

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Regional information webinar

September 2023 Report

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Health Standards Commission

Regional information webinar on texts circulated for
comments in TAHSC September 2023 report, for
regions of Europe, Africa, and Middle East



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



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 - Transparency of the WOH process for the elaboration of Standards
 - WOH Standards online navigation tool



1. Objective

- To increase Member's engagement in WOAHA standards setting process
- To inform WOAHA Members on texts circulated for comment, their background and rationale
- To improve exchanges between the Specialist Commissions and WOAHA Members



Term: 2021 - 2024

Members of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission)



President
Dr Etienne Bonbon
(France)



Vice-President
Dr Gaston Maria Funes
(Argentina)



Vice-President
Pr Salah Hammami
(Tunisia)



Member
Dr Lucio Ignacio Carbajo Goñi
(Spain)



Member
Dr Kiyokazu Murai
(Japan)



Member
Dr Bernardo Todeschini
(Brazil)

Where can I find the information on the work of the Code Commission?

Only for WOAAH Delegates: WOAAH Delegates Website

- Report and annexes in **MS Word Format**
- Use this format to comment

Publicly available

- Report and annexes in **PDF Format**
- Format easier to share

WHAT WE DO

→ Standards

→ Standard-Setting Process

The screenshot shows the WOAH website header with navigation links: Codes and Manuals, Publications, Documentary Portal, Training Platform, Bookshop, EN, FR, ES. Below the header, the 'WHAT WE DO' dropdown menu is open, showing 'Standards' and 'Standard-Setting Process' circled in orange. The main content area features the heading 'What we do' and a paragraph: 'We work to improve animal health and welfare across the globe. By collecting, analysing and disseminating veterinary scientific information, we encourage international solidarity in the control of animal health risks. Furthermore, we work across borders to foster a One Health approach, recognising that the health of animals, humans and the environment are interdependent.' Below this, there are sections for 'Animal Health and Welfare', 'Global Initiatives', and 'Publications'. On the right side, there are links for 'Codes and Manuals', 'Standard-Setting Process', and 'Observatory'. The bottom of the page shows a blurred image of people in a meeting.



Where can I find complementary information on the topics discussed by the Code Commission?

The Code Commission refers in many instances to topics discussed by the SCAD, BSC, WGs or AHGs.

In such cases, the full rationale is described in the relevant report. **Members should read the report of the Code Commission in conjunction with these reports.**

All reports are available **on the WOAHA Website**

Specialists Commissions

The relevant [Specialist Commission](#) consider requests to develop new standards or review existing standards received from a range of stakeholders including from Members, partner international organisations, and its scientific network. These requests are reviewed, prioritized and included on its respective work plans.

Calendar of the upcoming Specialist Commission meetings

Commissions*	September 2022	February 2023
Terrestrial Code Commission	13-22	7-16
Biological Standards Commission	5-9	6-10
Scientific Commission	19-25	13-17
Aquatic Animals Commission	14-21	15-22

*Projected dates of the next meetings of the four Specialist Commissions

BSC

SCAD

TAHSC

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

[Discover →](#)

Biological Standards Commission

[Discover →](#)

Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

[Discover →](#)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

[Discover →](#)

Ad hoc Groups and Working Groups

The *ad hoc* Groups and Working Groups may be requested to address specific topics to ensure that new or revised standards are based on the latest scientific evidence and knowledge. The views of the Members and partner international organisations are routinely sought through the circulation of draft and revised texts in the relevant Specialist Commission report.

AHG

Ad hoc Groups

[Discover →](#)

Working Groups

[Discover →](#)

WG



2. Code Commission's work programme - State of play (September 2023)

State of play

- Work programme currently includes **74** work items
 - **48** items are active (i.e., prioritisation order 1 or 2)
 - Many items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions, mainly SCAD and BSC

At September 2023 meeting

- **20** texts circulated for comments and adoption in 2024
- **8** texts circulated for comments
- **4** new proposals/requests considered
- **14** new work items added
- **21** work items closed (most of which are items on texts adopted at the 90th GS)



3. Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024



Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024

- 20 annexes
1. Glossary definition for ‘animal products’, ‘artificial insemination centre’, ‘biological products’, ‘commodity’, ‘death’, ‘euthanasia’, ‘germinal products’, ‘greaves’, ‘slaughter’ and ‘stunning’ (**Annex 4**)
 2. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA (Chapter 1.3.) (**Annex 5, 6**)
 3. General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres (Chapter 4.6.) (**Annex 7**)
 4. Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen (Chapter 4.7.) (**Annex 8**)
 5. Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine (Chapter 6.10.) (**Annex 9**)
 6. Animal welfare during slaughter (Chapter 7.5.) (**Annex 10**)
 7. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8.) (**Annex 11**)
 8. Application for official recognition by WOAHA of free status for foot and mouth disease (Chapter 1.11.) (**Annex 12**)
 9. Infection with Rift Valley fever virus (Chapter 8.16.) (**Annex 13**)
 10. Infection with *Trichinella* spp. (Chapter 8.18.) (**Annex 14**)



Texts for comment and proposed for adoption in May 2024

20 annexes

11. Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever) (Chapter 8.X.) **(Annex 15)**
12. Infection with *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra) (Chapter 8.Z.) **(Annex 16)**
13. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* SC (contagious bovine pleuropneumonia) (Chapter 11.5.) **(Annex 17)**
14. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea) (Chapter 11.X.) **(Annex 18)**
15. Infection with African horse sickness virus (Chapter 12.1.) **(Annex 19)**
16. Infection with pathogenic Rabbit lagoviruses (rabbit haemorrhagic disease) (Chapter 13.2.) **(Annex 20)**
17. Infection with African swine fever virus (Chapter 15.1) **(Annex 21)**
18. Infection with Camelpox virus (Chapter 16.Z.) **(Annex 22)**
19. Terminology: Use of the terms 'Competent Authority', 'Veterinary Authority', and 'Veterinary Services' **(Annex 23)**



Glossary definition for 'animal products', 'artificial insemination centre', 'biological products', 'commodity', 'death', 'euthanasia', 'germinal products', 'greaves', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'

(Annex 4)

- **Partial revision** for 'commodity' to clarify and ensure consistent use of the term
- **Development of new definitions** for 'animal products' and 'germinal products' to ensure consistent use of the terms
- **Development of a new definition** for 'biological products' to ensure consistent use of the term
- **Replacement** of 'artificial insemination centre' with 'semen collection centre', as part of the revision of Chapter 4.6
- **Deletion** of definition for 'greaves'
- In-depth revision in relation to work on Chapter 7.5. and 7.6.
 - **Deletion** of definition for 'death'
 - **Comprehensive revision** for 'euthanasia', 'slaughter' and 'stunning'

For 'animal products', 'germinal products' and 'commodity'

- First circulation in February 2023
- Circulated 2 times

For 'biological products'

- First circulation in September 2023

For 'artificial insemination centre'

- First circulation in September 2023

For 'greaves'

- First circulation in September 2023

For 'death', 'euthanasia', 'slaughter', and 'stunning'

- First circulation in September 2019
- Circulated 4 times



Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAH

(Chapter 1.3.)

(Annex 5, 6)

Partial revision to:

- reorder the articles and the diseases in each article
- align the animal categories and disease names with the titles and order of the corresponding chapters

- First circulation in September 2023
- Editorial changes to align with the corresponding chapters

General hygiene in semen collection and processing centres

(Chapter 4.6.)

(Annex 7)

Comprehensive revision to:

- resolve inconsistencies among the Chapters 4.6. and 4.7. and relevant disease-specific chapters
- ensure that the texts reflected the latest scientific evidence and best practices regarding risk mitigation measures in the collection and processing of semen of animals
- replace the term ‘artificial insemination centre’ in the proposed Glossary with ‘semen collection centre’

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times
- Drafted by AHG on the revision of *Terrestrial Code* chapters regarding the collection and processing of semen of animals and an expert
- Next: to be complemented with revision of Chapter 4.7



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

(Annex 8)

Partial revision to avoid inconsistency with proposed Chapter 4.6:

- replace the term 'artificial insemination centre' with 'semen collection centre'
- delete the current Articles 4.7.5., 4.7.6. and 4.7.7.

- First circulation in September 2023
- Comprehensive revision will be discussed by AHG
- Next: comprehensive revision underway to complement new Chapter 4.6

Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine
(Chapter 6.10.)

(Annex 9)

Comprehensive revision following:

- revision adopted in 2018 of some definitions in Chapter 6.9. Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals
- adoption of revised Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (adopted at the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 2021)
- Clarity the content and scope of National Action Plan

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 2 times
- Drafted by AMRWG (August 2022)
- Comments reviewed with AMRWG input



Animal welfare during slaughter
(Chapter 7.5.)

(Annex 10)

Comprehensive revision to:

- resolve inconsistencies in the methods used in the slaughter of animals and the killing of animals for disease control purposes
 - Update content to ensure that the text reflects current scientific knowledge
 - review the structure of Chapter
- First circulation in February 2021
 - Circulated 4 times
 - Drafted by AHG
 - Comments reviewed with AHG input

Glossary

- In-depth revision in relation to this work (and Chapter 7.6.)
 - **Deletion** of definition for ‘death’
 - **Comprehensive revision** for ‘euthanasia’, ‘slaughter’ and ‘stunning’



Infection with foot and mouth disease virus
(Chapter 8.8.)

(Annex 11)

Comprehensive revision presented at the last GS 2023

In September 2023:

- Response to points raised at and after the GS
- Additional modifications to address pending issues

- First circulation in September 2015
- Circulated 6 times
- Circulated Annex is the revised chapter using the version proposed for adoption at the 90th GS, highlighting only the amendments introduced in September 2023 TAHSC meeting.
- Inputs from AHG on foot and mouth disease (June 2016, June 2020)
- Collaboration with
 - SCAD
 - BSC

Application for official recognition by WOAHP of free status for foot and mouth disease
(Chapter 1.11.)

(Annex 12)

Partial revision to align with the revision of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

- First circulation in September 2023
- Collaboration with SCAD



Infection with Rift Valley fever virus
(Chapter 8.16.)

(Annex 13)

Partial revision of articles on recommendations for importation of semen and embryos to align with the update of Chapter 3.1.19. Rift Valley fever (Infection with Rift Valley fever virus) of the *Terrestrial Manual*

- First circulation in September 2023

Infection with *Trichinella* spp.
(Chapter 8.18.)

(Annex 14)

Partial revision to align the number of taxon of the pathogenic agent with the update of the Chapter 3.1.22. Trichinellosis (infection with *Trichinella* spp.) of the *Terrestrial Manual*

- First circulation in September 2023

Infection with *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)
(Chapter 8.X.)

(Annex 15)

New chapter with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, to ensure Members have the adequate Standards to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times
- Collaboration with SCAD, developed by disease experts



Infection with
Trypanosoma evansi
(surra)
(Chapter 8.Z.)
(Annex 16)

New chapter with articles for the general provisions, safe commodities, provisions for animal health status, recommendations for importation and surveillance

- First circulation in February 2023
- Circulated 2 times
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG

Infection with
Mycoplasma mycoides
subsp. *mycoides* SC
(Contagious bovine
pleuropneumonia)
(Chapter 11.5.)
(Annex 17)

Comprehensive revision to

- harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status with other disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status
- Include provisions for the endorsement of official control programmes

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times



Infection with bovine pestiviruses (bovine viral diarrhoea)
(Chapter 11.X.)
(Annex 18)

New chapter with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, to ensure Members have the adequate Standards to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times
- Collaboration with SCAD

Infection with African horse sickness virus
(Chapter 12.1.)
(Annex 19)

Comprehensive revision to

- harmonise the chapter with other chapters with official status recognition
- address amendments proposed from an *ad hoc* Group on AHS and from the SCAD
- development of article on safe commodities

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times
- Some amendments were proposed by an AHG on AHS
- Collaboration with SCAD



Infection with pathogenic Rabbit lagoviruses (rabbit haemorrhagic disease) (**Chapter 13.2.**)

(Annex 20)

Partial revision to

- add a definition of the disease occurrence
- reflect the expanded host range in provisions for animal health status

- First circulation in February 2023
- Circulated 2 times
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by export group

Infection with African swine fever virus (**Chapter 15.1.**)

(Annex 21)

Partial revision to include 'extruded dry pet food' in the list of safe commodities (Article 15.1.2.)

- First circulation in September 2023



Infection with
Camelpox virus
(Chapter 16.Z.)

(Annex 22)

New chapter with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, to ensure Members have the adequate Standards to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in September 2022
- Circulated 3 times
- Collaboration with SCAD, developed by disease experts

Terminology: Use of the terms ‘Competent Authority’, ‘Veterinary Authority’, and ‘Veterinary Services’

(Annex 23)

To review use of ‘Competent Authority’, ‘Veterinary Authority’, and ‘Veterinary Services’ across the *Terrestrial Code* for consistency (after adoption of revised Glossary definitions)

- First circulation in February 2023
- Circulated 2 times



4. Texts for comment



Texts for comment

8 annexes

1. User's Guide (**Annex 24**)
2. Glossary definition for 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'border post', 'container', 'point of exit', 'quarantine station', 'swill' and 'vehicle/vessel' (**Annex 25**)
3. Biosecurity (Chapter 4.X.) (**Annex 26**)
4. Measures and procedures applicable in the exportation of commodities (Chapter 5.4.) (**Annex 27**)
5. Measures and procedures applicable in the importation of commodities (Chapter 5.6.) (**Annex 28**)
6. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (Chapter 7.1.) (**Annex 29**)
7. Infection with Nipah virus (Chapter 8.Y.) (**Annex 30**)
8. Scrapie (Chapter 14.8.) (**Annex 31**)



User's Guide

(Annex 24)

Partial revision to:

- provide more detailed explanation on disease-specific chapters
- develop a new point to explain the use of terms referring to animals (hosts) used in the *Terrestrial Code*

- First circulation in September 2023

Glossary definition for 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan', 'border post', 'container', 'point of exit', 'quarantine station', 'swill' and 'vehicle/vessel'

(Annex 25)

- **Comprehensive revision** for 'biosecurity' and 'biosecurity plan' as a part of the work on new Chapter on Biosecurity
- **Development of a new definition** for 'swill' to align with the proposed new Glossary definition for 'animal products'
- **Comprehensive revision** for 'border post', 'container', 'quarantine station' and 'vehicle/vessels' and **development of new definitions** for 'point of exit' as a part of the work to revise Chapter 5.4. to 5.7.

For 'biosecurity', 'biosecurity plan' and 'swill'

- First circulation in September 2023
- Drafted by AHG (Feb 2023)
- Collaboration with SCAD

For 'border post', 'container', 'point of exit', 'quarantine station' and 'vehicle/vessel'

- First circulation in September 2023
- Drafted by AHG (Sep 2023)



Biosecurity
(Chapter 4.X.)

(Annex 26)

New chapter to clarify the standards on biosecurity with the articles for the objectives, scopes, general principles, roles and responsibilities of each actor etc.

- First circulation in September 2023
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG on Biosecurity

Measures and procedures applicable in the exportation of commodities
(Chapter 5.4.)

(Annex 27)

Comprehensive revision (replacing the current chapters with new chapters) to resolve inconsistencies among chapters and provide clearer recommendations, including:

- General principles for measures and procedures that are applicable when exporting or importing
- Specific recommendations on each commodity (if necessary) (i.e., animals, germinal products, animal products)
- Roles and responsibilities of the relevant authorities and business operators in the exporting/importing country
- Scope that is covering all commodities of the Terrestrial Code
- [for importation] procedures applicable for non-compliant commodities

- First circulation in September 2023
- Drafted by AHG (June 2023)

Measures and procedures applicable in the importation of commodities
(Chapter 5.6.)

(Annex 28)



Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare
(Chapter 7.1.)

(Annex 29)

Partial revision to

- include 'five domains' concept
- clarify the meaning of the terms 'animal-based', 'resource-based' and 'management-based' measures etc.

- First circulation in September 2023
- Circulated X times

Infection with Nipah virus
(Chapter 8.Y.)

(Annex 30)

New chapter with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of its occurrence, to ensure Members have the adequate Standards to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in February 2023
- Circulated 2 times

Scrapie
(Chapter 14.8.)

(Annex 31)

Partial revision to delete 'greaves'

- First circulation in September 2023
- Next: comprehensive revision to be initiated



5. Other key items coming up in the Code Commission's Work Programme



- Standards on emergency management
- Revision of Chapter 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air
- Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes
- Revision of equine encephalitis chapters (JE, EEE, WEE, VEE, WNF)
- Revision of Chapter 14.8 Scrapie

New work agreed. Follow up to the recommendations of WOAHA Global conference (2023)

Undergoing expert consultation. Global revision.

Undergoing expert consultation. Linked with Chapter 7.5. To be circulated soon.

Listing assessments conducted. AHG to be initiated

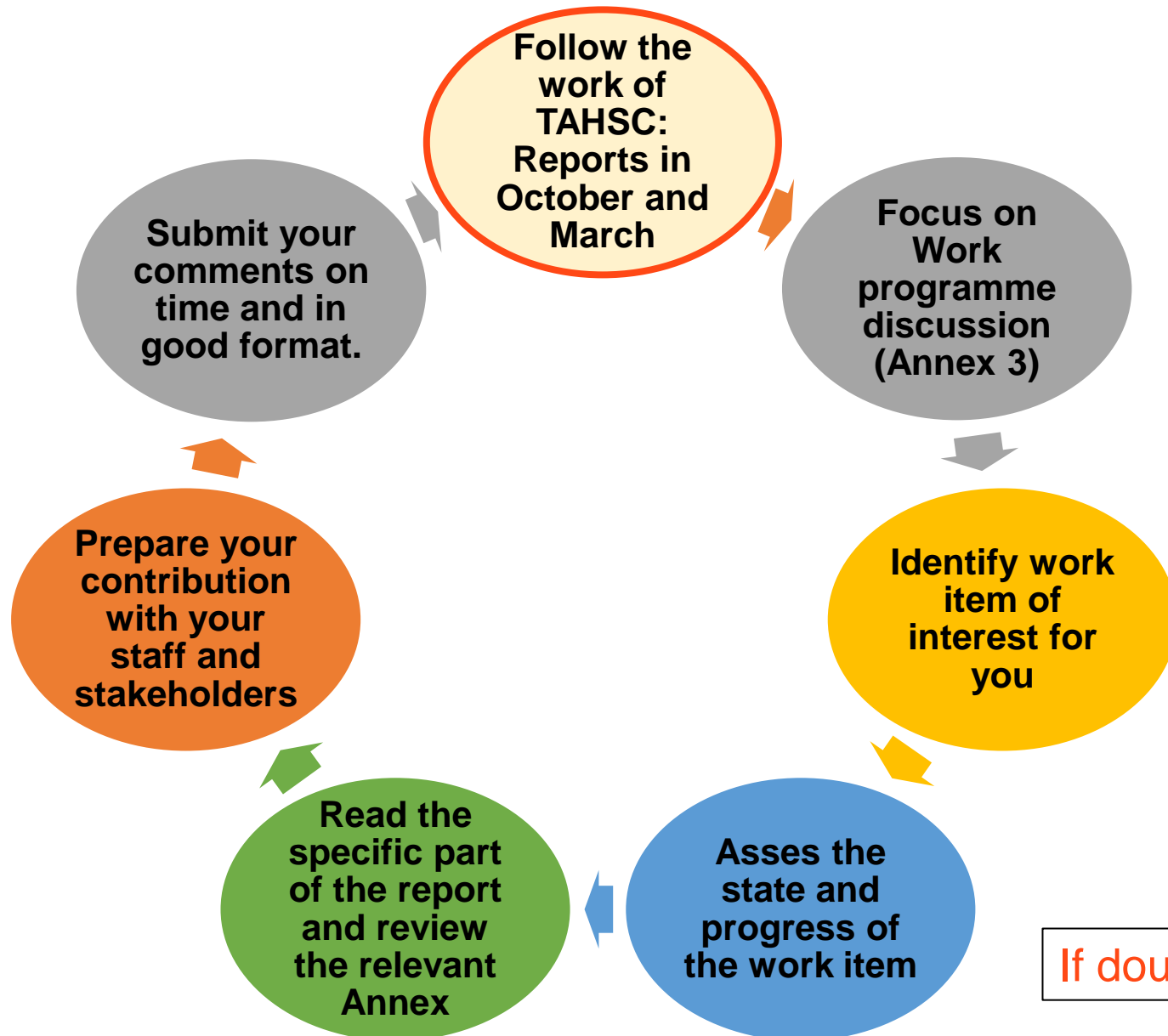
Preparing work for comprehensive revision. AHG to be initiated

Full work programme in Annex 3



6. Taking part in the development and revision of the Terrestrial Code

- Participation Cycle
- How to comment?
- Next steps



Key points:

- Not all topics may be of the same interest
- Topics progress slowly but steadily
- Takes 2 to 4 years to adopt
- Intervene sooner rather than later
- All contributions help
- Do not wait until the General Session !

If doubts, contact WOAHS Standards department



Commenting on TAHSC work

- On the draft texts
1. To propose additional or alternative science-based provisions to enrich or complement the proposed texts;
 2. To express evidence-based concerns on potential challenges for the implementation of the proposed texts under specific conditions or contexts (e.g., Members, regions, species), if possible, providing a proposal for improvement of the text;
 3. To provide new or different evidence that contradicts the proposed texts (which has not been previously addressed by Commissions or experts);
 4. Wording issues which could compromise the understanding or the meaning of the texts (in any of the three languages);
- On the work programme
1. To express needs for new work to be undertaken.
 2. To express needs to prioritise existing work items.
 3. To express points of interests for a specific work of priority order 3 and 4, as well as available information, evidence or expertise that could be taken into consideration for the development of the work.



How to submit comments

1. Through the WOAHA Delegates of Members or Organisations with which WOAHA has a Cooperative Agreement;
2. In **Word format** (not in pdf format), in English, French or Spanish and clearly noting the relevant annex and/or item of the report;
3. Inserted within the annexes or report, under the text commented;
4. Propose specific text changes, supported by a rationale including scientific references, if relevant;
5. Proposed deletions should be shown using 'strikethrough' and additions using 'double underline' (please do not use the automatic 'track-changes' function provided by Word processing software);
6. The TAHSC strongly encourages Members to provide feedback on its work programme, including submitting **justified** proposals!



Next steps

Comment

- Submit comments on the September report and its annexes before **29 December 2023**
- Comments should be sent to WOAHS Standards Department at TCC.Secretariat@woah.org

February

TAHSC meeting

- Date: 6 to 16 February 2024



7. For your information

- Transparency of the WOAH process for the elaboration of Standards
- WOAH Standards online navigation tool



Transparency of the WOAAH process for the elaboration of Standards

Aim to

- Improve the transparency of the WOAAH process
- Ensure Members can gain a better understanding of the complexity and range of options, as well as of Commission decisions

Publication including:

- Comments of Members considered by the Specialist Commissions and their responses
- Evolution of the reports of the Specialist Commissions

Start in March/April 2024

- Public only on the WOAH Delegates website
- Public comments considered on new and revised standards during the February 2024 meetings of the respective Commissions



WOAH Standards Online Navigation Tool

WOAH Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Manuals are no longer available in printed version.

The current display on the WOAH website makes it difficult for the user to find the information they need.

To overcome this obstacle, an IT solution project was launched. This tool consists of:

- an improved user experience with a seamless online navigation and advanced search engines for all four sets of standards (Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes and Manuals).
- a “commodity tool” that will present the trade requirements based on commodities listed in the *Terrestrial Code*.
- the website integration for public access.
- the in-house capacity to publish new editions of these standards, simplifying the existing process.

The project is underway and is planned to be delivered by **July 2024**.



Thank you

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