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Terrestrial Animal Health standards Commission

OIE standards, how to use them in  
practice, to define sanitary  
measures for international trade.

Regional Webinar - Europe

OIE Standards - Facilitating Safe International Trade

25-26 November 2021

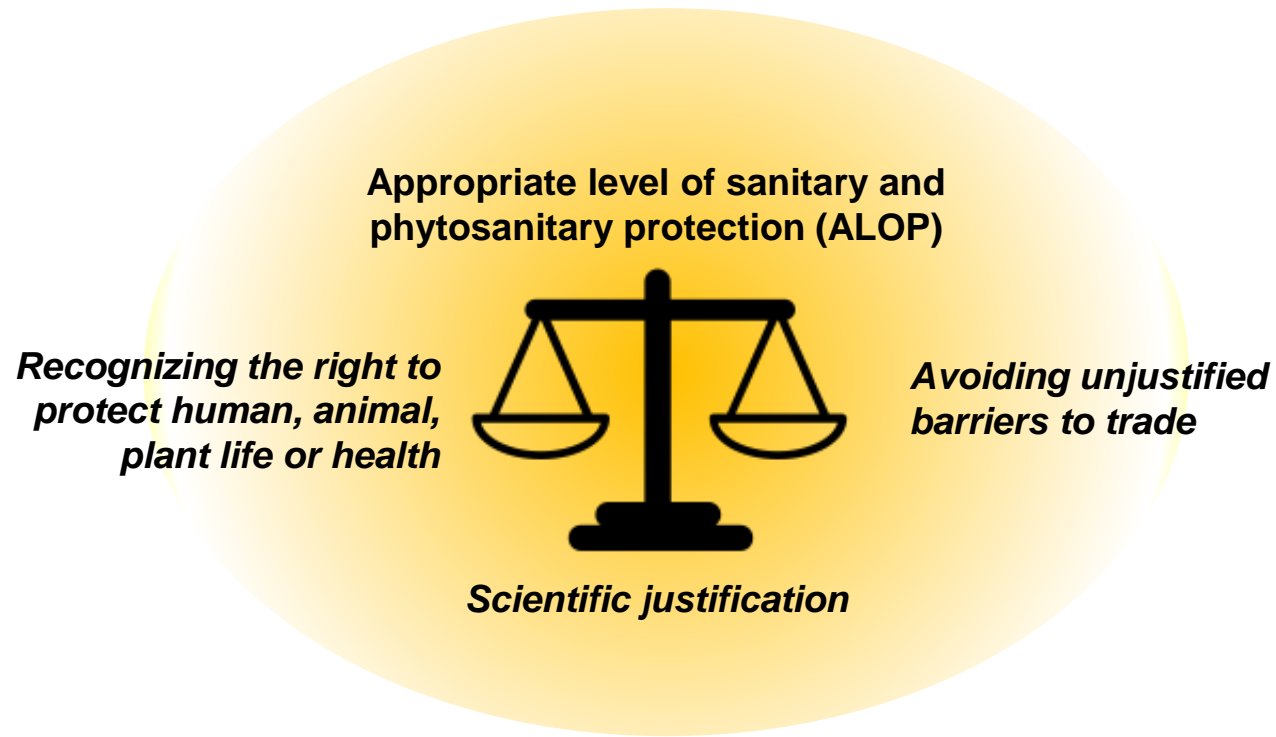


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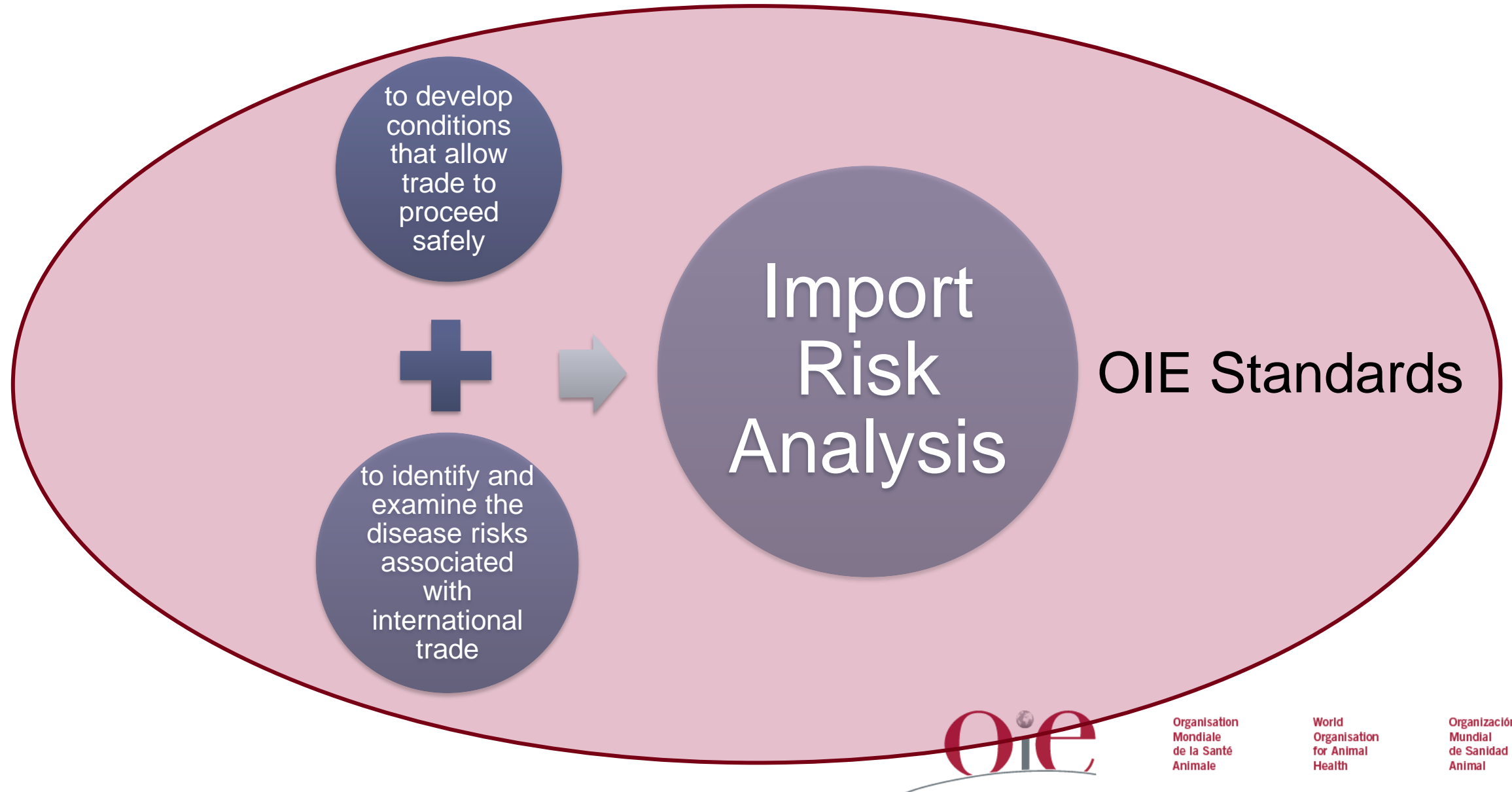
# Principles of the WTO SPS Agreement



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

The **WTO SPS Agreement** recognizes the **OIE** as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.

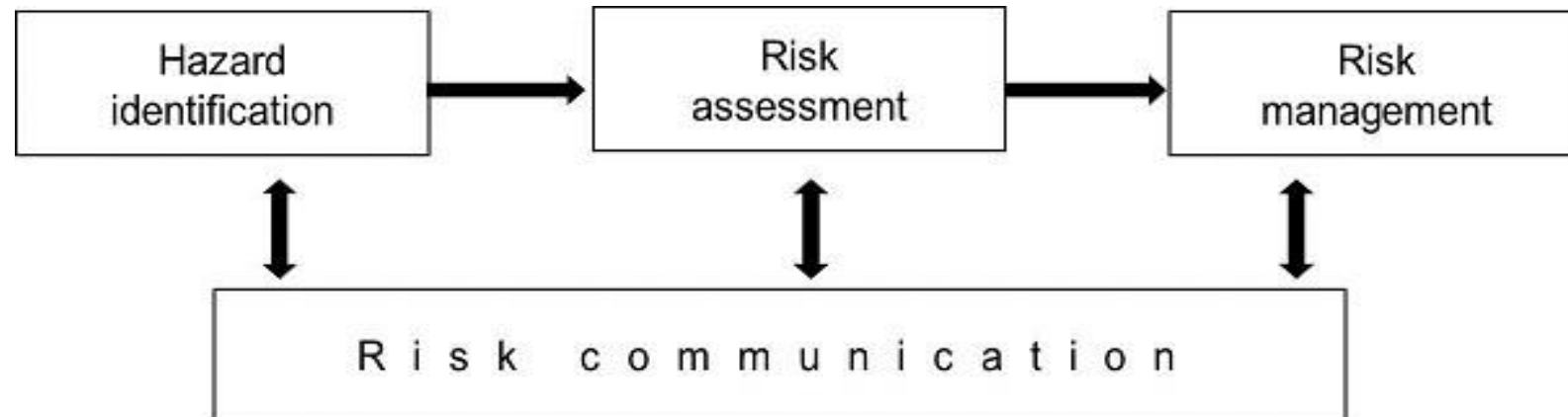
# The OIE import risk analysis framework



# Import Risk Analysis and OIE Standards

## Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Aquatic Animal Health Code

### CHAPTER 2.1. IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS



**OIE Standards do not only provide a specific standard on IRA, but a structured approach to enable scientifically valid and transparent risk analysis and risk management decision making.**

# Hazard identification

The FIRST step in an import risk analysis

- **Define the commodity to be traded** (animals, products, by-products)
- **Identify the pathogenic agents:**
  - that could produce significantly adverse consequences associated with the importation of the commodity and
  - therefore are concerned by control measures in the importing country

In practice....

# Hazard identification

- Which pathogenic agent?

... **if yes, then**

- Is it **in any way** considered in a prevention or control programme?

... **if yes, then**

- Consider the possible absence of the pathogenic agent in the commodity, due to
  - its absence in the tissues from which the commodity is derived, or*
  - its inactivation by the general processing or treatment it undergoes.*

... **if not the case, then**

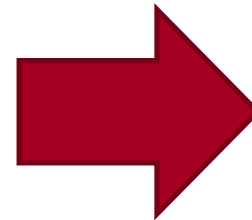
... **the [pathogenic agent ; commodity] can be considered as a hazard**



OIE List  
(listed diseases / susceptible species)



Country animal health strategy



List of “safe commodities” per disease specific chapter

## Standards

Ch 1.2, 1.3

Ch 1.6

Disease chapters

Ch 2.2

Disease chapters  
(Sections 8 and flw)

# Risk assessment

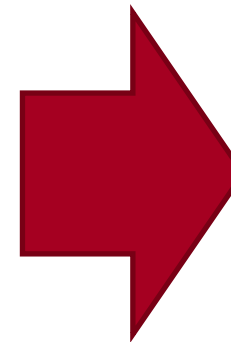
*The risk assessment is the component of the analysis which estimates the risks associated with a hazard.*

Only for **identified hazards** consider whether:

- the pathogenic agent is likely to be **present** in the **exporting country, zone or compartment**

**AND**

- the **commodity** is likely to be **infected or contaminated** with the pathogenic agent



If not, then **no measure should be applied**

If yes, then...

Disease situation

Animal Health status

Regionalisation

Official control programmes

Identification & traceability

Disinfection and disinfection

Veterinary public health

Quality of VS

## Standards

**Ch 1.1 (WAHIS),  
Ch 1.4, 1.5**

**Ch 1.6**

**Disease chapters**

**Section 4**

**Section 6**

**Section 3**



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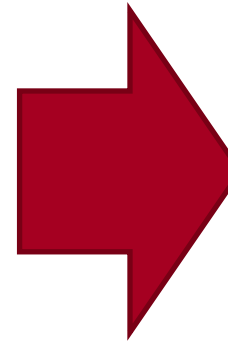
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# Risk assessment

*If the entry assessment demonstrates no significant risk, the risk assessment does not need to continue.*

Only if **there is an entry risk**, consider the **potential spread and consequences**, e.g.:

- the pathogenic agent **is exotic**, or there are **free zones or compartments to protect**
- there is an ongoing **control or eradication programme**
- the pathogenic agent is a **zoonotic priority**
- the species at risk are **strategic resources**
- etc.



Country animal health strategy

## Standards

Ch 1.1,  
Ch 1.4, 1.5

Ch 1.6

## Disease chapters

Section 3

Section 4

Section 6

**Then and only then...**



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# Risk Management

*If the risk assessment demonstrates no significant risk, the risk assessment does not need to continue.*

If significant risk exist, then:

- identify, select and implement sanitary measures to effectively mitigate the risks posed by the hazard(s) associated with the commodity under consideration
- technically, operationally and economically feasible
- implemented to the extent that is reasonably necessary to protect human or animal health
- applied consistently across a range of commodities likely to contain the same or similar hazards to avoid situations where different levels of protection arise

**ALL this is in the OIE Codes and Manuals...**



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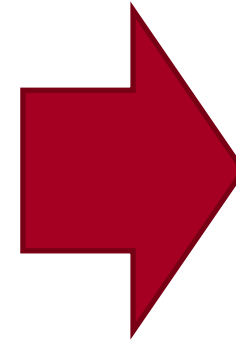
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# OIE Standard Risk management measures

The OIE Terrestrial Code and Manuals provide

- Sanitary measures to be applied for the safe trade of certain commodities
- Different equivalent alternatives
- According to animal health status at origin (country, zone, herds,...)
- Inactivation measures
- Discussed and adopted by ALL OIE Members



**Standards**

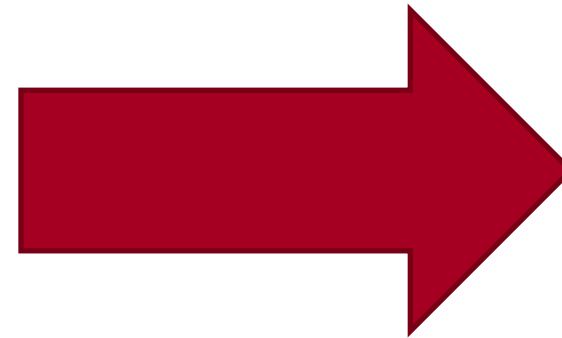
**TAHSC - Volume II  
Disease chapters**

**+**

**Terrestrial Manual  
prescribed tests**

## The OIE Codes Section 5

- Certification
- Application of SPS Agreement, equivalence and regionalisation
- Procedures at borders, before and after
- Draft an international veterinary certificate



### Standards

TC:

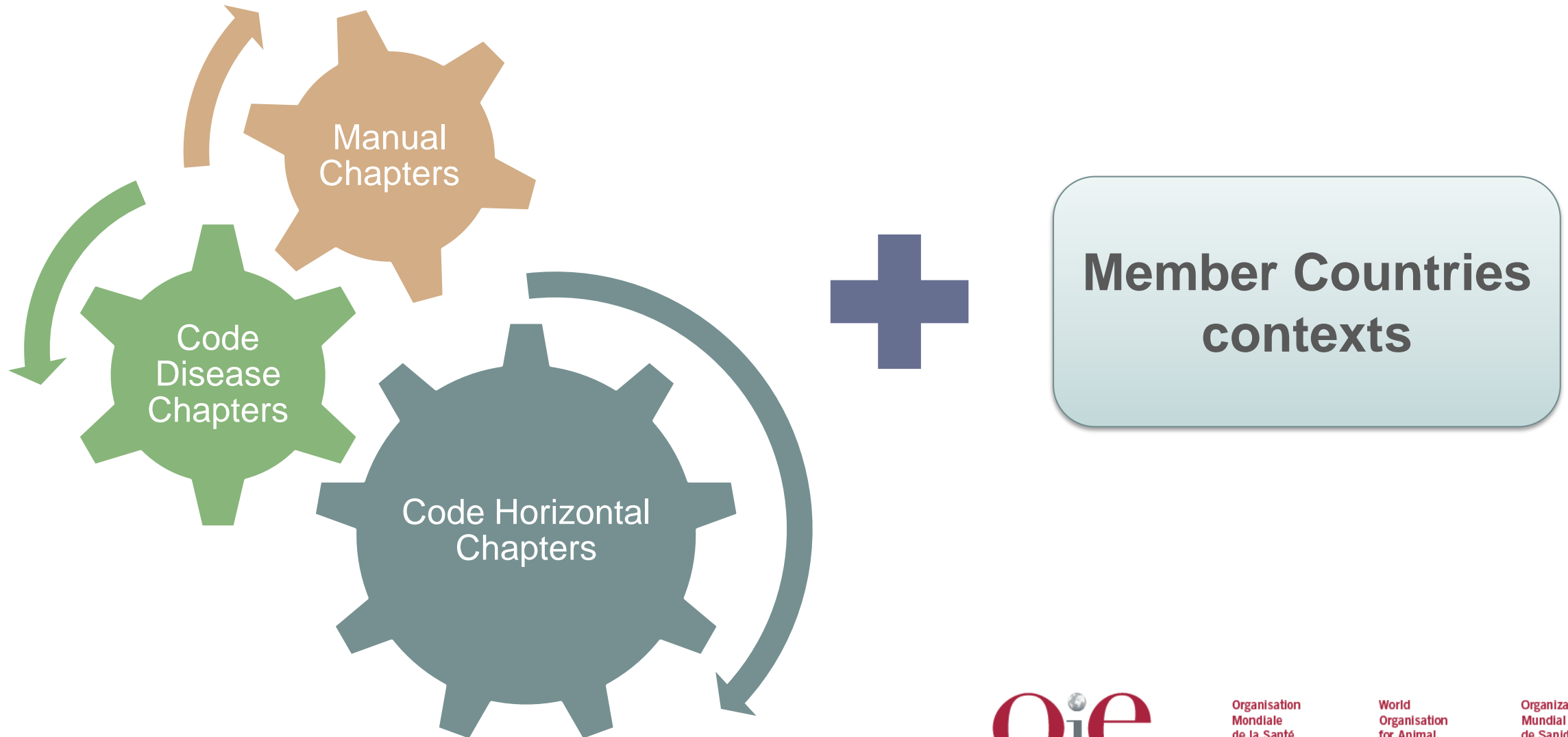
Chapters 5.1.  
& 5.2.

Chapter 5.3.

Chapters 5.4.  
to 5.9.

Chapters 5.10.  
to 5.13.

# Using the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the *Terrestrial Code*)



- There might be as many ways to organise the process of defining the conditions for trade between countries as there are country-country interactions.
- Regardless of the differences, these processes should respect the principles in the WTO SPS Agreement and be based on the OIE international standards.
- The OIE Codes and Manuals provide for sound science-based risk management measures allowing safe trade.

## In summary

### Import requirements:

- should be restricted to those necessary to achieve the national appropriate level of protection; if these are stricter than the OIE standards, they should be justified by an import risk analysis;
- should not include measures against pathogenic agents or diseases which are not OIE listed, unless justified by an import risk analysis;
- should not be imposed for the exclusion of pathogenic agents or animal diseases that occur in the importing country and are not the subject of an official control programme;
- if imposed to manage risks posed by a specific pathogenic agent or disease, should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by official measures applied in a domestic control programme.



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