

# Overview of WOAAH Standards in International Trade (Terrestrial & Aquatic)

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Health Standards Commission

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Health Standards Commission

3rd Regional Workshop: Use of WOAAH Standards to Ensure  
and Facilitate Safe International Trade in Terrestrial and Aquatic  
Animal Commodities in Europe

30 March 2026



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



# Agenda

1. Introduction to WOAH Standards
2. Standard-Setting Process
3. Accessing information on WOAH Standards-Setting Process
4. Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission's work programme
5. Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission's work programme



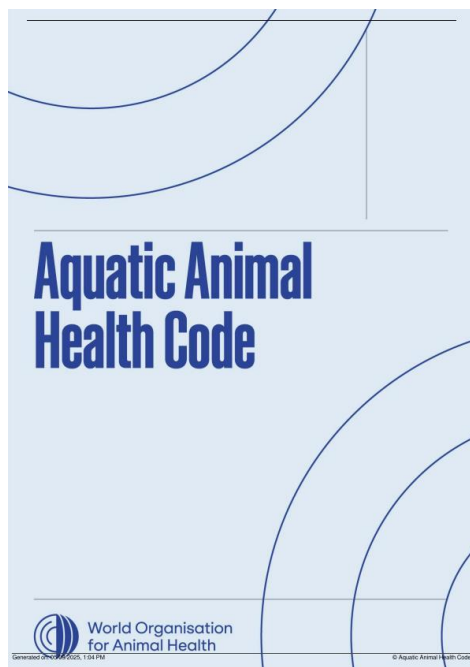
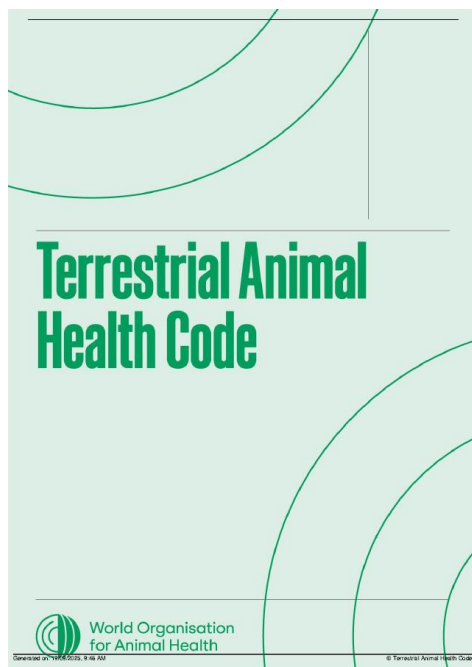
# 1. Introduction to WOAAH Standards

## WOAH International Standards

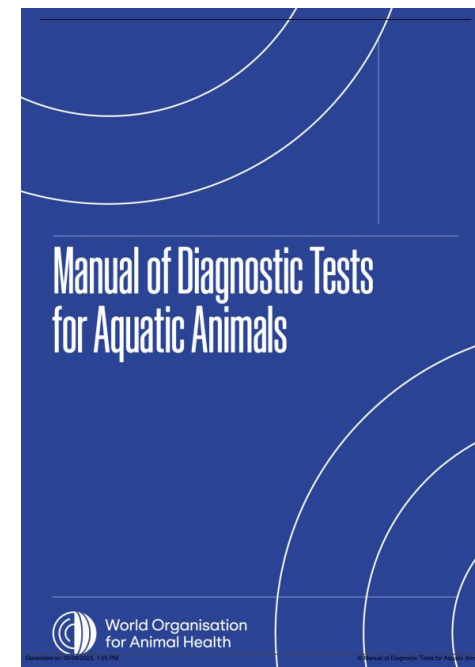
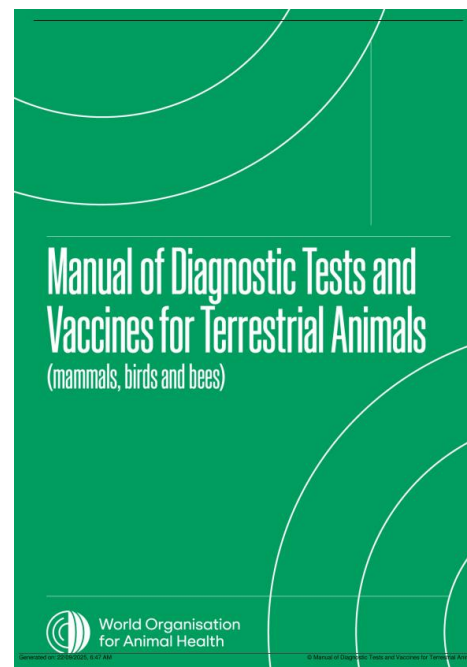
WOAH establishes standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including the prevention of disease spread through international trade of animals and animal products.

Recognised by the WTO SPS Agreement as the standard for animal health and zoonoses.

### Codes



### Manuals

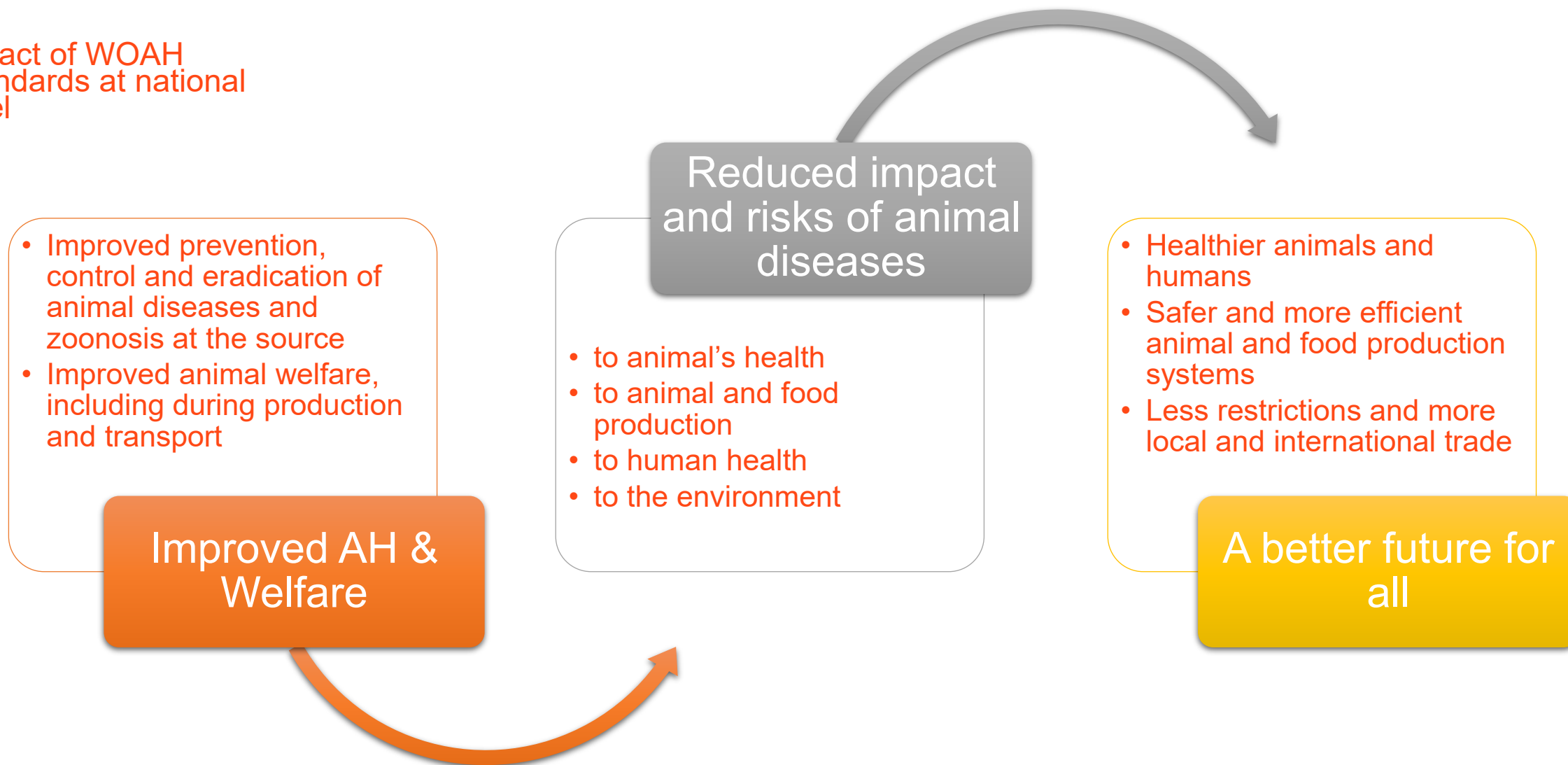


## WOAH international standards, the basis for ...



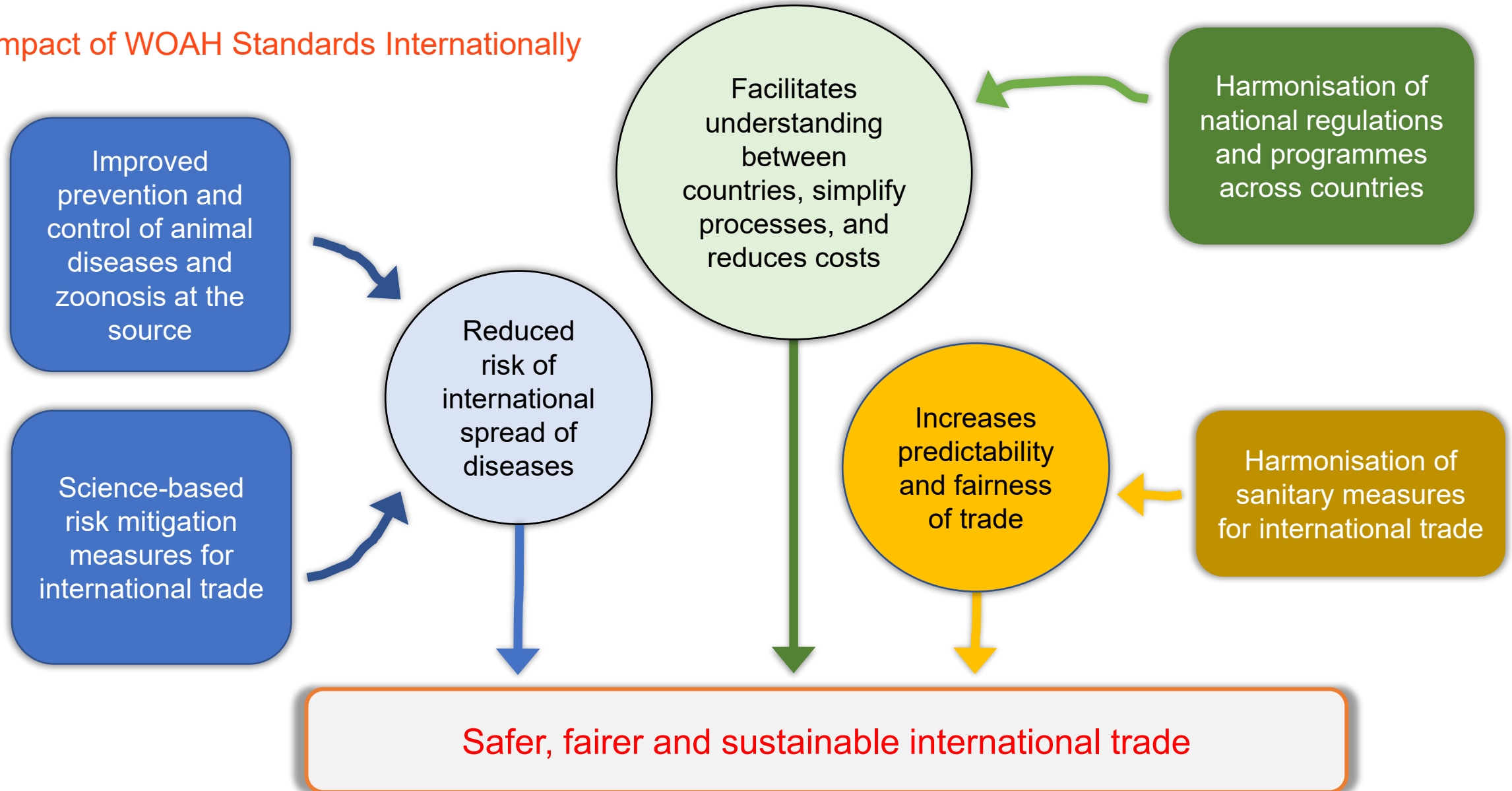


## Impact of WOAAH Standards at national level





## Impact of WOAH Standards Internationally





# 2. Standard- Setting Process

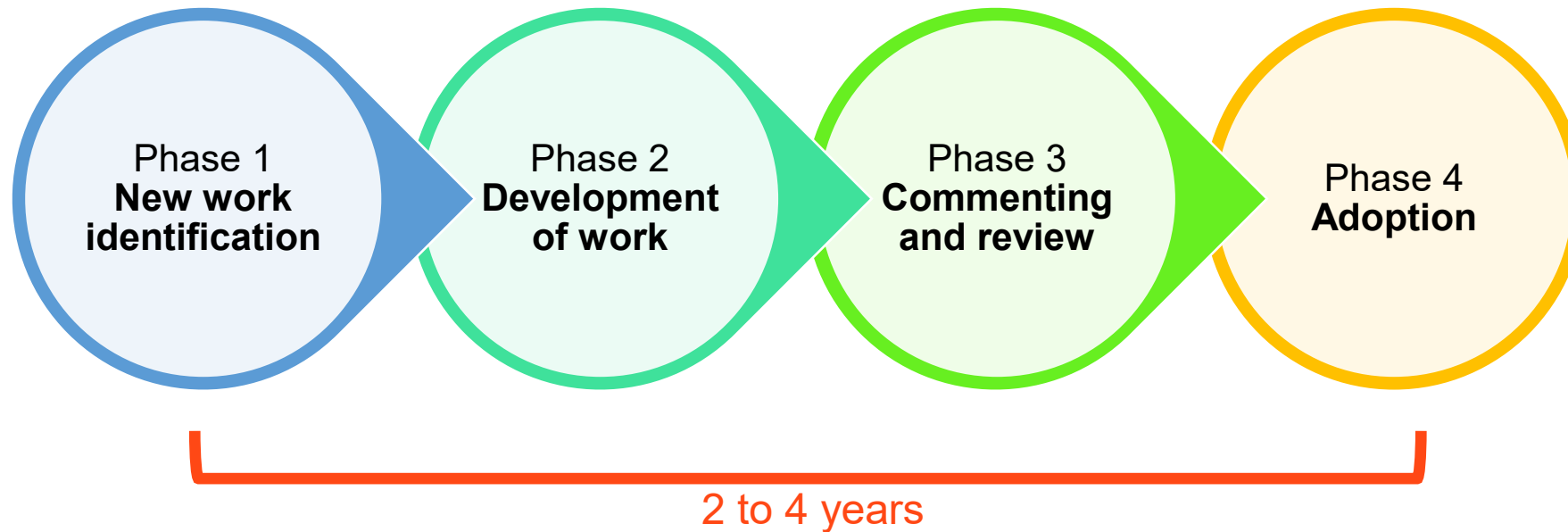


## Specialist Commissions

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission</p> <p><b>Code Commission</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversees amendments to the <i>Terrestrial Code</i></li><li>• Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups</li><li>• Advises the Director General on issues relevant to its work</li></ul>  |
| <p>Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases</p> <p><b>Scientific Commission</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assesses Member dossiers for the recognition of official animal health status and endorsement of official control programmes</li><li>• Supports disease-specific strategies for disease surveillance, prevention and control</li><li>• Oversees the work of relevant ad hoc Groups and Working Groups</li><li>• Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant</li></ul> |
| <p>Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission</p> <p><b>Aquatic Animal Commission</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversees amendments to the Aquatic Code and the Aquatic Manual</li><li>• Oversee the work of relevant ad hoc Groups</li><li>• Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to aquatic animal health and monitors their performance</li></ul>   |
| <p>Biological Standards Commission</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Oversees amendments to the Terrestrial Manual</li><li>• Proposes the designation of Reference Centres relevant to terrestrial animal health and monitors their performance</li><li>• Provides technical advice to the Code Commission, where relevant</li></ul>  |



## Process for the elaboration of WOAH Standards



*A transparent process to ensure that WOAH International Standards address Members needs and are developed based in the latest science and taking into consideration the different contexts among Members to enable implementation.*

### New work proposals come from:

- Specialist Commission
- Members or partner IOs;
- Working Groups;
- Regional Commission Conferences
- WOAHP thematic conferences;
- WOAHP Strategies/programmes;
- WOAHP HQ.



New work discussed  
by Specialist  
Commissions

- AAHSC (*Aquatic Code and Aquatic Manual*)
- BSC (*Terrestrial Manual*)
- TAHSC (*Terrestrial Code*).



Consideration for  
inclusion in Work  
programme

- Coord. with another Sp. Com
- Potential consultation with SCAD / experts
- Request for additional information

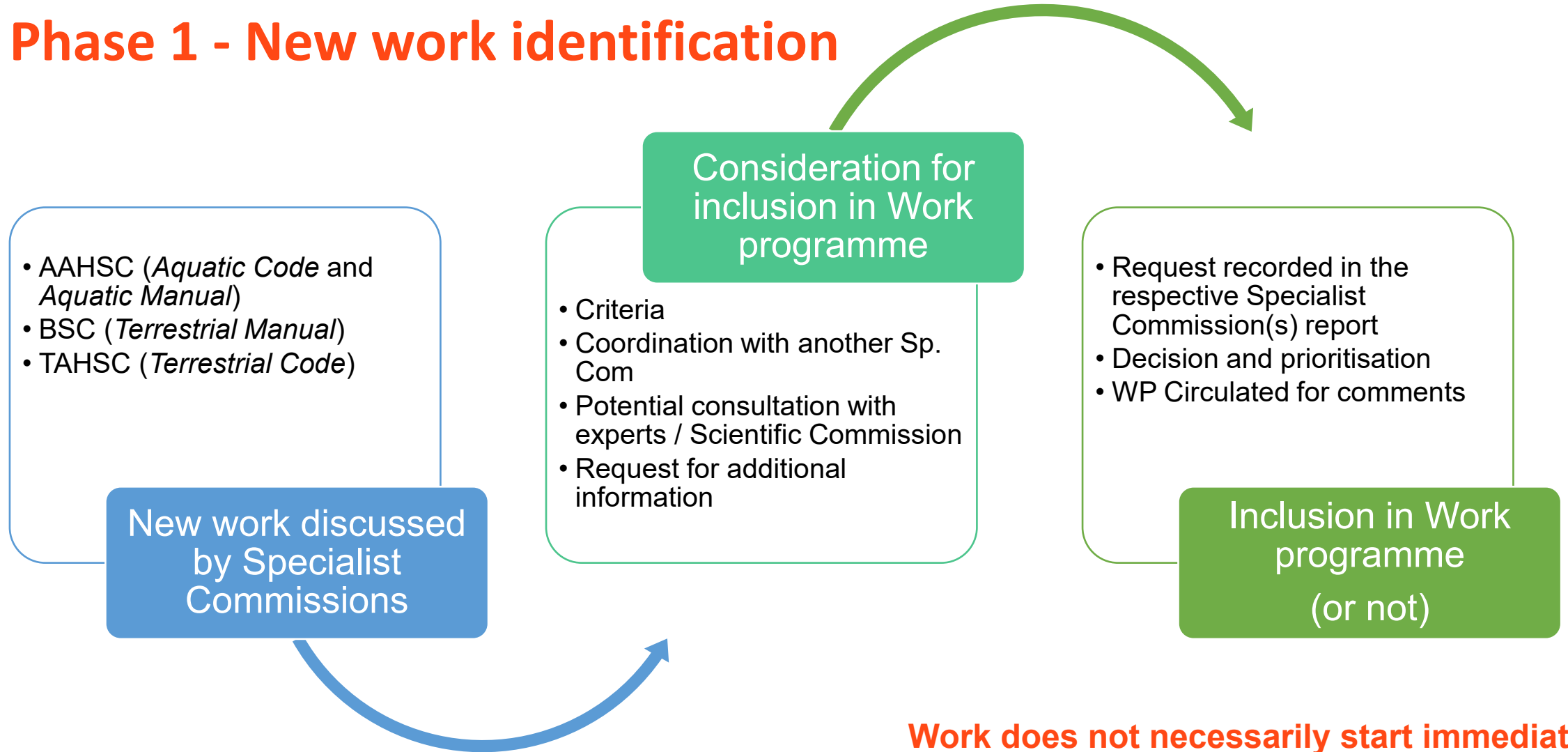


Inclusion in Work  
programme  
(or not)

- Request recorded in the respective Specialist Commission(s) report
- Decision and prioritisation
- WP Circulated for comments



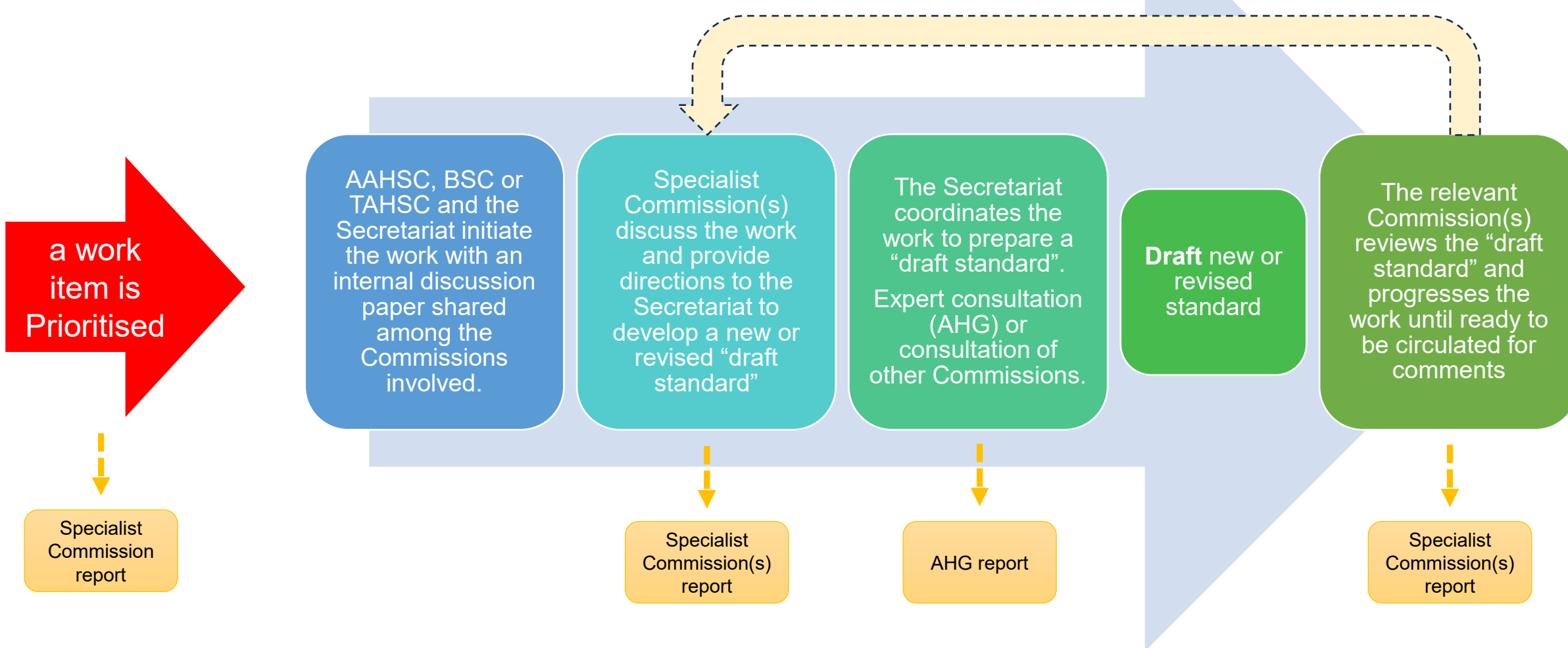
## Phase 1 - New work identification

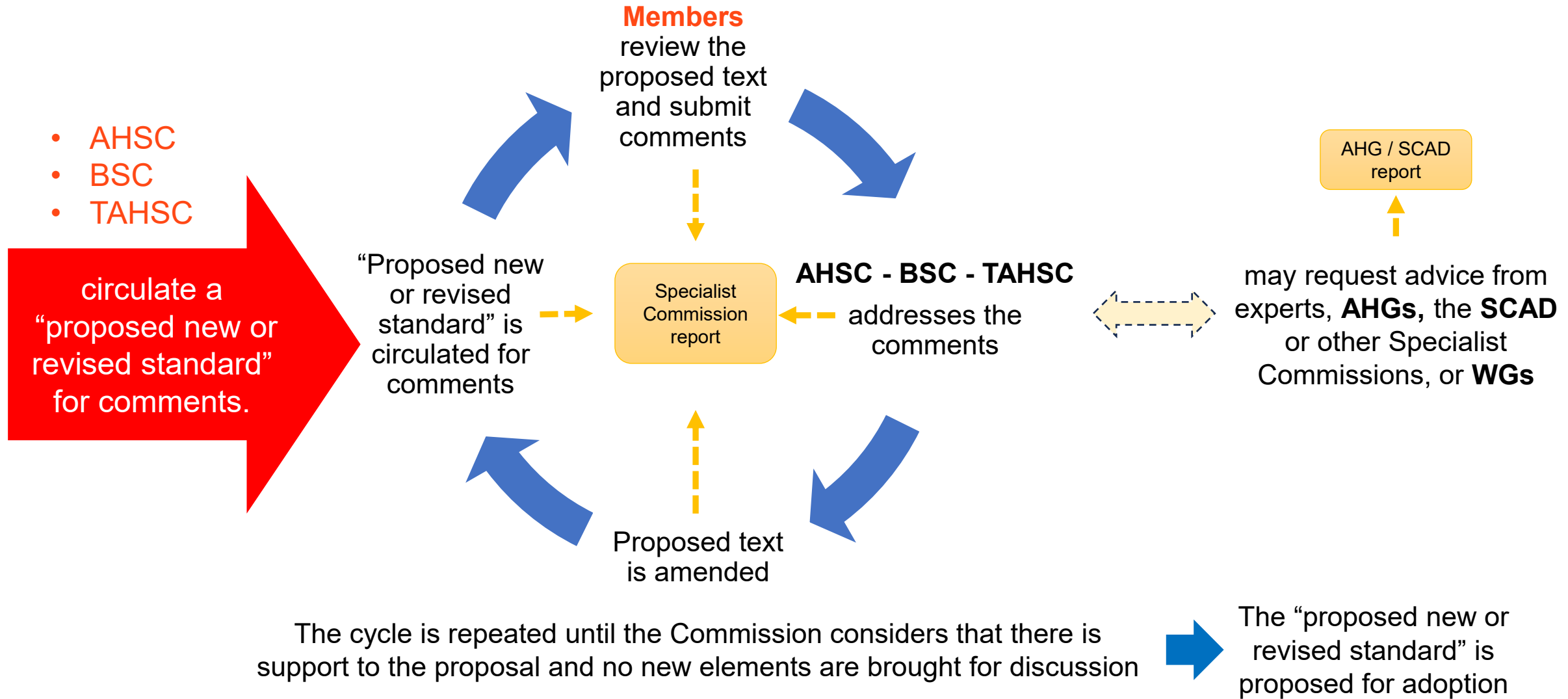


**Work does not necessarily start immediately...**



## Phase 2 – Development of work





## Phase 3 - Commenting and review

## During the General Session

General Session resolutions and report



new or revised  
standards  
proposed for  
adoption



February  
Specialist  
Commission  
reports  
AND  
GS docs

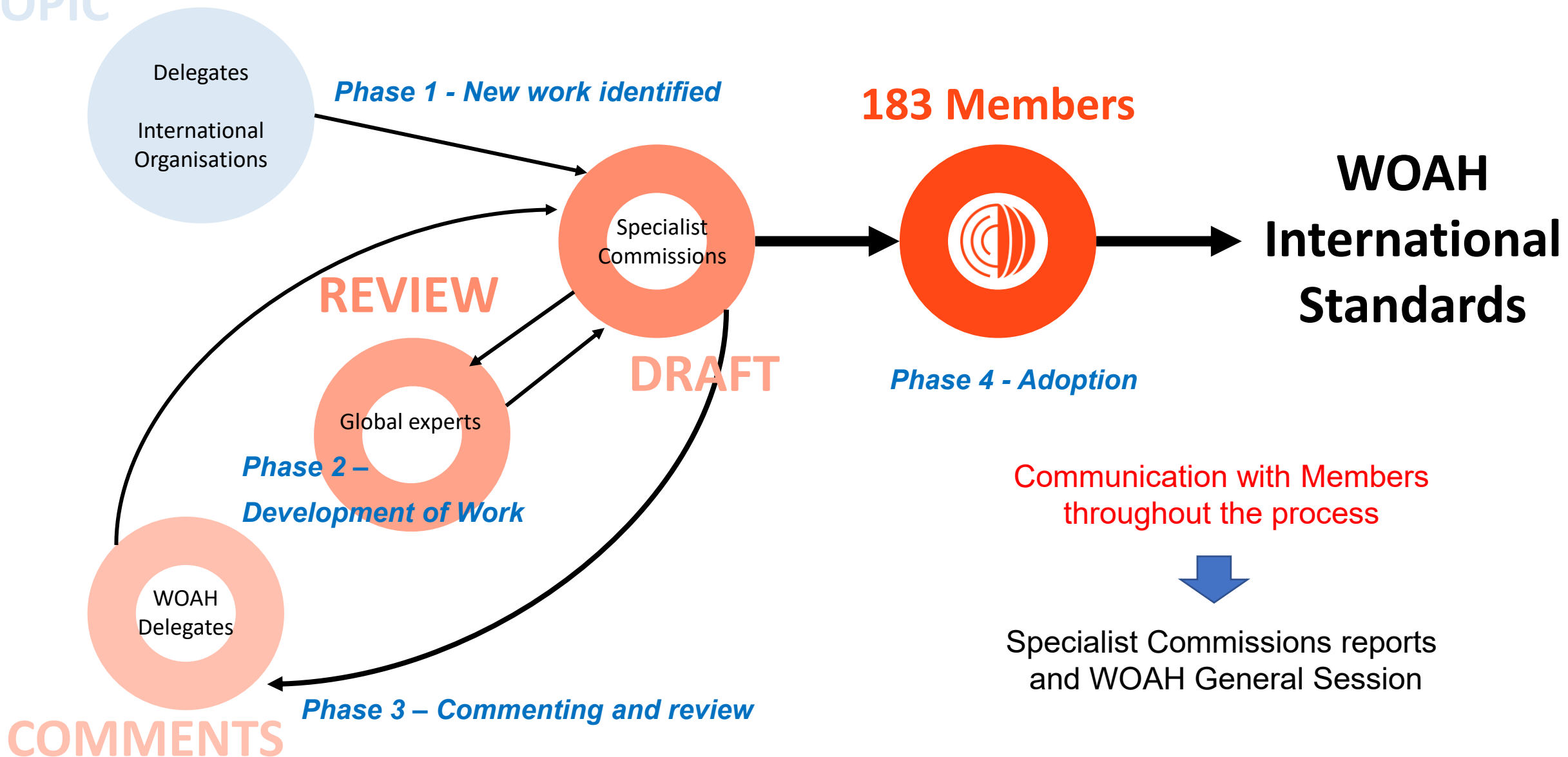
1. At a General Session, the President of the AAHSC, the BSC or the TAHSC presents the new or revised standards to the Assembly.
2. The President addresses comments from the Assembly
3. the Assembly considers the adoption of the “new or revised standard”, with the primary aim of reaching a consensus:
  - a) If consensus is reached, the text is adopted by the Assembly; or:
  - b) If consensus is not reached; the president can withdraw the text, or the Assembly can decide by a formal vote (2/3 majority is required).

If a text is withdrawn from adoption or not adopted in the case of voting, the AAHSC, the BSC or the TAHSC reconsider the work in the context of their work programmes at their following meeting.

## Phase 4 - Adoption



# TOPIC



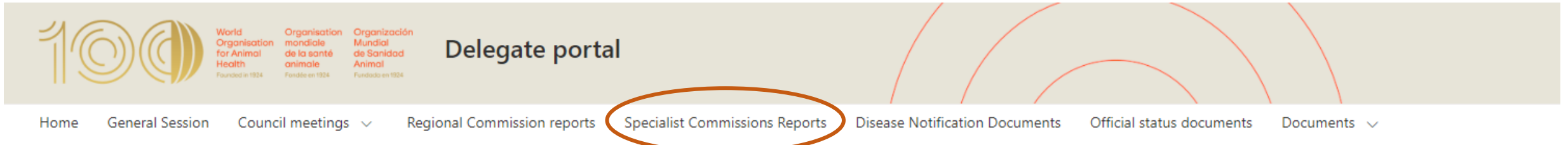
*Detailed process available on WOAH Website*



# 3. Accessing Information on Standard-Setting process

# Where can I find information?

# On the WOAAH Delegate Portal



Immersive reader

## AQUATIC ANIMALS COMMISSION

The Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

Share Copy link Sync Download Export to Excel

Name Contenu

2022\_February

2022\_September

2023\_February

## SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION

The Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases

Share Copy link Sync Download Export to Excel

Name Contenu

2022\_February

2022\_September

2023\_February

2023\_September

2024\_February

2024\_September

## BIOLOGICAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

The Biological Standards Commission

Share Copy link Sync Download Export to Excel

Name Contenu

2022\_February

2022\_September

2023\_February

## TERRESTRIAL CODE COMMISSION

The Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

Share Copy link Sync Download Export to Excel

Name Contenu

2022\_February

2022\_September

2023\_February

2023\_September

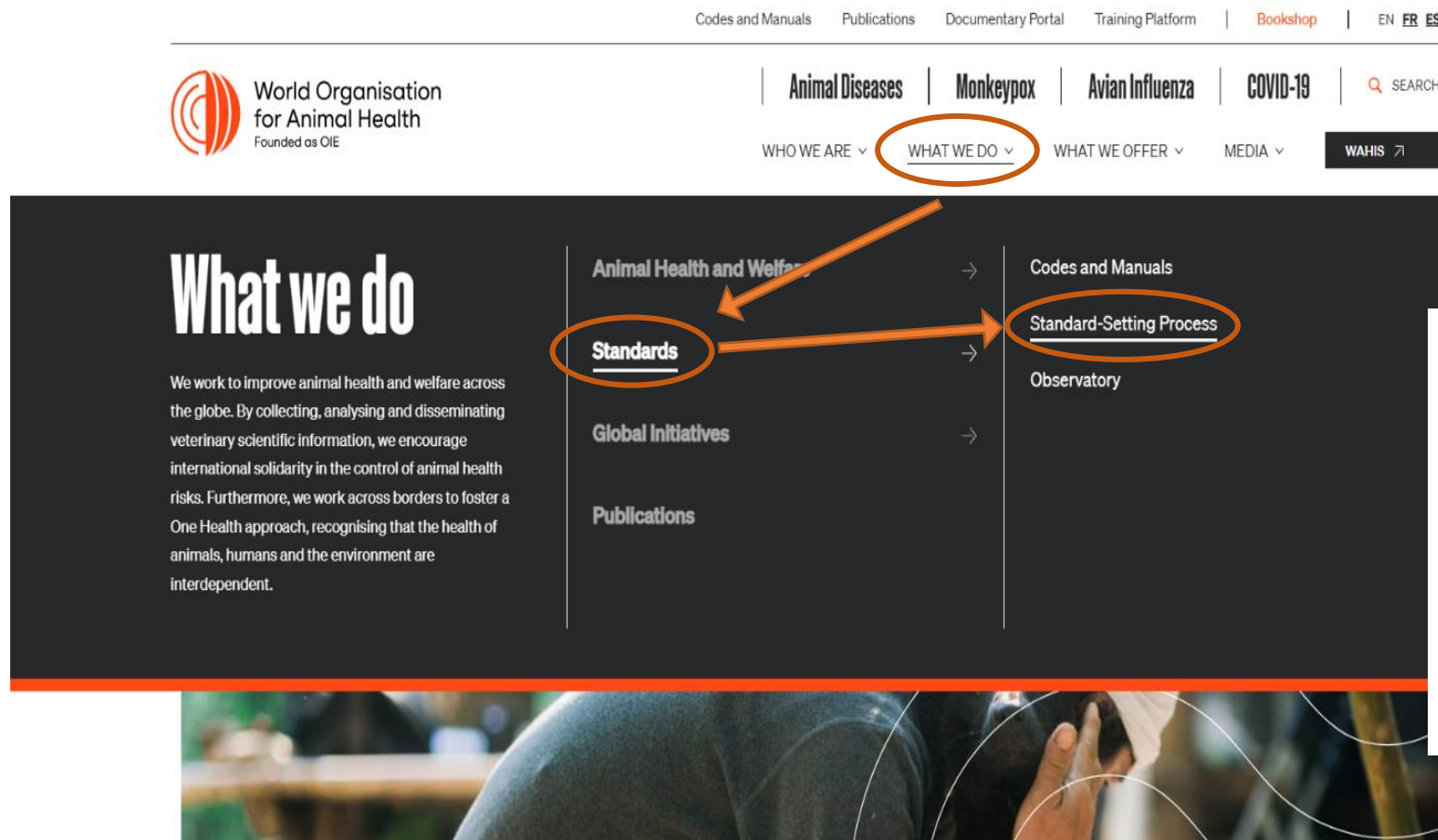
2024\_February

2024\_September

- Private website for the WOAAH Delegates
- Report and annexes in MS Word format
- Download files and use for commenting

# Where can I find information?

## On the WOAH Website



The screenshot shows the WOAH website navigation menu. The 'WHAT WE DO' menu item is circled in orange. An arrow points from this menu item to the 'Standards' sub-menu item, which is also circled in orange. Another arrow points from 'Standards' to the 'Standard-Setting Process' sub-menu item, which is also circled in orange. The 'Standard-Setting Process' sub-menu item is underlined. The 'Codes and Manuals' sub-menu item is also visible. The 'Standard-Setting Process' sub-menu item is underlined. The 'Standard-Setting Process' sub-menu item is underlined. The 'Standard-Setting Process' sub-menu item is underlined.

Codes and Manuals | Publications | Documentary Portal | Training Platform | **Bookshop** | EN FR ES

World Organisation for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

Animal Diseases | Monkeypox | Avian Influenza | COVID-19 | SEARCH

WHO WE ARE ▾ **WHAT WE DO ▾** WHAT WE OFFER ▾ MEDIA ▾ WAHIS ↗

### What we do

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.

- Animal Health and Welfare →
- Standards** →
- Global Initiatives →
- Publications

- Codes and Manuals
- Standard-Setting Process**
- Observatory



# 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*                    | Sept. 2024 | Feb. 2025 | Sept. 2025 | Feb. 2026 | Sept. 2026 | Feb. 2027 |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Code Commission                 | 9-19       | 4-14      | 9-18       | 3-13      | 8-17       | 2-12      |
| Biological Standards Commission | 9-13       | 3-7       | 8-12       | 2-6       | 7-11       | 1-5       |
| Scientific Commission           | 9-13       | 10-14     | 8-12       | 9-13      | 7-11       | 8-12      |
| Aquatic Animals Commission      | 18-25      | 12-19     | 17-24      | 11-18     | 16-23      | 8-12      |

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

- **Schedule** of upcoming Specialist Commissions meetings (**Feb** and **Sep**)
- Links to **Specialist Commissions**, **ad hoc Groups** and **Working Groups**

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.

Ad hoc Groups

[Discover](#) →

Working Groups

[Discover](#) →

# On the WOAAH Website



## Ad hoc Groups

An ad hoc Group is convened at the initiative of the Director General to provide expert advice on a topic as defined by the Terms of Reference. The ad hoc Group reports are considered by the relevant Specialist Commission or Director General. An ad hoc Group usually comprises six internationally recognised experts and take into consideration geographical representation and gender balance.

[Introduction](#) [Terrestrial Animals](#) [Aquatic Animals](#) [Animal Welfare](#)

[Antimicrobial Resistance](#) [Official Status](#) [Others](#)

## Working Groups

WOAH permanent Working Groups are responsible for continually reviewing developments in their fields, and for keeping WOAAH Members informed of current issues.

### Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Following the adoption of Resolution no. 14 "WOAH's engagement in the One Health Global Effort to Control Antimicrobial Resistance" by the World Assembly of WOAAH Delegates in May 2019, a Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) was established to support the implementation of the [WOAH Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials](#) and the organisation's capacity to respond to global challenges according to its mandate.

[Learn more](#)

### Working Group on Wildlife

Founded in 1994, this Wildlife Working Group informs and advises the WOAAH on all health problems relating to wild animals, whether in the wild or in captivity. It has prepared recommendations and oversees numerous scientific publications on the surveillance and control of the most important specific wildlife diseases. The Working Group comprises world-leading scientific experts in their subject areas.

[Learn more](#)



# 4. TAHSC work programme: State of play

# Members of TAHSC (Term: 2024-2027)



**Dr Etienne Bonbon**  
(France)  
President



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



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



**Dr Salah Hamami**  
(Tunisia)  
Member



**Dr John Stratton**  
(Australia)  
Member



**Dr Caroline Dubé**  
(Canada)  
Member





## State of play

- Work programme currently includes **71** work items
- **50** items are ongoing (prioritisation 1 or 2)
- Many items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions

## At February 2026 meeting

- **13** texts proposed for adoption in May 2026
- **18** texts circulated for comments
- **3** new proposals/requests considered
- **4** new work items added



## 13 annexes

1. Glossary (Annex 5)
2. Chapter 1.3. Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA (Annex 6)
3. Chapter 4.X. Biosecurity (Annex 7)
4. Chapters 5.4. to 5.7. Measures and procedures applicable to the exportation/transit/importation of commodities, and Border inspection posts and quarantine centre (Annexes 8 to 11)
5. Article 7.5.30. of Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter (Annex 12)
6. Articles 8.8.3., 8.8.4. and 8.8.8. of Chapter 8.8. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Annex 13)
7. Articles 15.2.3. and 15.2.5. of Chapter 15.2. Infection with classical swine fever virus (Annex 14)
8. Chapter 8.20. Infection with Francisella tularensis (Tularemia) (Annex 15)
9. Chapter 8.X. Infection with Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (Annex 16)
10. Chapter 10.X. Infection with avian metapneumovirus (Turkey rhinotracheitis and swollen head syndrome of chickens) (Annex 17)

## 16 annexes

1. User's Guide (Annex 18)
2. Glossary (Annex 19)
3. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.) (Annex 20)
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 WOAHA (Chapter 1.6.) (Annex 21)
5. Emergency management (Chapter 3.X.) (Annex 22)
6. Zoning and compartmentalization (Chapter 4.4.), and Application of Zoning (Chapter 4.Y.) (Annexes 23 and 24)
7. Introductory chapter for Section 5 (Chapter 5.Y.) (Annex 25)
8. Animal welfare during transport (Chapter 7.2.) (Annex 26)
9. Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter (Chapter 7.6.) (Annex 27)
10. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (two articles of Chapter 8.8.) (Annex 28)
11. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus (five articles of Chapter 10.4.) (Annex 29)
12. Infection with Newcastle disease virus (Article 10.9.3. of Chapter 10.9.) (Annex 30)
13. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (Chapter 11.9.) (Annex 31)
14. Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (Chapter 12.11.) (Annex 32)
15. Sheep pox and goat pox (Chapter 14.9.) (Annex 33)
16. Terminology: notifiable disease and notification (Annex 34)

## Ongoing

- Revision of disinfection and disinsection chapter (Chapter 4.14.)
- Revision of equine encephalitides chapters (WNF)
- Revision of chapters on certification procedures (Chapters 5.1., 5.2. and 5.10. to 5.12.)
- Revision national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes (Chapter 6.8.)

## New work

- Revision of Chapter 8.2. Infection with Aujeszky's disease virus (in parallel with the work on case definition)



# 5. AAHSC work programme: State of play

# Members of AAHSC (Term: 2024-2027)



**Dr Alicia Gallardo Lagno**  
(Chile)  
President



**Dr Fiona Geoghegan**  
(Ireland)  
Vice-President



**Dr Ingo Ernst**  
(Australia)  
Vice-President



**Dr Kevin William Christison**  
(South Africa)  
Member



**Dr Saraya Tavornpanich**  
(Norway)  
Member



**Dr Hong Liu**  
(People's Rep of China)  
Member





## State of play

- Work programme currently includes **41** work items
- **32** items are ongoing (prioritisation 1 or 2)
- Some items are in coordination with other Specialist Commissions

## At February 2026 meeting

- **11** texts proposed for adoption in May 2026
- **12** texts circulated for comments
- **1** new work item added



## 6 annexes

1. Glossary – ‘Ornamental aquatic animal’ (Annex 5)
2. Chapter 4.7. ‘Following in aquaculture’ (Annex 6)
3. Article 9.2.2. of Chapter 9.2. ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)’ (Annex 7)
4. Article 10.3.5. and 10.3.6. of Chapter 10.3. ‘Infection with *Gyrodactylus salaris*’ (Annex 8)
5. Article 10.4.9. of Chapter 10.4. ‘Infection with infectious salmon anaemia virus’ (Annex 9)
6. Update to the viral names of pathogenic agents for WOAHP listed diseases (Annex 10)



## 5 annexes

1. Section 2.2.1. and 2.2.2. of Chapter 2.2.2. ‘Infection with *Aphanomyces astaci* (crayfish plague)’ (Annex 18)
2. Chapter 2.4.5. ‘Infection with *Perkinsus marinus*’ (Annex 19)
3. Chapter 2.4.6. ‘Infection with *Perkinsus olseni*’ (Annex 20)
4. Chapter 2.4.7. ‘Infection with *Xenohaliotis californiensis*’ (Annex 21)
5. Update to the virus names of pathogenic agents for WOAH listed diseases (Annex 22)

## 13 annexes

1. Work Program and priorities
2. Chapter 1.1. 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information'
3. Chapter 1.4. 'Aquatic animal disease surveillance'
4. Chapter 4.3. 'Application of compartmentalisation' and Glossary definition of 'compartment' (2 annexes)
5. Model Article X.X.7. 'Compartment free from [pathogen X]' of the disease-specific chapters
6. Chapter 5.Y. 'Introduction to recommendations for international aquatic animal health certification and export and import procedures'
7. Chapter 6.2. 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals'
8. Chapter 2.4.2. 'Infection with *Bonamia exitiosa*' and Chapter 2.4.3. 'Infection with *Bonamia ostreae*'
9. Chapter 2.4.4. 'Infection with *Marteilia refringens*'
10. Chapter 2.3.X. 'Infection with tilapia lake virus'
11. Chapter 2.3.5. 'Infection with infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus' – PCR tables
12. Chapter 2.3.9. 'Infection with spring viraemia of carp virus' – PCR tables)

## Ongoing

- Revision of 'Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information' (Chapter 1.1.)
- Revision of 'Aquatic animal disease surveillance' (Chapter 1.4.)
- Revision of 'Application of zoning' (Chapter 4.2.)
- Revision of the 'Application of compartmentalisation' (Chapter 4.3.)
- Revision of recommendations for international aquatic animal health certification and export and import procedures (Section 5)
- Revision of the 'Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals' (Chapter 6.2.)
- Revision of Section 7 on welfare of farmed fish
- Emerging diseases
- Aquatic Manual reformat and review each disease-specific chapter of the Aquatic Manual into a new template, 5 of 31 disease-specific chapters remain
- Revision of the susceptible species: application of Chapter 1.5. to each disease-specific chapter to determine susceptible host species

## New work

- Model Article X.X.7. 'Compartment free from [pathogen X]' of the disease-specific chapters (to align with revisions of Chapters 1.4. and 4.3.)

# Thank you Merci Gracias

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