

Report of the Meeting of WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

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3 to 13 February 2026
Paris

Introduction and Members contribution

This report presents the work of the WOAHO Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (hereinafter 'Commission') which met in Paris, France from 3 to 13 February 2026.

The Commission wished to thank the following Members for providing written comments for the WOAHO *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (hereinafter '*Terrestrial Code*'): Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Japan, Korea (Republic of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye (Republic of), the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), Member States of the European Union (EU) and the Presidency of the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP). The Commission was encouraged by the more substantive and broader range of contributions received from Members and regional groups though it reiterated the importance of all WOAHO Members across all regions actively commenting and participating in the standard-setting process. The Commission also wished to thank the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) and the World Renderers Organization (WRO) for their comments, and acknowledged the valuable advice and contributions provided by numerous experts from the WOAHO scientific network.

The Commission considered all comments submitted prior to the deadline that were aligned with the [Guide for WOAHO Members and International Organisations on submitting comments during the process for the elaboration of WOAHO International Standards](#) (the 'Guide').

The Commission made amendments to draft texts, where relevant, in the usual manner of 'double underline' and 'strikethrough'. In the relevant annexes, amendments proposed at this meeting are highlighted in yellow to distinguish them from those circulated previously. The Commission noted that amendments concerning the order of safe commodities as presented in Article 2 of the relevant chapters were not marked in the usual manner, except where additions or changes to the commodities were proposed.

Annexes

Annex 3 is presented for information only, and includes comments submitted by Members and International Organisations that were considered by the Commission, and its responses.

Texts in **Part A** (**Annexes 5 to 17**) are presented for comments and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026. Texts in **Part B** (**Annexes 4 and 18 to 33**) are presented for comments only.



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How to submit comments

The Commission strongly encourages WOAH Members and International Organisations with a WOAH Cooperation Agreement to participate in the development of WOAH International Standards by submitting comments on relevant topics and annexes of this report. Their engagement in the standard-setting process through the submission of comments is critical to ensure that standards are based on the latest scientific and technical data, reflect the different contexts of Members and stakeholders, and are feasible to implement. To ensure that comments are considered, they should be submitted in the format described in the [Guide](#) and the [Standard Operating Procedure for WOAH Members and International Organisations to submit comments during the process for the elaboration of WOAH International Standards](#) (SOP) available on the Delegates' website and the WOAH public website.

Comments that are not correctly formatted as described in the [Guide](#) and [SOP](#), including those that do not include a supporting rationale may be excluded from consideration by the Commission. Any questions on the requirements for formatting and submission of comments should be sent to TCC.Secretariat@woah.org

Other relevant reports

The Commission reminded Members that its report may reference work and discussions of the Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases (the Scientific Commission), the Biological Standards Commission, the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, a Working Group or an *ad hoc* Group when these groups have addressed specific topics, comments or questions requested by the Code Commission. In such cases, the responses or proposed amendments and their rationale are provided in the respective report of the relevant group. Members are therefore strongly encouraged to review the relevant report(s) together with the report of the Code Commission.

These reports are available on dedicated webpages on the WOAH website, e.g., for [Specialist Commissions reports](#), for [Working Group reports](#) and for [ad hoc Group reports](#).

Deadline for comments

Comments on relevant texts in this report (Part B) must be received by **3 July 2026** to be considered by the Commission.

Where to send comments

All comments should be sent to TCC.Secretariat@woah.org

Date of the next meeting

The Commission noted that the dates for its next meeting: 8 to 17 September 2026.

1. Welcome	7
1.1. Director General	7
1.2. Deputy Director General-International Standards and Science.....	7
1.3. Transparency of commenting – phased approach.....	8
2. Adoption of the agenda.....	8
3. Cooperation with Other Specialist Commissions	8
3.1. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases	8
3.1.1. Bureaux meeting	8
3.1.2. Case definitions.....	9
3.2. Biological Standards Commission.....	10
3.3. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission	10
4. Work Programme	11
4.1. Ongoing priority topics (other than texts circulated for comments).....	12
4.1.1. Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen	12
4.1.2. Revision of Chapter 4.14. General recommendations on disinfection and disinsection.....	12
4.1.3. Chapters on certification procedures (Chapters 5.1., 5.2. and 5.10. to 5.13.).....	13
4.1.4. Revision of Chapter 6.8. Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes	13
4.1.5. Japanese encephalitis (Chapter 8.10.)	14
4.1.6. Chapter 8.21. West Nile Fever	14
4.1.7. Revision of Chapter 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus	15
4.1.8. Terrestrial Code standardisation	16
4.2. Items under consideration for inclusion in the work programme	17
4.3. New proposals or requests for inclusion in the work programme	17
4.3.1. New proposals from Members and International Organisations	17
4.3.2. Other requests.....	18
4.4. Prioritisation of items on the work programme	18
5. Texts circulated to be proposed for adoption in May 2026	19
5.1. Glossary	19
5.2. Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.3. and 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. ‘Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHP’.....	21
5.3. Biosecurity (new Chapter 4.X.)	22
5.4. Measures and procedures applicable during ‘exportation’, ‘transit’ and ‘importation’ (Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.).....	22
5.5. Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. ‘Animal welfare during slaughter’	23
5.6. Harmonisation of official status disease chapters Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus and Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever.....	24
5.7. Infection with <i>Francisella tularensis</i> (Tularemia) (Chapter 8.20.)	24
5.8. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (new Chapter 8.X.).....	25

5.9.	Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens) (new Chapter 10.X.).....	26
6.	Texts circulated for comments.....	26
6.1.	User's Guide	26
6.2.	Glossary	27
6.3.	Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information	28
6.4.	Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH (Chapter 1.6.)	29
6.5.	New draft Chapter 3.X. 'Emergency management'	29
6.6.	Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation	30
6.7.	Development of an introductory chapter of Section 5 (new Chapter 5.X)	32
6.8.	Revision of chapters on transport of animals (Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.).....	32
6.9.	Revision of Chapter 7.6. 'Killing for disease control purposes'	33
6.10.	Article 8.8.13 and new Article 8.8.31bis of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus	34
6.11.	Glossary definition for 'poultry' and Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses'	35
6.12.	Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus	36
6.13.	Revision of Chapter 11.9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus	36
6.14.	Revision of Chapter 12.11. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis	38
6.15.	Revision of Chapter 14.9. Sheep pox and goat pox.....	39
6.16.	Terminology: Notifiable disease and notification	39
7.	Updates on WOAH initiatives relevant to the Code Commission	40
7.1.	Work of the Governance Review Committee	40
7.2.	7th WOAH Animal Welfare Global Forum.....	40
7.3.	WOAH Zoning Forum	41
7.4.	WOAH Observatory	41
8.	Updates on other standard-setting bodies and international organisations	42
8.1.	Updates on WVA Council.....	42

List of Annexes

Annex 1. Adopted agenda

Annex 2. List of participants

Commission's response to circulated Annexes in its previous reports for information (PART C)

Annex 3.

Texts to be proposed for adoption (PART A)

Annex 5. Glossary

Annex 6. Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.3. and 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations by WOA

Annex 7. Chapter 4.X. Biosecurity

Annex 8. Chapter 5.4. Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities

Annex 9. Chapter 5.5. Measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities

Annex 10. Chapter 5.6. Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities

Annex 11. Chapter 5.7. Border inspection posts and quarantine centres

Annex 12. Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter

Annex 13. Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

Annex 14. Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus

Annex 15. Chapter 8.20. Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia)

Annex 16. Chapter 8.X. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus

Annex 17. Chapter 10.X. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens)

Texts for comments (PART B)

Annex 4. Work programme

Annex 18. User's Guide

Annex 19. Glossary

Annex 20. Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information

Annex 21. Chapter 1.6. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOA

Annex 22. Chapter 3.X. Emergency management

Annex 23. Chapter 4.4. Defining, establishing and maintaining populations and subpopulations of animals

Annex 24. Chapter 4.Y. Application of zoning

Annex 25. Chapter 5.X. Introduction to recommendations for international veterinary certification and export and import procedures

Annex 26. Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport

Annex 27. Chapter 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter

Annex 28. Articles 8.8.13. and 8.8.31bis of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

Annex 29. Articles 10.4.1., 10.4.3., 10.4.3.bis, 10.4.4. and 10.4.6. of Chapter 10.4. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus

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- Annex 30. Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus
 - Annex 31. Chapter 11.9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus
 - Annex 32. Chapter 12.11. Infection with I-AB and I-C variants of Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)
 - Annex 33. Chapter 14.9. Infection with sheeppox virus (Sheeppox) and goatpox virus (Goatpox)
 - Annex 34. Terminology: Use of the terms 'notify', 'notifiable disease', 'report' and 'reportable disease'

1. Welcome

1.1. Director General

Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran, WOAHA Director General, met with the Commission on 9 February 2026. Dr Soubeyran thanked the Commission members for their support and commitment to achieving WOAHA's objectives in standard-setting and extended thanks to their employing institutions and national governments.

Dr Soubeyran informed the Commission that development of the 8th Strategic Plan was approaching completion following broad consultation with internal and external stakeholders. Dr Soubeyran underscored that strengthening the global relevance, applicability and scientific quality of WOAHA's international standards remains a key strategic orientation and emphasised the Commission's important role in achieving this objective. She also thanked members of the WOAHA Specialist Commissions for the comments and contributions provided during the preparation of the 8th Strategic Plan.

Dr Soubeyran also outlined progress in the ongoing organisational re-structuring, noting that the first phase had been completed and that subsequent work would focus on streamlining processes, enhancing internal coordination and improving support to the Specialist Commissions. She highlighted WOAHA's broader efforts to ensure that governance reforms, including those under the Governance Review Committee, contribute to more coherent and effective technical work across the Organisation.

The Commission thanked Dr Soubeyran for her address and for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the 8th Strategic Plan, and acknowledged the Secretariat's work to strengthen organisational effectiveness. The Commission emphasised the importance of aligned and collaborative work programmes across WOAHA Specialist Commissions to help maintain a manageable workload while ensuring that priority items can be progressed efficiently.

1.2. Deputy Director General-International Standards and Science

Dr Montserrat Arroyo, WOAHA Deputy Director General for Standard-Setting and Implementation (DDG SSI) met with the Commission and thanked the Commission members for their ongoing contributions to WOAHA's standard-setting work. She informed the Commission that the development of the 8th Strategic Plan was entering its final stages, following extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders, including the Specialist Commissions. She thanked the Commission for responding to the invitation to contribute. The consolidated text would be presented to the Council in March 2026 and subsequently shared with WOAHA Delegates ahead of its proposed adoption at the 93rd General Session.

Dr Arroyo provided an update on the Governance Review Committee, reiterating that the reform process aimed to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of WOAHA's technical governance. In response to the Commission's request for greater clarity on the processes involved, she noted that a dedicated session with the GRC Secretariat had been arranged during the week to outline the planned work for 2026 in more detail and enhance visibility on upcoming consultation points.

Dr Arroyo also briefed the Commission on operational matters relevant to their work, including updates to the organisational chart, preparations for the 93rd General Session, and ongoing cross-Commission coordination. In particular, she underlined the value of the joint sessions between the Bureaux of the Code Commission, the Scientific Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission held during this meeting run.

The Commission thanked Dr Arroyo for her remarks and welcomed the updates provided on activities supporting the standard-setting agenda.

1.3. Transparency of commenting – phased approach

As originally communicated in the Commission's September 2023 report, the WOAAH Director General had agreed to progressively implement a process to improve the transparency of the WOAAH process for the elaboration of Standards for better documentation and traceability.

The first step in this process was the anonymous publication on the Delegates' website of comments considered by the Commission at its February 2024 meeting.

The second step in this process was the anonymous publication on the Delegates' and public WOAAH websites of comments considered by the Commission at its September 2024 meeting. The Commission also included its responses to comments in Annex 3 for information only. As a result, the Commission's report was more concise and focused on providing a short background summary for each agenda item as well as key points discussed and agreed by the Commission.

The third and final step in this process is to publish, in Annex 3, the name of the Member or International Organisation alongside the comment they submitted, as well as responses by the Commission at its February 2026 meeting.

This process aims to improve transparency and enable the report to be more user-friendly. Together with the 'Guide', WOAAH and the Commission hope that providing such visibility of examples of comments and responses will encourage more Members to engage confidently in the process of development of WOAAH Standards.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted by the Commission. The agenda and the list of participants are presented in [Annexes 1](#) and [2](#), respectively.

3. Cooperation with Other Specialist Commissions

3.1. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

3.1.1. Bureaux meeting

The Bureau (i.e., the President and the two Vice-Presidents) of the Commission and the Bureau of the Scientific Commission held a meeting chaired by DDG SSI. The purpose of this meeting was for the two Bureaux to provide updates on relevant standing items, agree on how to address any points that may impact the potential adoption of standards and discuss plans to undertake work of common interest. At this meeting, the Bureaux were updated on ongoing work concerning case definition development and assessments on whether a disease should be considered as emerging. The Bureaux agreed on the next tranche of case definitions to be developed for terrestrial animal listed diseases to support notification (see Item 3.1.2.).

The Bureaux discussed the following *Terrestrial Code* texts in circulation for comments or for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026:

- Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8.)
- Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Chapter 14.7.)
- Infection with classical swine fever virus (Chapter 15.2.)

The Bureaux discussed equivalence in the context of disease-specific chapters in relation to official status recognition and recommendations of the *ad hoc* Group on zoning (see Item 6.6.) The Bureaux also agreed on the work plan for upcoming *ad hoc* Groups for disinfection and disinsection (see Item 4.1.2.) and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (see Item 6.14.).

3.1.2. Case definitions

The Commission received an update on the state of play of the development of case definitions and the proposal of the Secretariat on the way forward for remaining listed diseases, infections or infestations for which a case definition is incomplete or currently absent in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission, in agreement with the Scientific Commission at the Bureaux meeting, supported the proposal to consider that selected diseases with a low level of notification to WAHIS could be proposed for evaluation against the listing criteria described in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code* prior to embarking on case definition development. In this regard, both Commissions agreed to subject duck viral hepatitis and transmissible gastroenteritis to a listing assessment. Both Commissions also agreed with the Secretariat's proposal to work with the Biological Standards Commission on those earmarked for the 2026/2027 revision cycle so that experts working on the *Terrestrial Manual* chapters may concurrently work on the case definition.

At this meeting, the Commission also considered draft case definitions developed by experts and reviewed by the Scientific Commission and Biological Standards Commission at their [September 2025 meetings](#). The Commission also reviewed the case definition for paratuberculosis that was discussed at the [February 2025 meetings](#) of the Scientific Commission and Biological Standards Commission.

3.1.2.1. Anthrax

The Commission agreed with expert opinion that bovines, caprines, antilopinae, camelids, equids and suids are the relevant animal hosts in the occurrence of a case. It proposed changes to align the animal host species with the terminology referred to in the User's Guide. The Commission also agreed with the Scientific Commission and Biological Standards Commission to include reference to infection of humans as supporting evidence to classify an antigen or nucleic acid-positive animal as a case. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare draft revised Chapter 8.1. 'Anthrax' to incorporate the case definition at a future meeting. Meanwhile, it noted that the case definition would be uploaded onto the WOA website to guide Member notification.

3.1.2.2. Aujeszky's disease

The Commission discussed the need to review the designation of Chapter 8.2. 'Infection with Aujeszky's disease virus' under the category of multiple species in the *Terrestrial Code* when the scope of animal host species for notification in the existing chapter, as affirmed with experts, should be limited to pigs. The Commission requested the Secretariat to work with the Scientific Commission to clarify the scope of animal hosts for notification and to report back at its next meeting. The Commission also increased the priority for the review of Chapter 8.2. in its work programme (see Item 4.4.)

3.1.2.3. *Chlamydia abortus*

The Commission agreed with the experts' view to limit the animal host species to domestic sheep and goats, i.e. *Ovis aries* and *Capra hircus*. It also concurred with the proposed deletion of the option for seroconversion noting the opinion of the Biological Standards Commission that paired testing is unlikely to be used in the field.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft revised Chapter 14.4. 'Infection with *Chlamydia abortus* (enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis)' to incorporate the case definition at a future meeting. Meanwhile, it noted that the case definition would be uploaded onto the WOA website to guide Member notification.

3.1.2.4. Paratuberculosis

The Commission proposed amendments to align the animal host species with the terminology referred to in the User's Guide. The Commission noted that the experts had also recommended a combination of diagnostic tests in the form of serial testing which differs from the convention generally applied in other case definitions. The Commission requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft revised Chapter 8.14. 'Paratuberculosis' to incorporate the case definition at a future meeting. It also requested the Secretariat to work with the Biological Standards Commission to align the name of the disease as the title of the *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.1.17. refers to 'Johne's disease'. Meanwhile, it noted that the case definition would be uploaded onto the WOAH website to guide Member notification.

The Commission encouraged Members to read the Scientific Commission's report for the details of relevant items.

3.2. Biological Standards Commission

The Biological Standards Commission Secretariat updated the Commission on its relevant activities, including the chapters in the *Terrestrial Manual* that will be updated during the 2026/2027 review cycle. The Commission also considered the advice and the possible implications of revisions to the following *Terrestrial Manual* chapters, which will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in 2026:

- Chapter 3.3.3. 'Avian infectious laryngotracheitis', to consider including provisions related to the use of vaccines
- Chapter 3.8.3. 'Contagious agalactia', to consider including provisions related to the use of vaccines
- Chapter 3.10.2. 'Cysticercosis', to consider updating guidance on public health

At this meeting, the Commission reviewed the opinion of the Biological Standards Commission on Chapter 5.9. 'Infection with avian metapneumovirus' (see Item 5.9.). It also noted the support of the Biological Standards Commission on the categorisation table developed by the Commission to define the logic for the inclusion of animal hosts in terrestrial standards (see Item 4.1.8.2.).

The Commission encouraged Members to read the Biological Standards Commission's report for the details of relevant items.

3.3. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

The Bureaux of the Commission and the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission held a side meeting chaired by DDG SSI to discuss texts in common planned for circulation by both Commissions. Both Bureaux discussed proposed changes to Chapter 1.1. 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information' of the *Aquatic Code* and *Terrestrial Code* for alignment and agreed to circulate the draft chapter in their respective reports (see Item 6.3.). Text between the Chapters 1.1. in each *Code* is consistent with the following exceptions:

- Regarding the 'strain' of pathogenic agents, the *Aquatic Code* chapter replaces this term with 'variant' of pathogenic agents whereas the *Terrestrial Code* chapter replaces this term with 'type, subtype and variant'. This is for consistency of usage in the disease-specific chapters of the respective *Codes*.
- The term 'susceptible species' is used for the chapter of the *Aquatic Code* whereas the term 'animal host' is used for the chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* due to these terms being defined or will be defined to mean different concepts in their respective Glossaries.

- In Article 1.1.3., point 1, the chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* eliminated point f) 'occurrence of a *listed disease* in an unusual host species' and combined this as a consideration under point e). Whereas the chapter of the *Aquatic Code* maintained point f) for notification of occurrence of a listed disease in a new host species. This difference is reflective of the different natures of the disease-specific chapters in the respective *Codes*. In the *Terrestrial Code* the animal hosts for a disease are defined in the disease-specific chapter and notification to WOAH of a listed disease is only required for those animal hosts. Conversely, in the *Aquatic Code* a list of susceptible species is in each disease-specific chapter. However, as new evidence on susceptibility of aquatic species to listed diseases is found, notification is not restricted to only susceptible species listed in the *Aquatic Code*. Notification under point f) is required to ensure up-to-date knowledge on what species are susceptible and to allow the revision of the susceptible species list in disease-specific chapters to occur based on new scientific evidence.

The Bureaux also discussed draft Chapter 5.X. 'Introduction to recommendations for international veterinary certification and export and import procedures' which was developed by a joint task force comprising members from both Commissions (see Item 6.7.). As raised by the joint task force, the Bureaux exchanged on updating Chapter 5.3. 'WOAH procedures relevant to the agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the World Trade Organization', including moving it to Section 2 of both Codes. Section 2 of both Codes would eventually be expanded to focus on the risk-based development of sanitary measures, while Section 5 would retain a focus on operational trade assurance such as via international certification, exchange of information, and border inspection. Both Bureaux agreed on the importance of harmonising this approach, however the Commission's current priority is completing work to update Section 5.

The Commission encouraged Members to read the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's report for the details of relevant items.

4. Work Programme

The Commission discussed ongoing priority topics in its work programme and considered comments and new requests received.

Comments on the work programme were received from Canada, New Caledonia, the EU and the CVP.

The Commission acknowledged comments expressing support for the work programme and priorities. The Commission noted that Members should refer to the relevant items in this report for comments related to ongoing work.

The Commission acknowledged a comment regarding the consideration of risk assessments for blood products other than fetal bovine serum in Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus', and for fetal bovine serum in other disease-specific chapters such as lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia. To justify the inclusion of this item in its work programme, the Commission requested Members to provide further information on the value and volume of international trade in these commodities, as well as on the potential risks of pathogenic agent spread associated with such trade.

The Commission also acknowledged the proposal sent by some Members of the Americas region on Chapter 8.4. 'Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis*, and *B. suis*', which will be considered in its future work (see Item 4.4.).

The Commission reminded Members that the work programme outlines the current and the planned work to be undertaken to develop new or revise existing standards of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission commended the increased interest shown by Members in providing comments on the work programme and strongly encouraged Members to continue to provide feedback on potential new topics, whether they agree with the topics being proposed, as well as their level of priority.

4.1. Ongoing priority topics (other than texts circulated for comments)

The Commission discussed the progress of various ongoing priority topics and noted that no new or revised text for these items are provided for comment at this time.

4.1.1. Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen

Background

In September 2023, the Commission agreed that the current Chapter 4.7. should be fully revised, aiming for a full new text providing recommendations for all species covered in the new Chapter 4.6. (i.e. bovids, equids, suids and cervids) and should only address WOAHL-listed diseases.

Following the work of an [ad hoc Group](#) and recommendations received by experts on risk management measures to prevent the introduction and spread of listed diseases through donor animals at semen collection centres, at its February 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft articles and discussed the challenges of achieving the proposed objectives. In particular, it noted that developing a new blanket approach would be highly complex given the breadth of species and diseases to be addressed and could be perceived by some operators as disruptive or inconsistent with established risk-based practices. The Commission also recognised the difficulty of ensuring coherence between disease-specific provisions in a horizontal chapter and those included in individual disease-specific chapters.

Discussion

The Commission discussed the challenge associated with developing one or more articles addressing disease risk mitigation measures for semen collected from multiple species and covering multiple diseases, irrespective of the animal health status of the originating country or zone. The Commission also considered that the new online WOAHL International Standards navigation tool allows Members to search recommendations for safe trade by commodity, including semen.

The Commission determined that a simplified version of Chapter 4.7. could focus on general health considerations for animals entering and residing in semen collection centres, without including the specific testing or other requirements for certification to international trade of semen, which are risk-based and already addressed in disease-specific chapters. It could include recommendations to maintain the animal health status of the centres, in terms of biosecurity and surveillance, including possible testing regimens depending on the risks. That simpler chapter could however include some references to the list of disease-specific chapters to be considered for each species in relation to mitigating measures for safe trade of semen. A representative from the Commission will work on a revised draft and provide an update for discussion at its next meeting in September 2026.

4.1.2. Revision of Chapter 4.14. General recommendations on disinfection and disinsection

Background

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the [March 2024 report of the ad hoc Group on Biosecurity](#), in particular its recommendation that, given the number and significance of arthropod vector-borne diseases and the importance of their control in the management of outbreaks, both disinfection and disinsection should be addressed in the same chapter. The Commission agreed that the focus of the revised Chapter 4.14. should be on the use of disinfection and disinsection to prevent the spread of disease, infections and infestations given that the prevention of spread and control of disease are the focus of Section 4 of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to revise Chapter 4.14. and requested the Secretariat to prepare the draft Terms of Reference for its review.

Discussion

The Commission noted the proposal of the Secretariat to convene an *ad hoc* Group to progress this work before its September 2026 meeting. It proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference, and assigned a Commission member to follow this work. The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back at its next meeting.

4.1.3. Chapters on certification procedures (Chapters 5.1., 5.2. and 5.10. to 5.13.)

Background

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group to update chapters of the *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* regarding certification and related procedures. In agreement with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission, the Commission discussed that the *ad hoc* Group should update Chapter 5.2. 'Certification procedures' of both *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes*, as appropriate to incorporate electronic certification, including references to the newly developed electronic data models and standards and assess if any changes to Chapter 5.1 were required. The *ad hoc* Group should also consider the Codex 'Guidelines for design, production, issuance and use of generic official certificates' (CXG 38-2001) and propose appropriate updates to the Codes to avoid inconsistencies. The Commission also requested that the *ad hoc* Group review model health certificates in both Codes to determine whether they remain necessary and whether updates are required to be made to those documents (Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. as applicable), and review Glossary definitions of both Codes. The Commission proposed modifications to the draft Terms of Reference to reflect these priorities.

Discussion

The Commission noted the proposal of the Secretariat to convene an *ad hoc* Group to progress this work before its September 2026 meeting. It reviewed and proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference, and assigned a Commission member to follow this work. The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back at its next meeting.

4.1.4. Revision of Chapter 6.8. Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes

Background

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission considered a proposal from the Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance to amend Chapter 6.8. to include considerations for surveillance programmes for companion animals and integrated surveillance. The Commission included this work in its work programme and requested that the Working Group provide draft Terms of Reference for an *ad hoc* Group, noting that care was needed in the prioritisation of AMR activity, especially for Members with limited resources.

Discussion

The Commission was informed that the *ad hoc* Group met virtually three times to revise Chapter 6.8., incorporating feedback from the Commission and referring to existing Codex guidance. The revision expands the surveillance scope to include wildlife, companion animals, and environmental factors. The *ad hoc* Group will meet again in 2026 to complete the revision of Chapter 6.8. The Commission acknowledged the progress made by the *ad hoc* Group and requested that the Secretariat provide the draft revised chapter at its next meeting.

4.1.5. Japanese encephalitis (Chapter 8.10.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand and the EU.

Background

The Commission agreed to include the revision of Chapter 8.10. 'Japanese encephalitis', Chapter 12.4. 'Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western)' and Chapter 12.11. 'Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis' in its work programme following requests from Members. Considering the similarities of these diseases, the Commission agreed to revise all three chapters to ensure a consistent approach. The Commission also agreed that Chapter 8.21. 'West Nile fever' should be considered in the same manner.

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the November 2024 report of the [ad hoc Group](#) together with the opinion of the Scientific Commission, and revised draft Chapter 8.10. 'Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus (Japanese encephalitis)'. The Commission amended the revised draft Chapter 8.10, where relevant and circulated it for comment.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on Chapter 8.10. 'Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus (Japanese encephalitis)' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission reviewed expert's advice regarding 'sheep' as a potential amplifying species. While evidence which was proposed by a Member, showed sheep can develop viraemia sufficient to infect mosquitoes under experimental conditions, it was noted that the inoculation methods might not reflect natural transmission. Given the lack of documented cases in endemic countries, the Commission agreed it was premature to classify sheep as epidemiologically significant hosts, which is in line with the current *Terrestrial Manual* chapter. Neither notification nor routine surveillance is recommended at this stage to avoid diverting resources from established amplifying hosts.

In response to the comments regarding the risks of recognising a country or zone as free from Japanese encephalitis solely based on suid infection status, the Commission noted that the interface between wild birds (primary reservoir hosts), suid populations (main amplifying hosts) and culicine mosquitoes (vectors) should be clarified. The Commission requested the Secretariat to seek expert's advice on whether, and under what conditions, a country could reasonably declare freedom in suids when the virus is circulating in wild birds.

Furthermore, the Commission observed that the proposed surveillance article primarily focuses on measures to mitigate animal and public health risks and secondarily considers requirements to ensure safe international trade. It does not sufficiently define the requirements for demonstrating country or zone freedom. Therefore, the Commission also requested the Secretariat to seek expert advice on specific surveillance protocols required to support a declaration of freedom in suids, including whether surveillance or monitoring of wild birds and vectors is necessary.

Due to the fundamental nature of these issues, the Commission decided not to circulate the revised chapter until the expert advice has been received and considered.

4.1.6. Chapter 8.21. West Nile Fever

Background

In the process of revising the equine encephalitis chapters (see Item 4.1.5.), the Commission agreed to convene an *ad hoc* Group to revise Chapter 8.21. 'West Nile fever'.

Discussion

The Commission considered the draft Terms of Reference of an *ad hoc* Group for the revision of Chapter 8.21. 'West Nile fever', as well as edits from the Scientific Commission. The Commission revised the Terms of Reference to clarify that the Group should also consider the epidemiology of the disease and the involvement of different animal hosts, including One Health implications.

The Commission noted the proposal of the Secretariat to convene an expert *ad hoc* Group to progress on this work before its September 2026 meeting. The Commission requested the Secretariat to report back to the Commission at its next meeting.

4.1.7. Revision of Chapter 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus

Comments received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Türkiye (Rep. of), the UK, the USA, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the WRO.

Background

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission considered a new draft article for Chapter 14.7. 'Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus' for the importation of susceptible animals from an infected country or zone for direct slaughter proposed by the Scientific Commission. The Commission noted that in addition to this proposal, Articles 14.7.19. and 14.7.25. should also be reviewed, as they contain references to articles of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot-and-mouth disease virus', and that any inconsistencies arising from the recent adoption of revised Chapter 8.8 should be addressed.

In subsequent meetings, the Commission agreed to undertake a more comprehensive revision of Chapter 14.7., including a review of scientific evidence regarding susceptible animals and animal hosts, updates to risk mitigation measures for the safe trade of fresh meat and meat products, revision of surveillance articles, and expansion of best practices for the use of vaccination. In addition, the chapter needed to be updated for alignment with the recently revised chapters for diseases for which WOAHA grants official status. The Commission also considered the proposed revisions recommended by the Scientific Commission and the [November 2024 report](#) of the *ad hoc* Group on PPR. The Commission circulated a revised chapter for comment to get feedback from Members on proposed changes.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the [report of the ad hoc Group on PPR \(November 2025\)](#), the opinions of the Scientific Commission and the Working Group for Wildlife, and Member comments on the draft chapter. The Commission noted that while experts had provided some draft revisions to Chapter 14.7. as requested, work on surveillance articles had not been completed. The Commission assessed that a number of Member comments would require expert opinion, while it addressed other comments with the input of Scientific Commission.

At the Bureaux meeting with the Scientific Commission (see Item 3.1.1.), it was agreed that additional work by experts was needed to address Member comments and complete updates to Chapter 14.7. The Bureaux agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to convene an *ad hoc* Group and identified the topics it should address, including how to regain status in cases of non-compliance other than PPR outbreaks. The Bureaux agreed that, as appropriate, this gap could be addressed in Chapter 1.6. for all relevant diseases.

The Commission identified Member comments to be addressed by the *ad hoc* Group and requested the Secretariat to report back at its next meeting.

4.1.8. Terrestrial Code standardisation

4.1.8.1. Framework

Background

In February 2021, the Commission agreed to develop a Framework for Terrestrial Code Standards that would serve as a guide to ensure a consistent approach when undertaking work on the development or revision of the *Terrestrial Code*, beginning with standardising the structure and content of disease-specific chapters. The Commission requested the Secretariat to update the Framework on an ongoing basis to align with recently adopted standards.

Discussion

The Commission was presented with draft revisions to the Framework by the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with a Commission member. The draft reflected updated model text and terminology to align with recently adopted and currently revised standards, revised descriptions to provide clearer explanations, and included new concepts to support the work of experts. The Commission agreed with the revisions. Although useful as a full version, given its length the Commission requested that the Secretariat summarise the Framework for experts to use as a practical guide when developing or revising disease-specific chapters, and to explore its usefulness for a wider audience.

4.1.8.2. Animal hosts

Background

Following the work of a joint task force comprising representatives from the Commission, the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission to develop a standardised approach for the inclusion of 'susceptible animals' in the *Terrestrial Manual* and 'animal hosts' in the *Terrestrial Code*, at its September 2025 meeting, the Commission developed a categorisation table outlining different types of of susceptible animals including the animal hosts defined for the purposes of notification, considering their respective epidemiological relevance and their coverage in the various recommendations of the chapters, and shared this with the other Specialist Commissions for their input. The Commission also proposed relevant changes to the User's Guide, developed a Glossary definition for 'animal host' and included this categorisation into the Framework.

Discussion

The Commission received inputs from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission, confirming that the proposed categorisation is clear and useful for future work related to the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*. The Commission requested that the Secretariat provide information on this categorisation as a guidance for experts when developing or revising the *Terrestrial Code*, especially articles on general provisions, case definition, status, trade and surveillance of disease-specific chapters and any other relevant documents. In addition, the Commission discussed the development of a Glossary definition for 'animal host' (see Item 6.2.) to clarify the term used for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*.

4.1.8.3. Commodities

Background

To ensure consistency in the naming of commodities within the *Terrestrial Code*, the Commission agreed to develop a set of rules and a categorisation tree. These were developed by the Secretariat, taking into account the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (generally referred to as 'Harmonized System' or simply 'HS') of the World Customs Organization.

The Commission agreed that the registry should include, for each commodity, a globally accepted name and, if existing, a reference to the Glossary definition in the *Terrestrial Code*. Further information such as descriptions covering standard processes and treatments and references to international standards (e.g. Codex) should be included.

Discussion

The Commission was presented with the draft structure of the 'Registry of commodities' prepared by the Secretariat. The Commission agreed with the proposal and provided some guidance on the classification of commodities. The Commission also requested the Secretariat to continue this work, in consultation with other partners or international organisations when relevant, to complete the registry and applicable Glossary definitions. This is in particular for commodities that feature as safe commodities in some disease-specific chapters, in address Member comments on described standardised processes and to avoid any ambiguity.

4.2. Items under consideration for inclusion in the work programme

The Commission reviewed some new items that had previously not been included in its work programme due to insufficient supporting data. After considering whether additional information had become available, the Commission agreed that these items would still be outside its work programme at this stage.

4.3. New proposals or requests for inclusion in the work programme

The Commission considered the following proposals or requests for developments or revisions of standards in the *Terrestrial Code*.

4.3.1. New proposals from Members and International Organisations

4.3.1.1. Inclusion of salted natural casings and gelatine/collagen as safe commodities

The Commission considered requests to include salted natural casings, gelatine and collagen as safe commodities within disease-specific chapters. Although the existing Glossary definition for 'casings' in the *Terrestrial Code* refers to treatment with salt (i.e. natural casing), the Commission acknowledged that this description is vague and requested the Secretariat to consult relevant global organisations on standardised industry processes and definitions.

The Commission also noted the high degree of uniformity used in the production processes for gelatine and collagen and therefore these may be recognised as safe commodities in various disease-specific chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission also clarified that whenever 'meat' or 'meat products' as defined in the Glossary is recognised as safe commodity, it implies that any commodity derived from such meat (e.g. casing) or meat products should also be considered safe and need not be repeated in the list of safe commodities.

4.3.1.2. New Glossary definitions and revision of current definition related to commodities

The Commission considered a request to develop Glossary definitions for 'rendered fats', 'hydrolysed protein' and 'feed-grade blood protein', and to revise the Glossary definition for 'protein meal'. The Commission highlighted that the Glossary definitions in the *Terrestrial Code* should be limited to terms frequently used in the *Code* and for which standard dictionary definitions do not provide a correct understanding of their use in the *Code*. The definition of processed commodities should include standardised production process to avoid ambiguity. The Commission agreed to focus on the terms 'rendering', 'rendered fats' and 'protein meal' at this stage. The Commission requested

the Secretariat to put together a proposal with draft definitions including standard processing methods, as provided by global industry organisations where relevant, for its consideration at the next meeting. The requests to provide definitions for other commodities would be considered at a later stage.

4.3.1.3. New Glossary definition for ‘treatment’

The Commission considered a request to develop new a Glossary definition for ‘treatment’, noting that the term is currently used across various contexts within the *Terrestrial Code*, including medical or prophylactic procedures, sanitary processing, and animal welfare. While acknowledging the potential for confusion, the Commission assessed that standard dictionary definitions are adequate for understanding its use in medical and technical processing contexts. Consequently, the Commission did not agree to introduce a new Glossary definition. To ensure consistency and clarity, it was agreed that the Secretariat would instead conduct a review to consider replacing ‘treatment’ with more appropriate or clearer terms, such as ‘handling’, particularly in the animal welfare chapters, where alternative terminology is more precise or fit for purpose.

4.3.2. Other requests

4.3.2.1. Clarification of the translation of the term ‘rendered fats’ in Spanish

The Commission considered a request from the Secretariat regarding the appropriate Spanish translation of ‘rendered fats’ to ensure consistency. Upon reviewing terms used in other international standards, such as Codex Alimentarius, the Commission agreed to adopt ‘grasas fundidas’ as the Spanish equivalent for ‘rendered fats’ for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*. As this was deemed a minor linguistic amendment, the Commission requested the Secretariat to update the term in the Spanish version of the *Terrestrial Code* for the 2026 edition (see Item 4.3.1.2.).

4.4. Prioritisation of items on the work programme

Taking into consideration the progress of work items since its last meeting, relevant topics addressed during this meeting and comments submitted, the Commission discussed the prioritisation of ongoing and future work programme items and agreed to amendments as presented below.

New items added to the work programme:

- Glossary for ‘animal health status’, ‘containment zone’, ‘free zone’, ‘protection zone’ and ‘zone’, as a part of revision of Chapter 4.4. on zoning (see Item 6.2.)
- Glossary for ‘notifiable disease’ and ‘notification’, in parallel with the terminology of ‘notifiable disease’ and ‘notification’ (see Item 6.2.)
- Chapter 8.2. ‘Infection with Aujeszky’s disease virus’, in parallel with the work on case definition (see Item 3.1.2.)
- Chapter 8.20. ‘Infection of *Francisella Tularensis* (Tularemia), to revise different articles of the chapter than those already covered in the ongoing work to include the case definition (see Item 5.7.)

The Commission acknowledged a comment from some Members requesting an increase in priority for the comprehensive revision of Chapter 8.4. ‘Infection with *Brucella abortus*, *B. melitensis* and *B. suis*’, taking into account recent technical advances and achievements in sanitary management, control and eradication of the disease. It was noted that the revision should include harmonisation with other disease-specific chapters (e.g. infection with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex) to improve internal coherence, practical applicability, and contribution to safe international trade. The Commission agreed to increase its priority from 3 to 2 in its work programme and requested the Secretariat to prepare a discussion paper on this topic at its next meeting.

The Commission reminded Members that the order of prioritisation used in the work programme reflects the level of priority agreed upon by the Commission taking into account an assessment of each item in terms of its importance, impact, resources and information or data available and Member comments. Members are encouraged to continue commenting on new items, the items on the work programme, as well as the prioritisation of items at any time in the Commission's work cycle.

The Commission highlighted that the inclusion of an item in the work programme means there is an agreement by the Commission on the need to undertake work, but that the decision as to when to commence each work item depends on its prioritisation and the availability of relevant data. The order of prioritisation aims to provide a transparent guide to plan and organise the work of the Commission and the Secretariat. The Commission highlighted that the order of prioritisation used in its work programme is not always aligned with the actual progress of each work item, as this will depend on the complexity of each item and associated discussions, including involving expert consultations, exchanges with other relevant Specialist Commissions and Member comments.

The Commission thanked Members and partners who submitted comments on work items at an early stage and encouraged Members and partners to also review work items in the Commission's work programme that have not yet started or are in preparation, even those in priority 3 or 4. Members and partners are invited to submit comments for specific items, as well as available information, evidence, or data, including implementation approaches that could be taken into consideration once work commences.

The updated work programme is presented in [Annex 4](#), for comments.

5. Texts circulated to be proposed for adoption in May 2026

The Commission discussed the following new or revised texts including texts which were circulated for comments in its September 2025 report and that will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.1. Glossary

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Colombia, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, the UK, the USA, the EU and the ICAEW.

'border inspection post', 'container', 'isolation', 'point of entry', 'point of exit', 'quarantine centre', 'transit country' and 'means of transport'

Background

In June 2023, an *ad hoc* Group was convened to revise draft Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. It proposed a Glossary definition for 'point of exit' and revised existing Glossary definitions for 'border post', 'quarantine station', 'container' and 'vehicle/vessel', which were reviewed by the Commission at its September 2023 meeting and circulated for comments.

The Glossary definitions for 'border inspection post', 'container', 'point of entry', 'point of exit', 'quarantine centre', 'transit country' and 'means of transport' were further developed in connection with the ongoing revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7 by the *ad hoc* Group. The Commission also considered the proposed new Glossary definition for 'isolation' proposed by the *ad hoc* Group and made amendments for clarity.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Glossary definitions for 'border inspection post', 'container', 'isolation', 'point of entry', 'point of exit', 'quarantine centre', 'transit country' and 'means of transport' that were circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Glossary definitions for border inspection post, 'container', 'isolation', 'point of entry', 'point of exit', 'quarantine centre', 'transit country' and 'means of transport' are presented as part of [Annex 5](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'disinfection', 'pathogenic agent' and 'swill'

Background

At its September 2022 meeting, the Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to develop a new chapter on biosecurity. As part of this work, the Commission agreed to review the Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan' and to develop a new definition for 'swill'.

The Commission agreed to include the revision of the Glossary definition for 'disinfection' in its work programme, in response to comments on the new draft Chapter 4.X. 'Biosecurity'. In addition, the Commission agreed to add to its work programme the development of a definition for 'pathogenic agent' and requested the *ad hoc* Group on Biosecurity to undertake this task.

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission considered the proposed Glossary definitions for 'disinfection' and 'pathogenic agent' drafted by the *ad hoc* Group and agreed with the proposals.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan' and 'swill' that were circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to the comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'disinfection', 'pathogenic agent' and 'swill' are presented as part of [Annex 5](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

'disinsection'

Background

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission agreed to develop a new Glossary definition for 'disinsection' based on discussion of Chapter 4.14. 'Disinfection and Disinsection'. The Commission developed a new glossary definition in parallel with the revised draft definition for 'disinfection', which was circulated for comments.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on the Glossary definition for 'disinsection' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to the comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The Glossary definition for 'disinsection' is presented as part of [Annex 5](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

'seroconversion'

Background

At its September 2024 meeting, in response to comments received on the new draft Chapter 8.24. 'Infection with Nipah virus', the Commission agreed to develop a new definition for 'seroconversion', in line with the definition in the *Terrestrial Manual*. At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission, in collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission, reviewed a draft Glossary definition for 'seroconversion' proposed by the Secretariat and agreed to circulate it for comments.

Discussion

The Commission noted that there were no comments received on the definition for 'seroconversion'.

The Glossary definition for 'seroconversion' is presented as part of [Annex 5](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

'laboratory' and 'approved'

Background

While revising Chapter 1.6., the Commission noted that the current Glossary definition for 'laboratory' is limited to facilities for diagnostic purposes, and that it is relevant to also consider facilities approved for purposes other than diagnosis, such as research, vaccine or biological products development, manufacturing, and control. The Commission agreed to progress the revision of the definition of 'laboratory' in collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission.

In September 2025, the Commission, in collaboration with the Biological Standards Commission, reviewed the revised definition of 'laboratory' and circulated a draft Glossary definition together with a draft revised definition for 'approved' which is closely associated with the definition for 'laboratory'.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Glossary definitions for 'laboratory' and 'approved' that were circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to the comments reviewed are presented in [Annex 3](#).

Although the revised texts were circulated only once following the September 2025 meeting report, the Commission decided to propose the two definitions for adoption at the 93rd General Session as they are essential to ensure consistency within the *Terrestrial Code* and no Member expressed opposition.

The revised Glossary definition for 'laboratory' and 'approved' are presented as part of [Annex 5](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.2. Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.3. and 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOA'

Comments were received from the EU.

Background

Articles 1.3.1. and 1.3.3.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission noted that amendments to the disease name and chapter title have been proposed for the new disease-specific Chapters 8.X. 'Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus' and 10.X. 'Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens). Given these proposed amendments, the Commission agreed to amend the name of these diseases in Articles 1.3.1. and 1.3.3. of Chapter 1.3. to align with the title of the disease-specific chapters.

Article 1.3.7.

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the opinion of the Scientific Commission, along with the opinions of experts on the assessment of Nairobi sheep disease against listing criteria in Chapter 1.2. 'Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the WOA list'. The Commission agreed that the disease does not meet all the required listing criteria and therefore circulated a proposal to Members to remove Nairobi sheep disease from the WOA list. The Commission considered Member comments at its September 2025 meeting.

Discussion

Articles 1.3.1. and 1.3.3.

The Commission noted an amendment proposed for the disease name and chapter title in revised Chapter 8.20. 'Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia)' (see Item 5.7.). Given the proposed amendment, the Commission agreed to also amend the name of the disease in Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. to align with the title of the disease-specific chapter.

Article 1.3.7.

The Commission reviewed comments and its earlier considerations on Article 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations by WOAH' that was circulated in its February 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.3. and 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAH' are presented as [Annex 6](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.3. Biosecurity (new Chapter 4.X.)

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, Chile, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, the UK, the USA, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the ICFAW.

Background

At its September 2022 meeting, the Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to develop a chapter structure on biosecurity and to revise relevant Glossary definitions. At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission considered the [ad hoc Group's report](#) and feedback from the Scientific Commission, and agreed that the proposed structure of the new Chapter 4.X., and the overall content were appropriate and requested that the *ad hoc* Group revise Glossary definitions for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan' and to propose a new definition for 'swill'.

The Commission reviewed the May 2023 [ad hoc Group's report](#), the March 2024 [report of the ad hoc Group](#), and Member comments, making amendments to the chapter and Glossary definitions where relevant.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on the draft Chapter 4.X. 'Biosecurity' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 4.X. 'Biosecurity' is presented as [Annex 7](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.4. Measures and procedures applicable during 'exportation', 'transit' and 'importation' (Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.)

Comments were received from Canada, Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, the UK, the USA, the EU and the ICFAW.

Background

The Commission agreed to include a review of Section 5. 'Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification', in its work programme to better support Members in managing the risks associated with the introduction of diseases through the international trade or movements of commodities and considered that the revision of Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. should be given priority.

At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission reviewed the November 2022 report of the [ad hoc Group on Chapters 5.4. to 5.7.](#) and agreed to replace the four current chapters (Chapters 5.4., 5.5., 5.6. and 5.7.) with three new chapters that will provide recommendations on measures and procedures that are applicable during 'exportation', 'transit' and 'importation', respectively. The Commission also agreed with the proposal to develop a fourth chapter to address key facilities (e.g., border inspection posts and quarantine centres).

Since then, the Commission considered the reports of the *ad hoc* Group (November 2023 and April 2024) and the new draft Chapter 5.4. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities', Chapter 5.5. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities', Chapter 5.6. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities', Chapter 5.7. 'Border inspection posts and quarantine centres', and associated Glossary definitions. The Commission circulated the draft chapters and new or revised Glossary definitions for comments several times.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on revised Chapters 5.4. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities', 5.5. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities', 5.6. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities' and 5.7. 'Border inspection posts and quarantine centres' that were circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 5.4. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities', Chapter 5.5. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities', Chapter 5.6. 'Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities', and the new draft Chapter 5.7. 'Border inspection posts and quarantine centres' are presented as [Annex 8](#), [Annex 9](#), [Annex 10](#) and [Annex 11](#), respectively, and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.5. Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter'

Comments were received from Chile, China (People's Rep. of), Singapore, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, the UK, the USA and the EU.

Background

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission considered comments received on point 4 of Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. 'Animal Welfare During Slaughter', which was circulated in its February 2025 meeting report. The Commission noted that some comments were received on other text in the article, which had not been circulated for comments. The Commission reviewed the comments received and agreed to address some of the comments and made relevant amendments only where this improved the clarity of the text. Given no new information on electrical parameters was provided that warranted a change, the Commission proposed to delete the reference to '[Under study]'.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on point 4. of Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. 'Animal Welfare During Slaughter', which was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report. The Commission noted that some comments were received on parts of the article that did not relate to the proposal circulated for comments; these comments were therefore not addressed by the Commission.

The Commission's responses to the comments considered and the rationale for the additional amendments are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. 'Animal welfare during slaughter' is presented as [Annex 12](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

The Commission was also made aware of a letter from a Member regarding a method of slaughter without stunning. The Commission acknowledged receipt of the letter and will discuss it further at its next meeting, although it noted that the revised chapter had already been circulated 5 times and was well-supported by the work of the *ad hoc* Group and by the corresponding scientific references.

5.6. Harmonisation of official status disease chapters Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus and Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever

Comments were received from Canada, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Türkiye (Rep. of), the UK, the AU-IBAR, the EU and the WRO.

Background

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the proposals developed by the Secretariat regarding amendments to relevant articles of Chapters 8.8., 14.7. and 15.2. to harmonise relevant provisions. The Commission noted that the purpose of revising these articles was to harmonise the relevant texts with the other official status disease chapters, Chapter 11.5. 'Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* (Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia)' and Chapter 12.1. 'Infection with African horse sickness virus' which were adopted at the 92nd General Session in May 2025. Revised Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' and Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. 'Infection with classical swine fever virus' were circulated for comments.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' and Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. 'Infection with classical swine fever virus' that were circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission acknowledged the comments received on articles other than those circulated, such as Article 8.8.2. and a proposal for a new article in Chapter 8.8., and Article 15.2.2. The Commission reminded Members that the purpose of revising these articles was to harmonise the relevant texts with those in Chapter 11.5. and Chapter 12.1. The Commission highlighted that comments falling outside this scope were noted and will be discussed as future opportunities arise. In response to comments on the explicit reference to the use of Chapter 2.1. 'Import Risk Analysis' to identify equivalent sanitary measures, the Commission noted that Chapter 2.1 is already used by Members to support risk-based decision-making, and that its reference would not affect procedures related to official status recognition.

The Commission's responses to the other comments reviewed are presented in [Annex 3](#).

Revised draft Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' and Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. 'Infection with classical swine fever virus' are presented as [Annex 13](#) and [Annex 14](#), respectively, and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.7. Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia) (Chapter 8.20.)

Comments were received from Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Singapore and the EU.

Background

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the revised Chapter 8.20. prepared by the Secretariat for alignment with the case definition developed with experts and the Scientific Commission. At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission further worked on the revised chapter including the case definition, without updating all articles or undertaking a comprehensive redraft of the entire chapter.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Chapter 8.20. 'Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia)' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission received expert advice regarding the incubation period for tularemia which was requested by a Member at its September 2025 meeting (refer to Annex 3 of [the TAHSC September 2025 meeting report](#)). The expert noted that the incubation period for tularemia is highly variable and would depend on the species affected and the route of infection. While clinical signs often manifest within a week, the incubation period can exceed 9 days in certain species, supporting the need for a conservative approach. In light of this variability and the potential for prolonged subclinical infection, the Commission decided to maintain the incubation period at 15 days. This may be reviewed when further scientific evidence becomes available.

Since the purpose of revising this chapter was to include the new case definition and make editorial amendments to align the text with the current style of the disease-specific chapters, implying that no new provisions were being added, the Commission decided to propose the revised Chapter 8.20. for adoption. The Commission noted that the comments outside the scope of this revision have been included in its work programme for future consideration (see Item 4.4.).

The Commission agreed to amend the name of the listed disease in Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. to 'Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia)' for harmonisation with the proposed disease name in Chapter 8.20.

The Commission's responses to the comments reviewed are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 8.20. 'Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia)' and the revised Article 1.3.1. of Chapter 1.3. 'Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHP' are presented as [Annex 15](#) and [Annex 6](#), respectively, and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.8. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (new Chapter 8.X.)

Comments were received from Chile, Korea (Rep. of), Thailand, the USA and the EU.

Background

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission developed a new Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus', consisting of a single article on general provisions, including definitions of the listed disease and of its occurrence for notification. This followed the adoption of revised Chapter 3.1.5. 'Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever' of the *Terrestrial Manual* at the 91st General Session in May 2024 and the work of the Scientific Commission in developing a case definition. The Commission highlighted that the objective of this chapter was to support notification by Members for early warning due to the public health risks associated with this disease.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The new draft Chapter 8.X. 'Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus' is presented as [Annex 16](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

5.9. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens) (new Chapter 10.X.)

Comments were received from Chile, Korea (Rep. of), the UK and the EU.

Background

At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission was informed that the Scientific Commission had approved a draft case definition for turkey rhinotracheitis that had been developed by subject-matter experts. The Commission requested that the Scientific Commission clarify some points, notably on the animal hosts.

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission considered feedback from the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission and agreed to draft a new Chapter 10.X. consisting of a single article on general provisions, including definitions of the disease and of its occurrence for notification. The Commission also agreed to use 'Infection with avian metapneumovirus (turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens)' as the title of the new draft chapter.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on the new draft Chapter 10.X. that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised new draft Chapter 10.X. 'Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens)' is presented as [Annex 17](#) and will be proposed for adoption at the 93rd General Session in May 2026.

6. Texts circulated for comments

The Commission discussed the following new or revised texts and circulated them for comments.

6.1. User's Guide

Background

At the 92nd General Session in May 2025, the proposed revised User's Guide was adopted unanimously. However, Members also raised concerns regarding the need for clarification of the case definitions and their interpretation in the User's Guide. The President of the Commission noted that the Commission would consider the proposals from Members at its future meeting.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the current User's Guide and decided to update it to provide clearer guidance for Members to enhance understanding of the contents of the *Terrestrial Code*, as well as to address requests from Members regarding the clarification of case definitions in disease-specific chapters.

In Section A 'Introduction', further explanations were added as new points:

- the relationship between the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*;
- clarification of obligations (notification) and recommendations;
- the distinction between the terms 'shall' and 'should' used in the *Terrestrial Code*;

- clarification of national implementation and legal integration;
- support for safe international trade and related aspects across the *Terrestrial Code*;
- scientific justification for alternative measures (this was moved from point 5 of Section C ‘Specific issues’); and
- further general explanations on different Sections of the Code.

The Commission also added a new proposed point 1bis in Section B ‘*Terrestrial Code* content’ to address requests from Members. This new point clarifies that terms accompanied by the expression ‘for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*’ should be applied according to their specific definitions throughout the *Terrestrial Code*, particularly for notification purposes. Furthermore, an additional explanation of the General Provisions or introductory article of the disease-specific chapters was included to provide clarification.

Furthermore, the Commission made amendments throughout the User’s Guide to improve the clarity and explanation of relevant content.

The revised draft User’s Guide is presented as [Annex 18](#) for comments.

6.2. Glossary

‘*animal host*’

Background

During the discussion on the clarification of ‘animal host’ vs. other animals such as susceptible animals (see Item 4.1.8.2.), the Commission considered the necessity of a Glossary definition for ‘animal host’ and agreed to develop such a definition to clarify the use of the term in the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission drafted the definition at its September 2025 meeting and decided to share it, along with the categorisation of animals, with the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission for their input.

Discussion

The Commission noted that the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission were in alignment with the proposed Glossary definition for ‘animal host’. With this supportive input, the Commission decided to circulate the draft for comments.

The draft Glossary definition for ‘animal host’ is presented as part of [Annex 19](#) for comments.

‘*notifiable disease*’ and ‘*notification*’

Background

In its review of Chapter 1.1. ‘Notification of disease and provision of epidemiological information’ (see Item 6.3.), the Commission noted that clarification was also necessary for the relevant Glossary terms ‘notifiable disease’ and ‘notification’. Consequently, the Commission proposed amendments to these definitions in parallel with the revision of Chapter 1.1., as well as with the harmonisation of the use of these terms throughout the *Terrestrial Code*.

Discussion

In light of amendments made to Chapter 1.1., the Commission introduced further amendments to ‘notifiable disease’ and ‘notification’ for consistency.

The revised Glossary definitions for ‘notifiable disease’ and ‘notification’ are presented as part of [Annex 19](#) for comments.

'animal health status', 'containment zone', 'free zone', 'protection zone' and 'zone'

Background

The Commission reviewed the [report of the ad hoc Group on zoning \(December 2025\)](#) and considered the revised *Glossary* definitions for 'animal health status', 'containment zone', 'protection zone', and 'zone', developed in connection with the ongoing revision of Chapters 4.4. and 4.Y. (see Item 6.6.).

Discussion

For the revised definition of 'animal health status', the Commission removed the term 'unit' and replaced it with 'herd, flock, apiary or other subpopulation'. The term 'unit' may refer to a single animal, and the term 'animal health status' does not apply to a single animal. The status is given to the subpopulation of which the animal is a member.

The Commission noted that the definition of 'containment zone' proposed by the *ad hoc* Group would only be applicable for diseases for which WOAHS grants an official animal health status. These types of containment zones, once approved by WOAHS, may allow faster reinstatement of an officially recognised free status. However, the Commission considered that establishing a containment zone can be useful for the control of any type of disease, as well as for guaranteeing safe trade from the rest of the territory (outside the containment zone), and should not be limited only to diseases for which WOAHS grants official status (see Item 6.6.). It proposed to modify the current definition to make it more generally usable by focusing on the management measures rather than the epidemiological situation.

The Commission reviewed and agreed with the revisions the *ad hoc* Group made to the 'protection zone' definition.

The Commission reviewed the revised definition of 'zone' and deleted the reference to animal 'population'. It also removed the reference to 'for the purposes of disease prevention', as it did not add value to the definition. The term 'population' was removed based on the related discussion of Chapter 4.4., where it was determined that the zoning chapters and *Glossary* definitions should refer to 'subpopulations' and not to 'populations'.

The *ad hoc* Group had not proposed any changes to the definition of 'free zone', however the Commission modified the definition based on discussion of Chapter 4.4. to refer to animal 'subpopulation', rather than 'population' for consistency.

The revised *Glossary* definitions for 'animal health status', 'containment zone', 'free zone', 'protection zone' and 'zone' are presented as part of [Annex 19](#) for comments.

6.3. Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information

Background

At its September 2024 and February 2025 meetings, the Commission reviewed provisions in Chapter 1.1. 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information' with the view to incorporate the work progressed on animal hosts and to address areas of ambiguity regarding Member notification obligations, in particular concerning the 'stability' of events.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission discussed proposed revisions with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission so that work on the revision of Chapter 1.1. of the *Terrestrial Code* and *Aquatic Code* could be undertaken in parallel to ensure consistency between respective Chapters 1.1.

Discussion

At this meeting, the Commission discussed proposed revisions to Chapter 1.1. with the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission at a side meeting involving both Bureaux (see Item 3.3.).

Proposed amendments to Chapter 1.1. include the addition of titles to the different articles, replacement of 'strain' with 'type, subtype and variant' for consistency with syntax used in the *Terrestrial Code*, replacement of 'susceptible species' with 'animal host' (see Item 4.1.8.2.) and replacement of 'unusual host species' with 'previously unaffected animal host' to improve clarity.

The Commission also proposed text to provide guidance on the stability of events and to clarify the frequency for follow-up reports to be submitted for emerging diseases. Additional text was also proposed to clarify other important animal health information for reporting under Article 1.1.5.

The revised Chapter 1.1. 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information' is presented as [Annex 20](#) for comments.

6.4. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH (Chapter 1.6.)

Comments were received from Canada, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand and the EU.

Background

At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission developed a new Article 1.6.4. to clarify that holding a pathogenic agent, isolated or in an infected animal in a laboratory with an appropriate level of containment and biosecurity in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual* such as a diagnostic reference, vaccine, antigen banks or infection study, will not impact the animal health status of a free country or zone. Further amendments were subsequently proposed by the Commission to update the use of the term 'quarantine centre' (see Item 5.1.) and to improve clarity of text concerning the official recognition of animal health status and associated procedures.

Revised Chapter 1.6. has been circulated three times for comment.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on Chapter 1.6. 'Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to review provisions from the disease-specific chapters pertaining to official status recognition for incorporation into Chapter 1.6. (see Item 4.1.7.). At its next meeting, the Commission will review recommendations on the compliance measures pertaining to the containment zone proposed by the *ad hoc* Group on zoning (see Item 6.6.) to be included in this chapter.

The Commission's responses to comments are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised Chapter 1.6. 'Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH' is presented as [Annex 21](#) for comments.

6.5. New draft Chapter 3.X. 'Emergency management'

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, the USA, the EU and the ICAFW.

Background

At the 89th General Session, in 2022, Resolution No. 28 on emergency management recommended that WOAH international standards address emergency management. At its September 2023 meeting, the Commission agreed with the proposal from WOAH Headquarters to develop a standard on emergency management for the *Terrestrial Code*.

In later meetings, the Commission reviewed the reports of the *ad hoc* Group on emergency management ([June 2024](#), [December 2024](#) and [June 2025](#)). The *ad hoc* Group drafted a new Chapter 3.X. 'Emergency Management'. The Commission provided some advice for the consideration of the *ad hoc* Group including the need to highlight the veterinary role, for consistency of terminology used throughout the chapter, and to define some terms where it will promote a better understanding of the chapter.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments on new draft Chapter 3.X. 'Emergency management' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 3.X. 'Emergency management' is presented as [Annex 22](#) for comments.

6.6. Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation

Background

At its February 2024 meeting, the Commission requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to develop a new chapter on 'Implementation of zoning' and to also review relevant points in Chapter 4.4. 'Zoning and compartmentalisation' to ensure consistency and complementarity between the two chapters.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the [report of the *ad hoc* Group on zoning \(May 2025\)](#), the revised definitions for 'animal health status' and 'zone', the revised draft Chapter 4.4. 'Defining Subpopulations of Animals' and the outline of a draft Chapter 4.Y. 'Application of Zoning.' The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group continue to revise Chapter 4.4. to address other mechanisms of establishing subpopulations of animals, while they work on both chapters. In addition, the *ad hoc* Group should also consider subpopulations based on vaccination status, wild animals versus domestic or captive wild animals, and zones defined by the control measures implemented or lack thereof.

The Commission also considered the outline for a new draft Chapter 4.Y. 'Implementation of zoning'. It approved the outline as drafted and encouraged the *ad hoc* Group to continue to develop the details of this chapter. The Commission also suggested that the chapter include text on zoning for trade purposes only, such as the use of equine disease-free zones used to move or gather horses internationally for competition. The Commission also requested that the *ad hoc* Group include information about the importance of animal hosts to show that different subpopulations of animals have different epidemiological importance, and therefore do not always need to be considered in the notification, animal health status, control of disease or trade recommendations.

Discussion

The Commission considered the [report of the *ad hoc* Group on zoning \(December 2025\)](#), the revised Glossary definitions, the revised draft Chapter 4.4. 'Establishing and maintaining populations and subpopulations of animals', and the new draft Chapter 4.Y. 'Application of zoning', together with the opinions of the Scientific Commission.

The Commission considered the proposal of the *ad hoc* Group to remove the reference to 'populations' in the revised Chapter 4.4., leaving only 'subpopulations'. The Commission determined that a reference to 'population' would refer to a larger group of animals such as animals with a common species or production type, and the purpose of this chapter was to guide how various subpopulations are created out of the larger group of animals. The Commission agreed to remove the reference to populations and revised the name of the chapter to 'Defining, establishing and maintaining subpopulations of animals'. It requested that the experts expand the chapter to add more detail and examples of other useful options or mechanisms to create alternative subpopulations of animals beyond zoning and compartmentalisation. It suggested this work be done after the Commission meeting in September 2026 to so that Member comments received on its February 2026 report may also be considered.

The *ad hoc* Group drafted a new Chapter 4.Y. expanding on methods to implement zoning. The Commission reviewed this work and made some changes. Consistent with Chapter 4.4., the Commission removed references to populations in this chapter, leaving only references to subpopulations.

The Commission removed a paragraph covering how WOAAH and trading partners can recognise zones, as this information will be moved to another section of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission noted that protection zones are not necessarily free zones, and therefore the relevant provisions were moved to a separate article. The Commission considered that while protection zones may be established first as free zones, they can remain protection zones even if there is an incursion of infection, or if a decision is made to vaccinate within the zone for diseases where vaccination is not compatible with free status, including also the possibility of establishing a containment zone within the protection zone to avoid further spread of the disease in that zone.

The Commission noted that the article on containment zones was modified by the *ad hoc* Group to refer only to diseases for which WOAAH grants an official animal health status. These containment zones, if approved by WOAAH, may allow faster reinstatement of officially recognised free status. The Commission considered that creating a containment zone can be useful for the control of any type of disease, and to guarantee safe trade from the rest of territory outside the containment zone, and should not be limited only to diseases for which WOAAH grants official status such as the example of high pathogenicity avian influenza. It recommended that conditions specific to containment zones used to recover official WOAAH free status, including the 24-month time limitation of such zones, be moved to Chapter 1.6., and that disease-specific considerations for containment zones continue to be captured in the disease-specific chapters. The Commission decided to further discuss this point at its next meeting. The draft chapter and the draft revised definition of containment zone propose to allow countries to have more than one containment zone where appropriate, provided that all outbreaks are included within the containment zones.

The Commission agreed with a recommendation from the *ad hoc* Group regarding Article 8.8.10. of the FMD Chapter. Currently, if recovery of the FMD free status of a containment zone is not achieved within 24 months of its approval, the status of the remainder of the country or zone is suspended. The Group suggested that, in such circumstances, the country should not be given an additional two-year period to recover its official status through the fast-track process. In agreement with the Scientific Commission, the Commission agreed with the recommendation that Article 8.8.10. should be amended to ensure that the official status of the country should be withdrawn if the free status of the containment zone was not recovered after 24 months, and the provisions of articles 8.8.3 or 8.8.4 for free country or zone would then apply. This point will also be discussed together with other procedural aspects of the revisions to Chapter 1.6.

The Commission also removed a reference to contingency plans, as it considered it adequate for Members to define zoning in their veterinary legislation, which would include regulations as well as legal instruments.

The Commission noted that Members could also benefit from a broader guidance document on zoning, like the existing guidance on surveillance or on compartmentalisation. It therefore requested WOAAH to consider, once the draft chapters are adopted, developing such a document, which could, for example detail specific situations linked to production types, role of wildlife or geographical characteristics such as island territories or other major geographical features.

The revised Chapter 4.4. 'Defining, establishing and maintaining populations and subpopulations of animals', and new Chapter 4.Y. 'Application of zoning', are presented as [Annex 23](#) and [Annex 24](#), respectively, for comments.

6.7. Development of an introductory chapter of Section 5 (new Chapter 5.X)

Background

At its February 2024 meeting, the Commission discussed the development of an introductory chapter to Section 5. 'Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification', similar to the introductory chapters included in some other sections of the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission agreed that an introductory chapter for Section 5 could provide background and clarity on the objective, scope and content of the chapters in Section 5. The Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group on Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. consider this proposal.

At the Bureaux meeting of the Code and Aquatic Commissions in September 2024, it was agreed that this work should be developed in collaboration aiming to harmonise, given the similarities between Sections 5 of the *Aquatic Code* and the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commissions agreed to establish a task force consisting of representatives from each Commission to draft the introductory chapter to Section 5.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed a draft introductory chapter to Section 5 that was developed by the task force. The Commission considered that the initial scope was too broad and clarified that the introductory chapter should emphasise the objective of Section 5, while other provisions regarding other Sections of the Code would be better placed within the User's Guide.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed a revised draft of the introductory chapter to Section 5 that was developed by the task force. The Commission considered that the updated scope of the chapter was fit for purpose and edited the draft chapter for clarity and consistency.

At the Bureaux meeting of the two Commissions (see Item 3.3.), the Bureau of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission reported that the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission had also reviewed the draft introductory chapter developed by the task force and had suggested editing the document for clarity. A final version of Chapter 5.X. was approved, and the Bureaux agreed to circulate the Chapter 5.X. for comments.

The draft Chapter 5.X. 'Introduction to recommendations for international veterinary certification and export and import procedures' is presented as [Annex 25](#) for comments.

6.8. Revision of chapters on transport of animals (Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.)

Background

At its February 2023 meeting, the Commission agreed to commence work to revise Chapter 7.2. 'Transport of animals by sea' and Chapter 7.3. 'Transport of animals by land' and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work.

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission considered the *ad hoc* Group's June 2024 report and agreed with its recommendation to merge Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. and to also include Chapter 7.4. 'Transport of animals by air', into a single chapter. The Commission requested the *ad hoc* Group be reconvened to start the development of the chapter. The Commission also requested that the *ad hoc* Group consider including recommendations for the transport of animals by foot, given its relevance in many parts of the world (e.g. transhumance).

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission considered the March 2025 *ad hoc* Group report, including draft new Chapter 7.2. and requested that the *ad hoc* Group meet again to continue working on the draft chapter, notably to streamline the chapter and improve its structure and readability.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the draft Chapter and [the work carried out by the ad hoc Group](#) (December 2025) to reduce repetition throughout the chapter, which was partially a product of merging three chapters into one. The Commission reviewed the chapter structure and made further amendments to increase the clarity and technical accuracy of the chapter where necessary.

The revised draft Chapter 7.2. 'Animal welfare during transport' is presented as [Annex 26](#) for comments.

6.9. Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing for disease control purposes

Background

At its February 2018 meeting, the Commission agreed to revise Chapter 7.6. 'Killing of animals for disease control purposes' and requested that an *ad hoc* Group be convened to undertake this work, as well as the revision of relevant Glossary definitions. The first *ad hoc* Group meeting was held in June 2023. The Commission continued to review the work of the [ad hoc Group](#) (December 2025) on the draft Chapter 7.6. while circulating a revised draft Chapter 7.6. for comments.

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission considered comments received on Chapter 7.6. 'Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter' which was circulated in its February 2025 meeting report. The Commission considered comments on Articles 7.6.1., 7.6.2., 7.6.3, 7.6.4 and 7.6.6., as well as general comments. The Commission also discussed the inclusion of water-based foam and ventilation shutdown as killing methods, for which many comments were received. The Commission requested that the *ad hoc* Group review the Commission's position on these comments and actively consider the remaining comments received on the chapter.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the revised draft chapter and [the ad hoc Group's responses](#) to the comments received and the amendments made. The Commission discussed opinions on retaining or removing the following killing methods: water-based foam, ventilation shutdown, and the addition of anaesthetics to feed or water. For head only electrical stunning followed by a secondary killing method, they also discussed the proposal to restructure the articles to clearly separate one stage and two stage electrical killing processes.

Whilst the Commission agreed with removing the article on water-based foam, due to the associated welfare concerns, it did not agree with retaining ventilation shutdown and deleted the article from the chapter, consistent with its previous discussions from the September 2025 meeting. Due to the strong welfare concerns associated with the method, as expressed by many Members and organisations and demonstrated by scientific evidence, the Commission did not think that recommendations for its use were appropriate within the WOH standards.

The Commission also agreed with the decision to remove the article on the addition of anaesthetics to feed or water, due to the difficulties associated with availability of suitable anaesthetics and uniform administration of the anaesthetics, which makes the method currently ineffective. It acknowledged that if drug development or related technology improved that this could be revisited in future.

The Commission agreed with the proposal to remove the article on head only electrical stunning followed by a secondary killing method, as the recommendations are now included in the articles on electrical two stage application and head to body electrical killing. The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 7.6. 'Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter' is presented as [Annex 27](#) for comments.

6.10. Article 8.8.13 and new Article 8.8.31bis of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

Background

When revising Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' in September 2022, the Commission considered a comment proposing the inclusion of 'gamma-irradiated foetal bovine serum' in the list of safe commodities in Article 8.8.2. The Commission was informed that the industry had indicated that 'gamma irradiation' is not a standard step in the manufacturing process for this commodity but rather an additional treatment applied to address potential risks of transmission of foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) and other pathogenic agents. After considering the information provided by the industry, the Commission agreed not to include this commodity as a safe commodity in Article 8.8.2. but to draft a new Article 8.8.33bis. 'Recommendations for importation of fetal bovine serum from countries or zones infected with FMDV'.

At its September 2024 meeting, the Commission reviewed the new Article 8.8.33bis. 'Recommendations for importation of fetal bovine serum from countries or zones infected with FMDV' and agreed to circulate this new article for comments. At its February 2025 meeting, acknowledging concerns that risk mitigation measures in the draft article were inadequate, the Commission requested the Secretariat to amend the draft article, in consultation with subject matter experts, and to include risk mitigation measures in addition to gamma irradiation.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on Article 8.8.33bis. of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' that was circulated in its September 2024 meeting report.

In response to a comment from a Member, the Commission reviewed expert advice regarding the adequacy of gamma irradiation for inactivating FMDV in fetal bovine serum. The experts noted that, given that abortion is a well-recognised consequence of FMD, the possibility of transplacental infection cannot be discarded. Viral titres in infected fetuses are as high as those in adult animals, meaning that FMDV contamination of fetal bovine serum batches remains a potential risk. Gamma irradiation at a dose of 30 kGy is an established method for inactivating FMDV, achieving a reduction of over 5 log₁₀. Whilst irradiating frozen samples enhances biosafety and preserves proteins, it has been consistently shown to reduce the overall effectiveness of the inactivation process. To ensure the highest level of safety, it is recommended that 30 kGy irradiation be combined with RT-PCR testing. Considering the expert advice, the Commission agreed to include additional risk mitigation measures (i.e. testing for detection of nucleic acid) to provide a robust basis for inactivating any FMDV.

In addition, the Commission considered the request from the Scientific Commission regarding the discrepancy between point 4 of Article 8.8.13. (importation of susceptible animals from countries, zones or compartments free from FMD without vaccination) and point 4 of Article 8.8.14. (importation of susceptible animals from countries, zones or compartments free from FMD with vaccination). Based on scientific evidence that residual immunity typically wanes within three years, the Commission agreed with the rationale of the Scientific Commission that it was not necessary to subject animals vaccinated more than three years ago to NSP serological testing. Moreover, the Commission noted that all animals of a country or zone recognised as free without vaccination, including any remaining vaccinated animals, share the same animal health status (i.e. freedom as demonstrated in accordance with Article 8.8.3. point 4b) through at least 12 months of surveillance after vaccination has ceased). As these animals present the same level of risk, they should not be treated differently. The Commission thus proposed to delete point 4 of Article 8.8.13. to resolve this discrepancy.

The Commission's responses to comments considered are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Articles 8.8.13. and 8.8.33bis. of Chapter 8.8. 'Infection with foot and mouth disease virus' are presented as [Annex 28](#) for comments.

6.11. Glossary definition for 'poultry' and Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses'

Background

At its September 2023 meeting, the Commission considered comments received to review the Glossary definition of 'poultry' to address birds that do not play a significant epidemiological role in the spread of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) through international trade. The Commission agreed to add the revision of the definition of 'poultry' to its work programme.

At its February 2025 meeting, the Commission reviewed the proposal presented by the Secretariat, considering the possibility of a simplified definition of poultry, while noting that for some listed diseases such as HPAI and Newcastle disease, all types of birds were included for the purpose of notification while some birds could be excluded from the definition of free status of a country or zone. The Commission discussed that a simplified definition of poultry should focus on a positive description of what types of birds are poultry, without including a list of types of birds that are not considered as poultry.

The Commission requested that the Secretariat work with one of its members to continue developing a simplified poultry definition based on animal hosts that would be used to determine when the occurrence of the disease would need to be notified to WOA. The Commission requested that this work address comments received from Members requesting clarification on reporting timeframes for HPAI findings in mammals. The Commission also requested the development of revisions for Chapter 10.4. to determine which specific poultry subpopulations would be the subject of free status for HPAI, relevant sanitary measures and surveillance provisions.

Discussion

The Commission considered draft revisions to the Glossary definition of '*poultry*' and Chapter 10.4. 'Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses', to address Member concerns about the definition of 'poultry' as well as requests to clarify when findings of HPAI viruses should be reported if they are found in animals other than poultry.

The Commission reviewed a draft simplified definition for 'poultry' that would remain in the Glossary, broadly relevant to all avian diseases and the variety of poultry production situations and scales globally. It discussed and revised a proposed definition for 'commercial poultry' for the unique purpose of Chapter 10.4. The Commission also raised that compartmentalisation may be an alternative approach to address this concern at the establishment level. The Commission made some revisions to Article 10.4.1. for consistency with the Framework. The Commission added clarifying points regarding the infection of domestic and wild birds other than poultry with various influenza A viruses that are notifiable in accordance with Article 1.3.3.

Clarifying points were also added to Article 10.4.1. regarding occurrences of non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds, or findings of influenza A virus of high pathogenicity in mammals which should be reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5., which do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone in poultry.

The Commission revised Article 10.4.3. to clarify that the article applies to countries or zones free from HPAI in all 'poultry'.

The Commission reviewed a new Article, 10.4.3.bis to further define the requirements for a country or zone to be considered free from HPAI in commercial poultry. The Commission noted that birds cannot be considered commercial poultry unless they meet the criteria of the new 'commercial poultry' definition and the criteria of Article 10.4.3.bis.

The Commission revised Article 10.4.4. to clarify that compartmentalisation may be applied to commercial poultry establishments, and revised article 10.4.6. to address recovery of free status in poultry or commercial poultry, with the requirements for both situations.

The revised draft articles of Chapter 10.4 “ is presented as [Annex 29](#) for comments and the revised Glossary definition of ‘poultry’ is presented as [Annex 19](#), respectively, for comments.

6.12. Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus

Background

The Commission considered comments received on Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. ‘Infection with Newcastle disease virus’. Members had requested that the Commission consider reducing the time required to recover free status for Newcastle disease from three months to 42 days, which would be equivalent to twice the incubation period. They also requested consideration of whether the incubation period could be shorter than 21 days.

The Secretariat referred these questions to experts for consideration. The experts considered that the incubation period should remain at 21 days, as in some avian species the incubation period may be longer than 14 days, or clinical signs may be minimal. Experts were also concerned about the extensive use of vaccination for Newcastle disease, and the stability of the virus in the environment. Therefore, they recommended that the incubation period remain at 21 days, however, they agreed that the time needed to recover free status could be reduced to twice the incubation period.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the information submitted by the experts and agreed to maintain the incubation period at 21 days, while decreasing the waiting period for recovery of freedom from 3 months to 42 days.

The Commission evaluated Chapter 10.9. ‘Infection with Newcastle disease virus’ and identified other areas where the chapter could benefit from updates. It requested the Secretariat to convene a group of experts to undertake the work of updating and revising this chapter, and to report back to its September 2026 meeting.

Given the repeated requests from Members for changes to Article 10.9.3., the Commission decided to propose this limited amendment for comment, recognising that more substantial revisions to the chapter may be proposed at a later time. The revised draft Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9. ‘Infection with Newcastle disease virus’ is presented as [Annex 30](#) for comments.

6.13. Revision of Chapter 11.9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People’s Rep. of), Japan, Korea (Rep. of), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK, the USA, EU and the WRO.

Background

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission circulated draft amendments to Chapter 11.9. ‘Infection with lumpy skin disease virus’ for Member comments following proposed amendments by the [ad hoc Group on Sheep and goat pox](#) for alignment with Chapter 14.9., the opinion of the Scientific Commission and additional clarification received by subject matter experts.

The Commission also requested the Secretariat to seek expert opinion on provisions related to freedom from lumpy skin disease (LSD) including the period required for vaccination cessation, the duration of surveillance required where no cases are detected in order for a country or zone to be free as well as to recover freedom.

Discussion

At this meeting, the Commission reviewed the opinion of experts and the Scientific Commission, including to address Member comments on Chapter 11.9. ‘Infection with lumpy skin disease virus’ that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

In the article on safe commodities, the Commission proposed to replace 'tallow' with 'rendered fats'. The Commission agreed to also further reflect on how to apply this terminology change across the *Terrestrial Code*. It considered the importance of having Glossary definitions for these terms so that each standardised processing is described and consistently understood (see Item 4.3.1.2.). The Commission also proposed the addition of 'heat-treated meat products in a hermetically sealed container with a F0 value of 3 or above' as a safe commodity.

In the article on LSD freedom, the Commission discussed the period for which there must be no case in order for a country or zone to be considered free and considered that the existing provisions did not consider measures taken by Members to control the disease, such as vaccination. It noted expert opinion that successful control and eradication of LSD requires a widespread vaccination campaign aimed at a high vaccination coverage of the target population, with or without stamping-out. In this regard, the Commission proposed to clarify in this article that the pathway to freedom is either a situation where the country or zone is historically free, or otherwise a vaccination programme aimed at eradicating LSD has been in place. In this way, the *Terrestrial Code* would provide better guidance to Members that are aiming to achieve free status.

If an active clinical, serological and virological surveillance programme is in place, the Commission proposed a period of 18 months without the occurrence of any case in order for a country or zone to be considered free. The rationale for 18 months is based on one vector season of 12 months (noting that this time point may not start right at the beginning of the vector season) as well as the time for the waning of maternal antibodies so that naïve animals may show clinical signs if the virus is still circulating in the population. If only clinical surveillance is used, a strategy that the Commission clarified was not the most appropriate for LSD, the duration is proposed to be 30 months to account for more than two vector seasons in the event cases are missed due to reduced sensitivity of clinical surveillance, in particular in a previously vaccinated population.

In the article on recovery of freedom, the Commission proposed reductions to the recovery period to take into account only the vector seasons as it considered there was no need for an additional two months of security as this has no bearing on the vector season. It further clarified that these periods are shorter than those proposed for Article 11.9.3. as stamping-out is also employed, which implies a reduction in viral load.

Throughout the provisions for the trade of commodities, where relevant, the Commission proposed to clarify that only live attenuated vaccines should be used, in which case the lower limit for when vaccination may be applied could be 30 days as expert opinion cited that protection is conferred after 3 weeks.

Concerning the risk posed by milk and milk products, the Commission considered that whole virus has never been isolated from the milk of infected cows, that transmission to suckling calves has never been demonstrated under vector-proof conditions or with assurance of no skin lesions on the teats, and that there has been no documented transmission of LSD through milk products. Taking into account the processing steps used to convert milk to milk products, together with the safeguard that these commodities originate from herds that are not infected or suspected of being infected by LSDV, the Commission considered that these factors or processes would sufficiently mitigate any remote risk of transmission. Therefore, the Commission proposed to delete the need for further processing of milk products in the corresponding article. In parallel, the Commission proposed the addition of pasteurised and ultra-high temperature milk (and products thereof) to the list of safe commodities, since pasteurisation and UHT treatments have been demonstrated to inactivate any potential live LSDV in milk.

Noting the importance of providing fit-for-purpose guidance to Members to achieve surveillance objectives including early warning, demonstration of freedom and vaccination monitoring, the Commission requested the Secretariat to work with experts to further develop the articles on surveillance.

The Commission's responses to comments are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 11.9. 'Infection with lumpy skin disease virus' is presented as [Annex 31](#) for comments.

6.14. Revision of Chapter 12.11. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, the UK, the USA, the EU and the WRO.

Background

In the process of revising the equine encephalitis chapters, Commission considered the [April 2025 ad hoc Group report on the Revision of Chapter 12.11. 'Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis'](#) and the revised draft Chapter 12.11. 'Infection with Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)' together with the opinions of the Scientific Commission. The Commission agreed with the *ad hoc* Group suggestion to propose a new revised Chapter 12.11. as a clean text due to the extensive revision needed.

Regarding commodities such as meat and germinal products that were assessed as not meeting the criteria of safe commodities, the Commission requested the Secretariat to seek expert advice on what provisions would be needed for the safe importation of these commodities and to report back to the Commission at its next meeting. Although the Commission requested expert advice on recommendations for the importation of certain commodities, it agreed to circulate the revised Chapter 12.11. for comments and to add these provisions at a later stage.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on Chapter 12.11. 'Infection with I-AB and I-C variants of Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

In response to the comments regarding the specification of virus subtypes, the Commission recalled that any pathogenic agent considered for the WOAHP listed diseases should meet the criteria described in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. Based on the criteria, a listing assessment for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis was conducted, which included the evaluation of both epizootic and enzootic subtypes (refer to the report of the September 2023 Scientific Commission meeting). Following this assessment, the *ad hoc* Group considered which variants should be listed. Given the relevance of this disease to the international movement of horses, and its public health implications, the *ad hoc* Group concluded that the target pathogenic agents for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code* should be the epizootic variants (I-AB and I-C). The Group further determined that the enzootic variants (VEEV I-D and I-E), should not be listed, as equids do not act as amplifying hosts for these variants but rather serve as dead-end hosts, as reflected in the report of the *ad hoc* Group. Accordingly, the Commission agreed to focus on these specific variants for the revised chapter. Recognising the potential for enzootic variants to evolve into epizootic variants, the Commission reviewed the surveillance articles to ensure that this risk may be appropriately addressed. Such occurrences would be reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The Commission was updated on experts' input regarding risk mitigation measures for the importation of meat and germinal products. The Commission requested the Secretariat to seek further expert advice on this matter, in particular, regarding the potential risk posed by the importation of meat and germinal products and the relevance of implementing appropriate risk mitigation measures.

Furthermore, the Commission revised the vaccination interval in the recommendations for the importation of equids from an infected country or zone, as described in Article 12.11.8. Based on data concerning transient viremia and subsequent seroconversion observed in vaccinated equids, a minimum interval of 30 days between the date of vaccination and export should be required. This 30-day interval provides sufficient time for the clearance of the vaccine virus and the development of an adequate immune response before equids or their products enter the trade chain. The Commission agreed with the expert's rationale and replaced '60 days' with '30 days' in point 2a) of Article 12.11.8.

The Commission's responses to other comments reviewed are presented as part of [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 12.11. 'Infection with I-AB and I-C variants of Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis)' is presented as [Annex 32](#) for comments.

6.15. Revision of Chapter 14.9. Sheep pox and goat pox

Comments were received from Australia, Canada, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, Korea (Rep. of), New Zealand, Thailand, the UK, the USA, the EU and the WRO.

Background

At its September 2025 meeting, the Commission circulated draft amendments to Chapter 14.9. 'Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox)' for Member comments following the work of the [ad hoc Group on Sheep and goat pox](#) which met in November 2025, after considering the opinion of the Scientific Commission and additional clarification received by experts.

Discussion

The Commission considered comments received on Chapter 14.9. 'Sheep pox and goat pox' that was circulated in its September 2025 meeting report.

In discussing Chapter 14.9., the Commission made changes throughout where relevant, including to align with some proposed changes to Chapter 11.9.

In the article on safe commodities, the Commission added ultra-high temperature milk and rendered fats as the processes involved would inactivate capripoxviruses. Pasteurisation was not added as current evidence does not demonstrate sufficient effectiveness to consider pasteurised milk as intrinsically safe.

In the article on free status, the Commission proposed modifications to align with the corresponding article in Chapter 11.9., likewise noting that the pathway for an endemic country to achieve freedom is through a vaccination campaign aimed at eradication, and considering that vaccination masks clinical signs and there is no DIVA strategy, vaccination should cease before the beginning of the period during which surveillance should demonstrate the absence of infection.

Considering the requirements for importation of milk and milk products from an infected country or zone, in response to a comment from a Member, the Commission considered that for sheep pox and goat pox the risk of transmission through milk is not negligible. It therefore considered that milk should not only originate from herds that are not infected or suspected of being infected with sheeppox virus or goatpox virus at the time of milking, but should also be subjected to pasteurisation or other treatment with equivalent effectiveness.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to seek expert opinion on the processes that would address the risk associated with skins of sheep and goats and the feasibility of incorporating molecular biology approaches in surveillance.

The Commission's responses to comments are presented in [Annex 3](#).

The revised draft Chapter 14.9. 'Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox)' is presented as [Annex 33](#) for comments.

6.16. Terminology: Notifiable disease and notification

Background

In response to comments requesting a review of the terms 'notify', 'notifiable disease', 'report' and 'reportable disease' used in the *Terrestrial Code*, and noting that these terms could lead to misunderstanding and incorrect interpretation, the Commission acknowledged these comments and added a review of these terms throughout the *Terrestrial Code* to its work programme.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed an internal policy proposed by the Secretariat for the consistent use of relevant terms as well as the revisions to relevant articles throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission agreed on the following:

- 'notifiable disease': to follow the Glossary definition, that is, a disease to be reported to the Veterinary Authority of a Member country in accordance with its national regulations
- 'notification': to follow the Glossary definition, that is, the procedure of reciprocal information between Members and WOAHA Headquarters regarding listed and emerging diseases in accordance with Chapter 1.1.
- 'notify': refers to Members providing information to WOAHA
- 'report', 'reporting', 'informing': refers to information provided internally within Members or to other Members or other organisations than WOAHA, depending on the context
- 'reportable disease': not to be used in the *Terrestrial Code* to avoid misunderstanding.

Based on this policy, the Commission revised the relevant texts throughout the *Terrestrial Code*. The Commission also made additional minor linguistic amendments to reflect these changes. The Commission noted that amendments were not applied to chapters currently under revision, as these changes have already been addressed within those specific chapters.

The revised texts are presented as [Annex 34](#) for comments.

7. Updates on WOAHA initiatives relevant to the Code Commission

7.1. Work of the Governance Review Committee

The Commission was updated on the work of the Governance Review Committee (GRC). The Commission was informed that the Specialist Commissions would continue to be consulted throughout 2026 on the development of the WOAHA Technical Procedural Manual, a priority workstream for the GRC in accordance with Assembly Resolution No. 5 (2025). Updates were also provided on the GRC's review of the process leading to the appointment of Specialist Commissions members, with GRC recommendations expected to be submitted to the Assembly at the 93rd General Session in 2026. The Commission noted that the GRC would also develop advice to the Assembly on the organisation and governance of WOAHA's technical bodies and strategic direction and drafting of WOAHA standards. Members were encouraged to consult with their Delegate and participate in targeted consultations conducted by the Secretariat on behalf of the GRC.

7.2. 7th WOAHA Animal Welfare Global Forum

The Commission was updated on the Animal Welfare Global Forum held during 13-14 November 2025 at WOAHA Headquarters.

The 2025 Animal Welfare Global Forum was dedicated to supporting the WOAHA Regions to develop and implement an effective Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and Platforms (RAWS&P), through discussions on RAWS&P governance, content, funding, political considerations and the importance of legislation and monitoring and evaluation. A [report](#) including a summary of key discussions and conclusions is available on WOAHA's website, including the potential ways to improve the development and promotion of the different RAWS&P.

Participants were from WOAHA Members, including WOAHA Animal Welfare Focal Points, and interested partners with WOAHA collaboration agreements.

7.3. WOA H Zoning Forum

The Commission was updated on the Global Forum on Zoning held on 8–9 December 2025 at the headquarters of the WOA H, which brought together 71 representatives from 53 countries, alongside partners including the European Commission and the World Trade Organization. Discussions highlighted zoning as a key tool for disease control and eradication, business continuity and safe trade by defining areas of specific animal health status, while acknowledging persistent challenges as identified through the WOA H Observatory thematic study, including harmonisation, recognition and implementation across Members.

Through case studies and technical exchanges, participants explored progressive zoning approaches combining surveillance, vaccination, movement controls, governance frameworks and public–private partnerships to move from endemic disease situations toward officially recognised free zones. Discussions also highlighted operational challenges faced by Members, including laboratory capacity, animal identification and traceability systems, enforcement of biosecurity measures, and the need for clearly defined objectives and flexible strategies adapted to evolving epidemiological situations. Particular emphasis was placed on cross-border collaboration, transparent communication with trading partners, and alignment with WTO SPS regionalisation principles to support recognition of zones.

The Forum concluded with recommendations for Members, WOA H and partners to strengthen standards, enhance use of official status recognition tools, and promote trust and cooperation so that zoning effectively supports both animal health and international trade. It was recognised that zoning may require significant investment but delivers important benefits when supported by strong Veterinary Services, robust surveillance and laboratory capacity, enabling legislation, transparent communication and predictable recognition processes at multilateral and bilateral levels.

7.4. WOA H Observatory

The Commission was updated on the ongoing activities of the WOA H Observatory since its previous meeting in September 2025. WOA H Headquarters provided a brief overview of the programme's overall objectives and approaches, explaining that the Observatory aims to generate and interpret data-based evidence to support decision making by WOA H, its Members and its Specialist Commissions and thereby help make WOA H standards practical for all WOA H Members. WOA H Headquarters also presented example indicators and recommendations targeted to WOA H and to its Members which were derived from key analysis highlights. In addition, it outlined its plans for the coming months, in particular regarding the revision and endorsement of the WOA H Standards Monitoring and Impact Measurement Framework.

The Commission suggested that WOA H further encourage Member participation in the standard-setting process, potentially through articulating incentives and benefits. WOA H Headquarters noted that this complements its recent recommendation on helping Members resolve regulatory differences early, since active engagement is essential for identifying divergences before they develop into SPS related trade concerns.

The Commission also observed that recommendations in the Second Monitoring Report were not specific enough to guide concrete action. WOA H Headquarters explained that this is partly because several Monitoring Indicators are still under development. The forthcoming Standards Monitoring and Impact measurement Framework will support more precise recommendations, and the Commission will be consulted during its revision.

Feedback was provided that indicators should be designed to reflect the technical usefulness of standards rather than levels of use that are primarily driven by the occurrence of disease outbreaks. It was also noted that not all Members are expected to implement all standards, for example, export-focused requirements do not apply to non-exporting Members so indicators should consider only those for whom implementation is relevant. In response, WOA H Headquarters agreed that indicators need refinement. Using zoning as an example, it highlighted that such measures should be assessed only among Members affected by the disease and applying the measure as part of control efforts. Similar improvements may be needed across other indicators to ensure more accurate interpretation.

The Commission also proposed a new analytical approach in the form of a phased 'flash note', starting with an analysis of immediate notifications recorded in WAHIS. Such a preliminary analysis could categorise epidemiological events by listed disease, origin, commodity relevance, and geographical patterns as well as by source of event or origin of infection, providing valuable insights to inform the review of existing *Terrestrial Code* chapters and help to prioritise future revisions.

Recognising the sensitivities involved, both the Observatory and Commission experts will collaborate closely on selecting target diseases, geographical foci, timeframes, and on refining the methodology, which may include the de-identification of data. It was agreed that WOAHS Headquarters would prepare a concept note for discussion at its upcoming September 2026 meeting following internal consultation.

Finally, potential topics for future thematic studies were discussed, including revisiting animal identification and traceability systems, as well as examining how bilateral trade agreements apply WOAHS standards. These areas align with ongoing interest in improving understanding of standard implementation challenges.

8. Updates on other standard-setting bodies and international organisations

8.1. Updates on WVA Council

The Commission was updated on the World Veterinary Association's (WVA) development of an official Position Statement on Animal Sentience, which is being prepared by the WVA's Animal Welfare Working Group (WVA AWWG). The WVA AWWG will prepare a draft statement to be submitted to the WVA Council for review. The proposal will include a definition of animal sentience and will be based on existing positions from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE,) and international scientific declarations, and include references to scientific literature.

.../Annexes

Annex 1. Adopted Agenda

MEETING OF THE WOAHP TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 3 to 13 February 2026

1. **Welcome**
 - 1.1. Deputy Director General
 - 1.2. Director General
2. **Adoption of agenda**
3. **Cooperation with other Specialist Commissions**
 - 3.1. Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
 - 3.1.1. Emerging diseases: HPAI in cattle
 - 3.1.2. Case definitions
 - 3.1.2.1. Anthrax
 - 3.1.2.2. Aujeszky's disease
 - 3.1.2.3. *Chlamydia abortus*
 - 3.1.2.4. Paratuberculosis
 - 3.2. Biological Standards Commission
 - 3.2.1. Biological Standards Commission's recommendations to the *Terrestrial Code* (following *Manual* updates proposed for adoption)
 - 3.3. Aquatic Animals Commission
 - 3.3.1. Chapter 1.1. Notification of disease and provision of epidemiological information
4. **Code Commission's work programme not including texts proposed for comments or adoption**
 - 4.1. **Ongoing work items (not in order of priority)**
 - 4.1.1. Revision of Glossary definition for 'poultry'
 - 4.1.2. Request on Article 10.4.1. of Chapter 10.4. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses
 - 4.1.3. Request on 10.9. Infection with Newcastle disease virus
 - 4.1.4. Wildlife health
 - 4.1.5. User's Guide
 - 4.1.6. Revision of Chapter 1.1. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information
 - 4.1.7. Terminology of 'notify', 'notifiable disease', 'report' and 'reportable disease'
 - 4.1.8. Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation and new chapter on implementation of zoning
 - 4.1.9. Revision of Chapter 4.7. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen
 - 4.1.10. Revision of Chapter 4.14. General recommendations on disinfection and disinsection

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- 4.1.11. Development of introductory chapter of Section 5
 - 4.1.12. Revision of chapters on certification procedures (Chapters 5.1., 5.2. and 5.10. to 5.13.)
 - 4.1.13. Revision of chapters on animal welfare during transport (Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4.)
 - 4.1.14. Revision of Chapter 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing
 - 4.1.15. Revision of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus
 - 4.1.16. Revision of Chapter 8.21. West Nile Fever
 - 4.1.17. Revision of Chapter 6.8. Harmonisation and national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes
 - 4.1.18. *Terrestrial Code* data standardisation
 - 4.1.18.1. Framework for *Terrestrial Code* standards
 - 4.1.18.2. Animal hosts
 - 4.1.18.3. Commodities
- 4.2. New proposals and requests for inclusion in work programme**
- 4.2.1. New requests from Members and International Organisations
 - 4.2.1.1.1. Request regarding the inclusion of salted natural casings and gelatine/collagen as safe commodities
 - 4.2.1.1.2. Request on new Glossary definitions and revision of current definition related to commodities
 - 4.2.1.1.3. Request on new Glossary definition for 'treatment'
 - 4.2.2. Other requests
 - 4.2.2.1. Clarification of term of 'rendered fats' in Spanish
- 4.3. Feedback from Conferences of the WOA Regional Commissions**
- 4.4. Prioritisation of items in work programme**
- 5. Texts circulated to be proposed for adoption in May 2026**
- 5.1. Glossary
 - 5.2. Articles 1.3.1., 1.3.3., and 1.3.7. of Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations by WOA
 - 5.3. Chapter 4.X. Biosecurity
 - 5.4. Chapter 5.4. Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation of commodities
 - 5.5. Chapter 5.5. Measures and procedures applicable to the transit of commodities
 - 5.6. Chapter 5.6. Measures and procedures applicable to the importation of commodities
 - 5.7. Chapter 5.7. Border inspection posts and quarantine centres
 - 5.8. Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter
 - 5.9. Chapter 8.X. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
 - 5.10. Chapter 10.X. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens)
 - 5.11. Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus
 - 5.12. Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus

6. Texts circulated for comments

6.1. Glossary

6.2. Chapter 1.6. Procedures for official recognition of animal health status, endorsement of an official control programme, and publication of a self-declaration of animal health status, by WOAH

6.3. Chapter 3.X. Emergency management

6.4. Chapter 8.10. Japanese encephalitis

6.5. Chapter 8.20. Tularemia

6.6. Chapter 11.9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus

6.7. Chapter 12.11. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis

6.8. Chapter 14.7. Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus

6.9. Chapter 14.9. Sheep pox and goat pox

7. Updates on WOAH initiatives relevant to the Code Commission

7.1. WOAH Animal Welfare forum

7.2. WOAH Zoning forum

7.3. Transparency of the WOAH process for the elaboration of Standards

7.4. WOAH Observatory

7.5. Work on the Governance Review Committee

8. Updates on other standard-setting bodies and international organisations

8.1. Updates on WVA Council (definition of 'animal sentience')

9. Meeting review

10. Date of next meeting

Annex 2. List of Participants

MEETING OF THE WOAHP TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

Paris, 3 to 13 February 2026

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Dr Etienne Bonbon
(President)
Seconded National Expert
European Commission
Brussels
BELGIUM

Dr Gaston Maria Funes
(Vice-President)
Counsellor for Agricultural
Affairs,
Embassy of Argentina to the
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Dr Kiyokazu Murai
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Ministry of Agriculture,
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Dr Salah Hammami
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Epidemiologist and virologist,
Full professor
National School of Veterinary
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Sidi Thabet
TUNISIA

Dr John Stratton
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Director,
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AUSTRALIA

WOAH HEADQUARTERS

Dr Charmaine Chng
Deputy Head
Standards Department

Dr Joyce Bowling-Heyward
Chargée de Mission
Standards Department

Dr Akinobu Kawamura
Scientific Officer
Standards Department

Dr Donghwa Park
Scientific Officer
Standards Department

Dr Leopoldo Stuardo
Scientific Coordinator
Standards Department

Dr Laura Davis
Scientific Officer
Standards Department