World Organisation for Animal Health
Office International des Épizooties

- Generally known as OIE
- Situated in Paris, France
- Created on 25 January 1924 with 28 members
- Number of member countries now (2013): 178
OIE Objectives

- Transparency - in the global disease situation
- Scientific information
- International solidarity
- Sanitary safety
- Promotion of Veterinary Services
- Food safety and animal welfare
Animal Health

• Transparency
  – Disease events and disease situation reported to OIE by national veterinary services
  – OIE WAHID interface – immediate notifications, weekly reports, biannual reports

• Scientific information
  – Scientific publications
  – Reference laboratories and collaborating centres
Animal Health (2)

• International solidarity
  – Sharing expertise
  – Collaboration for the control of animal diseases

• Promotion of veterinary services
  – Improve legal framework
  – Improve resources
  – PVS tool for performance evaluation

• Sanitary safety
Sanitary Safety - Background

• Trade in livestock and livestock derivatives is a way of life and livelihood for millions of people worldwide
• It supports food security and provides high quality protein to areas where there is little or no animal production e.g. cities
• Animals and animal derivatives can pose a health threat to humans and animals and some regulation is therefore necessary
International Trade Standards

• The OIE is mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to provide standards for trade in animals and animal commodities.

• These standards are designed to protect the health of animal populations and in the case of zoonotic diseases also human populations from pathogens transmitted by traded animals and animal products.
The OIE Standards

• Terrestrial Animal Health Code
• Aquatic Animal Health Code
• Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
• Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Aquatic Animals
Terrestrial Animal Health Code

• Volume I has chapters on:
  – Animal disease diagnosis, surveillance, notification
  – Risk analysis
  – Quality of veterinary services
  – General recommendations, disease prevention and control
  – Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification
  – Veterinary public health
  – Animal welfare

• Volume II has chapters on all the listed diseases
Scope of the Standards for Terrestrial Animals

- Live animals
- Fresh and frozen semen
- Embryos
- Fresh meat and meat products
- Blood and meat-meals
- Wool, hair, bristles, raw hides and skins, feathers
- Skins and trophies
- Milk and milk products
- Hatching eggs; eggs for human consumption
- Litter and manure
- Straw and forage
- Casings
- Brood combs, honey and other products related to bees...
TAHC – Basis for safe trade

• Geographical standards for disease freedom
  – Country freedom from a disease
  – Zone freedom with or without vaccination
  – Based on separation of populations with different health status

• Compartmentalization
  – Compartments free from one or more diseases
  – Can be inside an infected zone
  – Depends on biosecurity

• Commodity-based trade – safe product regardless of status of area of origin (under study by OIE)
TAHC – Practical considerations

• Geographical freedom
  – Not attainable for everyone, for example people farming in close proximity to a wildlife reservoir of a trade-sensitive disease
  – Only officially recognised by OIE for a limited number of diseases (FMD, CBPP, PPR, AHS, CSF; risk status for BSE)
• Disease-based approach more geared to import than export
• Disconnect between animal health protection and food safety
• Not all countries apply OIE standards (some have higher standards); there are also private standards
• OIE cannot force countries to adopt their standards
Terrestrial Manual

• Standards for diagnostic testing
  – Laboratory diagnostic testing an integral part of animal health assurance
  – The efficacy of tests and testing must be proven

• Standards for vaccines
  – Vaccines are an important part of disease control
  – Vaccines must be of a good quality or they may do more harm than good
Food Safety

- Food safety standards are provided by the *Codex Alimentarius*, a joint committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food & Agriculture Organization of UN
- Increasingly, it is recognised that food safety starts with the production system on the farm and the health of the production animals
- OIE has added a chapter on veterinary public health to the TAHC
- FAO provides guidelines for identifying and managing risks throughout the value chain (2011)
- OIE has safety guidelines for poultry production
Animal Welfare

• Animal welfare is increasingly recognised as an important part of animal health
• Consumers are increasingly concerned about it
• OIE provides standards for animal transport, slaughter, killing for disease control, control of stray dog populations, use in research and education, and certain production systems (beef cattle, broiler poultry)
Role of Border Personnel

• Ensure that the documentation is in place
• Ensure that the consignment is what it is supposed to be
• Check live animal consignments for any health and welfare concerns
• Check the condition of all consignments
• Undertake any required sampling according to the correct protocol
• Report anything suspicious or out of order
THANK YOU!