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# OIE standard evolution - Avian influenza

**Regional Webinar for Europe: OIE standards  
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# Agenda

As a real example of how the process work in practice:

- Overview of recent revision of Chapter 10.4.
- What were the main drivers of the revision?
- How did the draft chapter evolve during the comment and review cycle?
  - example of provisions on definition of avian influenza and notification obligation

## Overview of recent revision of Chapter 10.4.

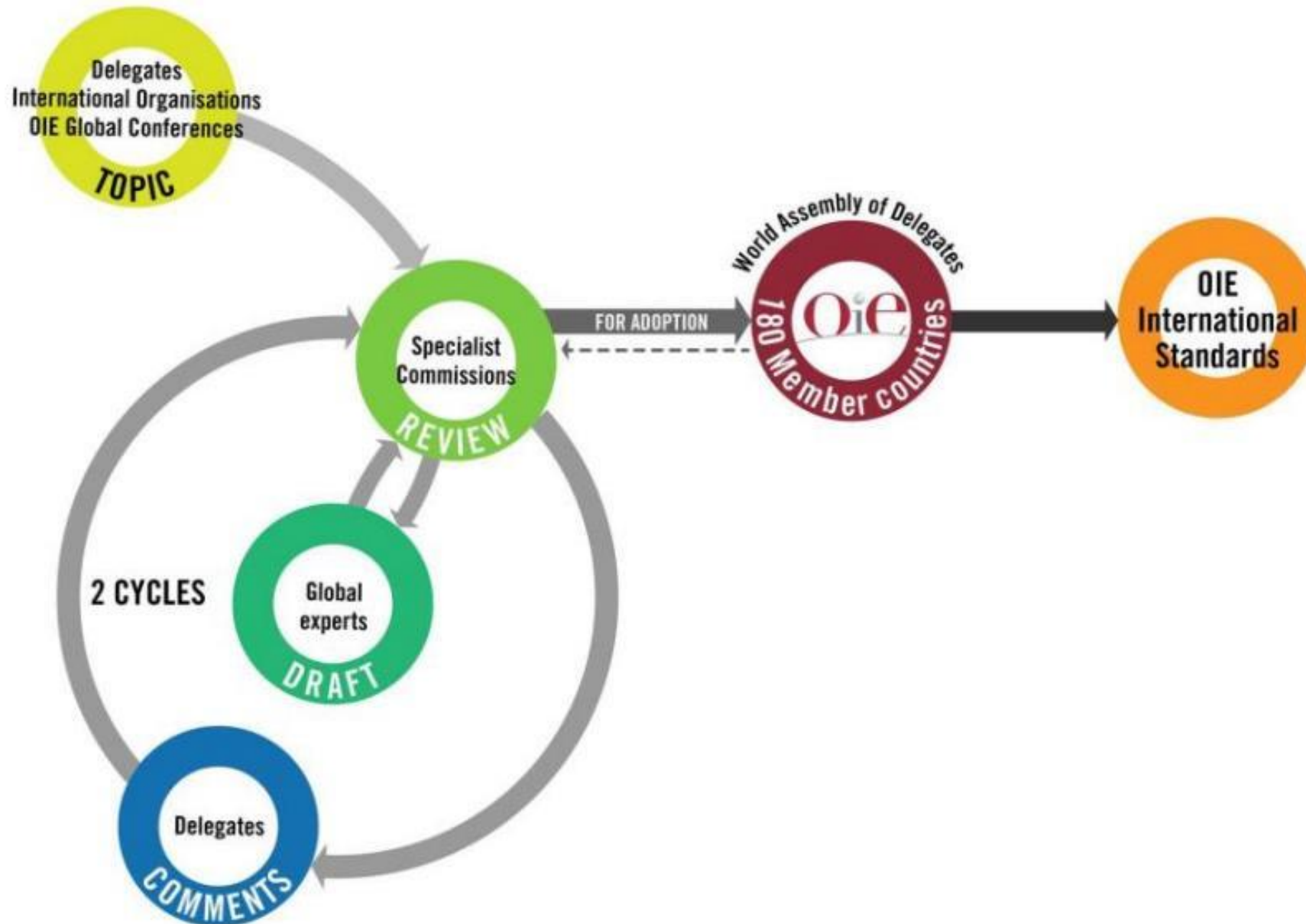


This is to present just an example of how the standards setting process evolved, we don't expect to revisit all technical content or to re-open the specific discussion

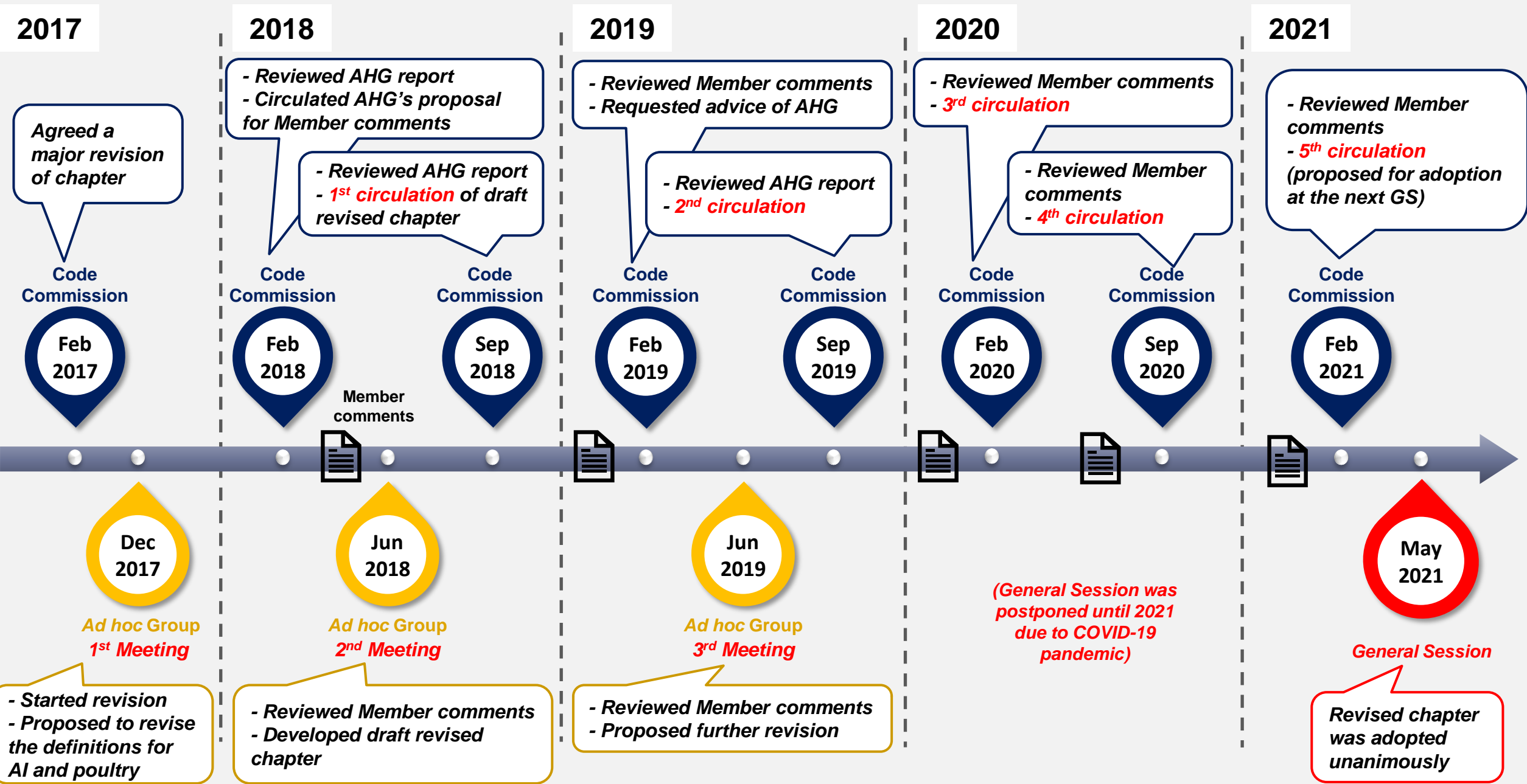
# Overview of recent revision of Chapter 10.4.

- February 2017: Code Commission agreed a major revision of Chapter 10.4
- 2017 – 2019: OIE *ad hoc* Group on Avian influenza met three times to undertake a comprehensive review of this chapter and to consider comments received from Members.
- 2019: OIE *ad hoc* Group assessed low pathogenicity avian influenza against the Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list (Chapter 1.2.)
- Code Commission consulted the Scientific Commission and the Biological Standards Commission to address specific issues.
- The revised chapter was circulated **five times** for comments.
- Discussed and adopted in May 2021 at the 88th OIE General Session

# OIE standard setting process



# History - revision of Chapter 10.4. Infection with avian influenza viruses



# What were the main drivers of the revision?

The last comprehensive revision had been adopted in 2005.

The Code Commission had received several requests from Members to address:

- ✓ Differences among Member Countries in terms of notification to the OIE
- ✓ Differing needs when responding to either low pathogenic AI (LPAI) or high pathogenic AI (HPAI) outbreaks and when recovering free status
- ✓ Impacts of unjustified barriers to trade being implemented by some Member Countries
- ✓ Lack of details to Members in the implementation of zoning and compartmentalisation
- ✓ Need to include articles on safe commodities and to expand those on surveillance

# History – provisions on definition of AI and notification obligation

2018

- Circulated Dec 2017 AHG's proposal to revise the definition of AI:

- ✓ Defining AI as HPAI for immediate notification
- ✓ Six-monthly reports of H5 & H7 LPAI is required

- Requested to assess H5 & H7 LPAI against listing criteria

- **First circulation**
- ✓ Six-monthly reports on the presence of AIV should include H5 & H7 LPAI

Code Commission

Feb 2018

Member comments



- Lots of supportive comments
- Comments to raise concerns regarding a provision for mandatory six-monthly reports of H5 & H7 LPAI

Jun 2018

Ad hoc Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

Code Commission

Sep 2018

- Comments to revise the relevant listed diseases in Chapter 1.3

2019

- **Second circulation**

- ✓ H5 & H7 LPAI should be delisted (→ the provision on the six-monthly report was deleted)
  - ✓ Sudden and unexpected increase in virulence of LPAIV in poultry is notifiable as an emerging disease
  - ✓ Infection with LPAIVs having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences is notifiable as an emerging disease
- Revised Chapter 1.3 was circulated

Code Commission

Feb 2019

Jun 2019

Ad hoc Group  
3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

- Considered that H5 & H7 LPAI does not meet the criteria
- Notification of events involving the LPAIVs with specific characteristics indicating a significant risk to animal or public health should continue to be encouraged

Code Commission

Sep 2019

2020

- **Third circulation**

- ✓ H5 & H7 LPAI should be delisted **but** infection with LPAIVs having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences should be listed
- Revised Chapter 1.3 was circulated

Code Commission

Feb 2020

- Comment that pointed out that it seems at least one specific LPAI virus lineage (the H7N9 Chinese lineage LPAI) meets the criteria for listing.



# Article 1.3.6. avian diseases and infections of Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE

## Before revision

- Infection with avian influenza viruses
- Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds other than *poultry* including wild birds



## Circulation in September 2019

- Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses
- Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds other than *poultry* including wild birds



## Circulation in February 2020

- Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses
- Infection of birds other than *poultry*, including *wild* birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity ~~in birds other than *poultry* including wild birds~~
- Infection of domestic and *captive wild* birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences

## In parallel, coordinated revision of the Terrestrial Manual

- In view of the progressing discussions related to the Code chapter, the BSC prioritized the revision of Chapter 3.3.4.,
- Once a mature approach was developed, Disease experts reviewed the Manual chapter in line with it,
- Draft Manual chapter was circulated for Member comments simultaneously,
- Revised Manual chapter was adopted in May 2021

# In conclusion

- OIE Standards need to be based on the latest science;
- OIE Standards need to adapt to a different epidemiological situation;
- OIE Standards need to adapt to the practical challenges faced by Members and the experiences gathered;
- Necessary coordination of Code and Manual texts' update
- Member's involvement was crucial to
  - Identify the need to revise an existing Standard and prioritize the work,
  - Highlight the different challenges faced with implementation (e.g. trade, surveillance, notification, diagnosis).
  - Find agreed regulatory solutions to different perspectives on complex technical issue.



THANK YOU



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