

# Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Regional Information Webinar September 2025 Meeting Report

[Name of speaker]

[Title of speaker]

[Name of meeting]

[Date of meeting]



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



# Agenda

1. Introduction and Code Basics
2. Code Commission's work programme
3. Texts for comment and to be proposed for adoption in GS
4. Texts for comment
5. Other key items
6. For your information



# 1. Introduction and Code Basics

- a few ‘basics’ – purpose and structure of the Code

**After the Specialist Commissions’ meeting, the Commissions present the outcomes of their meeting:**

- 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

# Some Terrestrial Code 'Basics' (from User's Guide)

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- Purpose – *‘standards for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including through standards for safe international trade’;*
- Structure - *comprises 13 Sections; incl. 7 systems sections;*
  1. *Disease notification/status*
  2. *Import Risk/Trade Policy*
  3. *Veterinary Services*
  4. *Disease Control*
  5. *Trade Measures, incl certification & border operations*
  6. *Veterinary Public Health*
  7. *Animal Welfare*

# Some Terrestrial Code 'Basics' (from User's Guide)

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- **Structure (cont) - 9 disease specific sections by species, each disease chapter has articles based on a set format:**

*Article 1. Case definition (for notification)*

*Article 2. Safe Commodities*

*Article 3,4,5 etc. Country/zone/compartment/herd freedom or infection or recovery*

*Article 6,7,8,9 etc. Recommendations on safe trade of various commodities (live animals, germplasm, meat, dairy, FBS etc.)*

*Article 10,11,12 etc. Surveillance for different purposes*

# Members of TAHSC (2024-2027)



**Dr Etienne Bonbon**  
(France)  
**President**



**Dr Salah Hamami**  
(Tunisia)  
**Member**



**Dr Gaston Funes**  
(Argentina)  
**Vice-President**



**Dr John Stratton**  
(Australia)  
**Member**



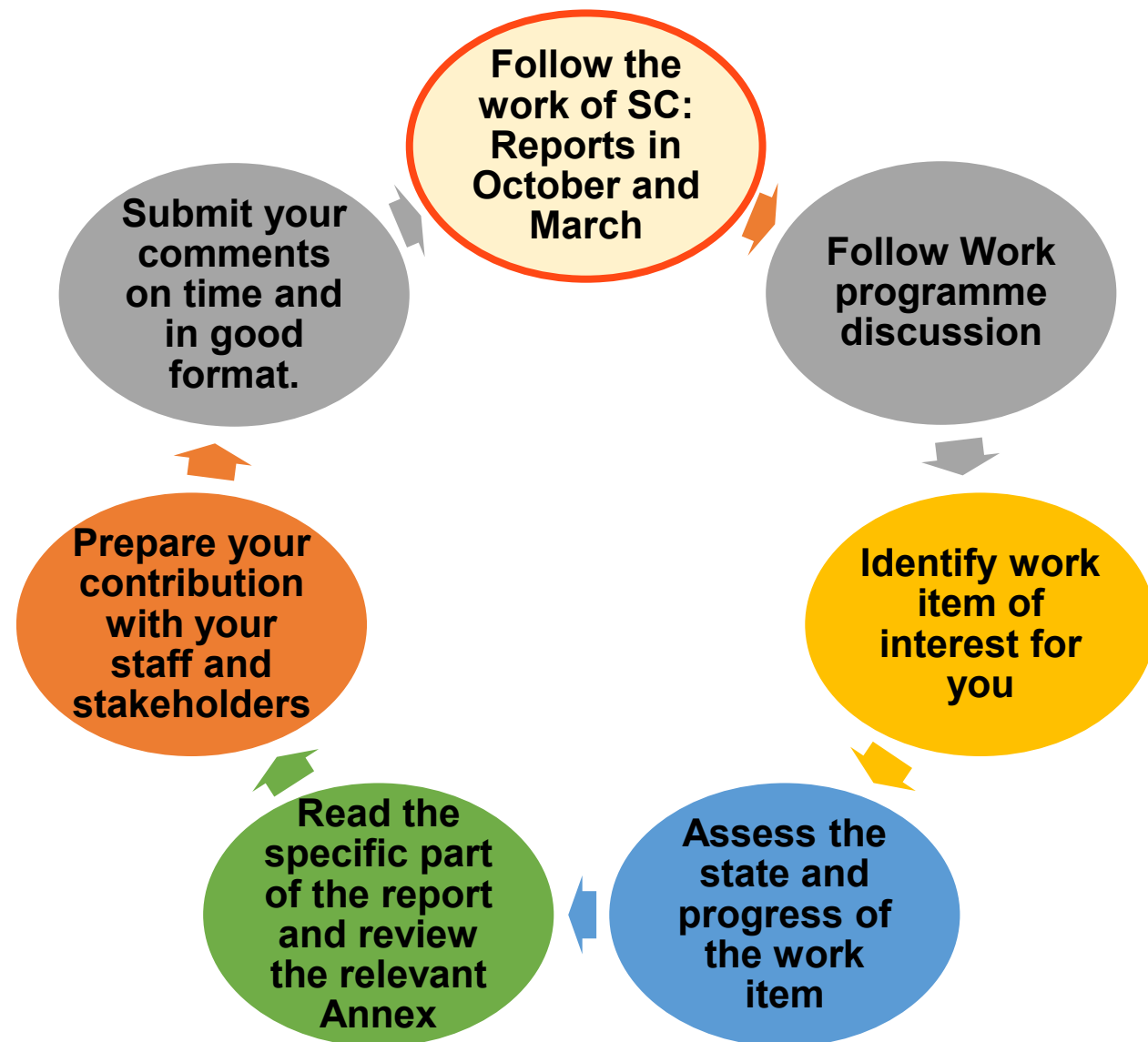
**Dr Kiyokazu Murai**  
(Japan)  
**Vice-President**



**Dr Caroline Dubé**  
(Canada)  
**Member**

# Participation cycle

- Not all topics may be at the same priority level depending on countries
- Topics progress slowly but steadily
- Takes on average 2 to 4 years to adopt
- All contributions help
- Intervene sooner rather than later
- **Do not wait until the GS!**





# Where can I find information on the Standard Setting Process?

## Only for WOAHA Delegates: WOAHA Delegates Website

- Report and annexes in MS Word Format
- Comments considered by Specialist Commissions and their responses (**for information**)

## Publicly available

- Report and annexes in PDF Format
- Comments considered by Specialist Commissions and their responses (**for information**)
  - started from Sep 2024 meeting
- Format easier to share





# Where can I find complementary information?

- The Code Commission refers in many instances to topics discussed by other Specialist Commissions, Working Groups (WG) or *ad hoc* Groups (AHG).
- The full rationales are described in the relevant reports. Members should read the report of the specific Specialist Commission in conjunction with these other reports.
- All reports are available on the WOAH 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, prioritised 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	19-23	13-17
Aquatic Animals Commission	14-21	15-22

Projected dates of the next meetings of the four Specialist Commissions



## 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.





# 2. Code Commission's work programme

# State of play



## At September 2025 meeting

- **22** texts circulated for comments
  - **12** texts will be proposed for adoption in GS, May 2026
- **6** new work items added

## State of play

- Work programme currently includes **62** work items
- **50** items are ongoing (prioritisation order 1 or 2)
- Many items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions

## Report includes:

- Annexes presenting new and revised texts in the *Code* for comments or to be proposed for adoption in the upcoming General Session
- The Commission's rationale for amendments
- The Commission's work programme
- Updates on other related activities
- The comments considered and the Commission's responses
  - All comments and responses of annexes are presented as [Annex 3](#) only for ease of reference
  - Recommend to refer to [Annex 3](#) in conjunction with Code Commission meeting report

- **Members submit comments on Code Commission's report and relevant annexes before 26 December 2025.**
- **Next Meeting of the Code Commission 3-13 February 2026**

**Send comments to WOAHS Standards Department at [TCC.Secretariat@woah.org](mailto:TCC.Secretariat@woah.org)**



# 3. Texts for comment and to be proposed for adoption in GS, May 2026

## 12 annexes

1. Glossary (Annex 5)
2. Diseases, infections and infestations by WOAHP (Chapter 1.3.) (Annex 6)
3. Biosecurity (new Chapter 4.X.) (Annex 7)
4. Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation, transit and importation of commodities (Chapters 5.4. to 5.6.) (Annex 8 to 10)
5. Border inspection posts and quarantine centres (Chapter 5.7.) (Annex 11)
6. Animal welfare during slaughter (Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5.) (Annex 12)
7. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8.) (Annex 13)
8. Infection with classical swine fever virus (Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2.) (Annex 14)
9. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (new Chapter 8.X.) (Annex 15)
10. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens) (new Chapter 10.X.) (Annex 16)



## Glossary definitions

- ‘border inspection post’, ‘container’, ‘isolation’, ‘point of entry’, ‘point of exit’, ‘quarantine centre’, ‘transit country’ and ‘means of transport’
- ‘biosecurity’, ‘biosecurity plan’, ‘disinfection’, ‘disinsection’, ‘pathogenic agent’ and ‘swill’
- ‘seroconversion’

## (Annex 5)

## Comprehensive revision of definitions for

- ‘border inspection post’, ‘container’, ‘quarantine centre’, ‘transit country’ and ‘means of transport’, as a part of the work on revision of trade chapters
- ‘biosecurity’, ‘biosecurity plan’ and ‘disinfection’, as a part of the work on a new chapter on biosecurity

## Development of new definitions for

- ‘isolation’, ‘point of entry’ and ‘point of exit’, as a part of the work on revision of chapters on import and export
- ‘disinsection’, ‘pathogenic agent’ and ‘swill’ as a part of the work on a new chapter on biosecurity
- ‘seroconversion’ to clarify the case definition of diseases

- First circulation in September 2023
  - ‘biosecurity’, ‘biosecurity plan’, ‘border inspection post’, ‘point of exit’, ‘quarantine centre’, ‘swill’
- First circulation in September 2024
  - ‘container’, ‘disinfection’, ‘isolation’, ‘pathogenic agent’, ‘means of transport’, ‘point of entry’, ‘transit country’,
- First circulation in February 2025
  - ‘disinsection’, ‘seroconversion’
- Drafted by AHG
- Collaboration with BSC and SCAD
- Circulated 2 to 4 times



Diseases, infections and infestations by WOAHA

(Chapter 1.3.)

**(Annex 6)**

**Article 1.3.7.**

Remove 'Nairobi sheep disease' from the list as it does not meet the criteria for listing in Chapter 1.2.

**Articles 1.3.1. and 1.3.3.**

Revise disease names to align with the title of revised disease-specific chapters

- Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
- Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens)

For Article 1.3.7.:

- First circulation in February 2025
- Circulated 2 times

For Articles 1.3.1. and 1.3.3.:

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD

Biosecurity

(new Chapter 4.X.)

**(Annex 7)**

**New chapter** to have a standard with clear recommendations on biosecurity, its definition, objectives and scope, and the general principles of its implementation, including roles and responsibilities, sources and pathways, components, evaluation, etc.

- Revision of associated Glossary definitions (biosecurity, biosecurity plan, disinfection, disinsection, swill)

- First circulation in September 2023
- Drafted by AHG on Biosecurity
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Circulated 4 times



Procedures for official Measures and procedures applicable during 'exportation', 'transit' and 'importation'

(Chapters 5.4. to 5.6.)

Border inspection posts and quarantine centres

(Chapter 5.7.)

**(Annexes 8 to 11)**

**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, transit or importing, as well as applicable for quarantine station and border post
- Specific recommendations on each commodity (if necessary) (i.e., animals, germinal products, animal products)
- Roles and responsibilities of the relevant authorities and operators in the exporting/transit/importing country
- Scope that is covering all commodities of the Terrestrial Code
- Procedures applicable for non-compliant commodities

For Chapters 5.4. and 5.6.:

- First circulation in September 2023
- Drafted by AHG
- Circulated 4 times

For Chapters 5.5. and 5.7.:

- First circulation in September 2024
- Drafted by AHG
- Circulated 3 times



Animal welfare during slaughter

(Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5.)

**(Annex 12)**

**Partial revision to** update the points that had been left 'under study'

- Parameters for electrical water-bath stunning for poultry

- First circulation in February 2025
- Collaboration with AHG
- Circulated 2 times

Infection with foot and mouth disease virus

(Chapter 8.8.)

Infection with classical swine fever virus

(Chapter 15.2.)

**(Annexes 13 and 14)**

**Partial revision to:**

- Harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status, and definition of infected status, with the most recently adopted disease-specific chapters with official recognition of status
  - Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8.
  - Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5.

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD



Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus

(new Chapter 8.X.)

**(Annex 15)**

**New chapter** with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of the disease and its occurrence, to provide a Standard to Members with the adequate recommendations to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in September 2024
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Circulated 3 times

Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis)

(new Chapter 10.X.)

**(Annex 16)**

**New chapter** with a single article for the general provisions, including the definition of the disease and its occurrence, to provide a Standard to Members with the adequate recommendations to fulfill their notification obligations

- First circulation in September 2024
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Circulated 3 times



# 4. Texts for comment

## 9 annexes

1. Glossary ([Annex 17](#))
2. 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. (Chapter 1.6.) ([Annex 18](#))
3. Emergency management (new Chapter 3.X.) ([Annex 19](#))
4. Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus (Japanese encephalitis) (Chapter 8.10.) ([Annex 20](#))
5. Infection with *Francisella tularensis* (Tularemia) (Chapter 8.20.) ([Annex 21](#))
6. Infection with Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis) (Chapter 12.11.) ([Annex 22](#))
7. Infection with peste des ruminants virus (Chapter 14.7.) ([Annex 23](#))
8. Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox) (Chapter 14.9.) ([Annex 24](#))
  - Clean version is available only for reference
9. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (Chapter 11.9.) ([Annex 25](#))



Glossary definitions for the terms

‘laboratory’ and ‘approved’

**(Annex 17)**

**Comprehensive revision** for ‘laboratory’

- to address a wider range of purposes

**Partial revision** for ‘approved’

- to include a reference to approval by other relevant Competent Authorities

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with BSC
- Circulated once

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 WOAHA.

(Chapter 1.6.)

**(Annex 18)**

- **New article** for clarification on the ability and conditions for Members to hold pathogenic agents within laboratories without affecting their animal health status
- **Partial revision** to improve the clarity of the procedures

- First circulation in September 2024
- Circulated 3 times



## Emergency management

(New Chapter 3.X.)

**(Annex 19)**

**New chapter** to provide an International Standard on animal emergency management, with its purpose, scope, and general recommendations as well as provisions for prevention, preparedness, detection, response and recovery

- First circulation in September 2025
- Drafted by AHG

## Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus

(Japanese encephalitis)

(Chapter 8.10.)

**(Annex 20)**

### **Comprehensive revision:**

- Chapter not revised since 2000
- Need to update it in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions

➤ Expert consultation regarding the comments on animal host species is in progress

- First circulation in February 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG
- Circulated 2 times



Infection with  
*Francisella tularensis*  
(Tularemia)

(Chapter 8.20.)

**(Annex 21)**

**Partial revision to:**

- Develop a new first article for general provisions, including the definition of the disease and its occurrence, to ensure Members have adequate recommendations to fulfill their notification obligations
- Harmonise the texts of the other articles with the framework
  - Expert consultation regarding the comments on surveillance is in progress

- First circulation in February 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Circulated 2 times

Infection with  
Venezuelan equine  
encephalitis virus  
(Venezuelan equine  
encephalomyelitis)

(Chapter 12.11.)

**(Annex 22)**

**Comprehensive revision:**

- Chapter not revised since 1998
- Need to update in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions
  - Expert consultation regarding the risk mitigation measures for some commodities is in progress

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG



Infection with peste des  
petits ruminants virus

(Chapter 14.7.)

**(Annex 23)**

**Comprehensive revision** to:

- Reconsider the list of animal hosts
- Review the articles that include cross-reference with the chapter on FMD
- Develop a new article on recommendations for importation of animals for direct slaughter
- Harmonise the provisions for official recognition and maintenance of free status, and endorsement and maintenance of official control programmes, as well as for infected country or zone, with other disease-specific chapters with WOAHP official recognition of status

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD



Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox)  
(Chapter 14.9.)

**(Annex 24)**

**Comprehensive revision to:**

- Develop a new article for general provisions, including the definition of the disease and its occurrence, to ensure Members have adequate recommendations to fulfill their notification obligations
- Harmonise the texts of the other articles with the framework

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG

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Infection with lumpy skin disease virus  
(Chapter 11.9.)

**(Annex 25)**

**Comprehensive revision:**

- Chapter not thoroughly revised since 1998
- Need to update in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions
- Expert consultation regarding surveillance and prevention and control program is in progress

- First circulation in September 2025
- Collaboration with SCAD
- Drafted by AHG



# 5. Other key items coming up in the Code Commission's work programme

## Ongoing work

- **Revision of Glossary definition for ‘poultry’ and related articles of HPAI chapter**
  - TAHSC will continue to revise the definition and relevant articles
- **Revision of Chapter 4.4. Zoning and compartmentalisation**
  - *ad hoc* Group will continue to revise the chapter on zoning
- **Revision of Chapter 4.14. General recommendations on disinfection and disinsection**
  - *ad hoc* Group will meet to revise the chapter
- **Development of introductory chapter of Section 5 (trade)**
  - Task force of the TAHSC and AAHSC will continue to develop the chapter
- **Revision of Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air**
  - *ad hoc* Group to meet to continue drafting a new chapter
- **Revision of Chapter 7.6. Killing for diseases control purposes**
  - *ad hoc* Group to meet to address the comments received

## Ongoing work

- **Revision of equine encephalitides chapters (JE, EEE, WEE, VEE, WNF)**
  - *ad hoc* Group will revise the chapter on WNF
- **Revision of Chapter 11.5. Infection with *Mycoplasma mycoides* subsp. *mycoides* (CBPP)**
  - Continue to work in collaboration with the BSC and experts
- **Development of new Chapter 11.X. Infection with bovine pestiviruses (BVD)**
  - Continue to work in collaboration with the BSC and experts
- **Comprehensive revision of Chapter 14.8. Scrapie**
  - Continue to work in collaboration with the BSC and experts



# 6. Some take-home messages

- 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. To point out 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.

1. Through the WOAHA Delegates of Members or Organisations with which WOAHA has a Cooperative Agreement;
2. Follow the [Guide for WOAHA Members and International Organisations on submitting comments during the process for the elaboration of WOAHA International Standards](#)
  - In **Word format** (not in pdf format), and clearly noting the relevant annex and/or item of the report;
  - Inserted within the annexes or report, under the text commented;
  - Propose **specific text changes**, supported by a [rationale](#) including scientific references, if relevant;
  - 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);
  - The TAHSC strongly encourages Members to provide feedback on its work programme, including submitting **justified** proposals!



# Thank you Merci Gracias

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