Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission

September 2026 Meeting Report



Dr Etienne Bonbon
President of the TAHSC

Regional Conference WOAH Europe

21-25 September 2026

World Organisation for Animal Health
Organisation mondiale de la santé animale
Organización Mundial de Sanidad Animal

OFFICIAL

Agenda

1. Introduction and Code Basics
2. Code Commission’s work programme
3. Circulated Texts discussed by the Code Commission
4. For your information



1. Introduction and Code Basics

Objectives of Regional Information Webinar

- 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 WOAH standards setting process
- to inform WOAH Members on texts circulated for comment, their background and rationale
- to improve exchanges between the Specialist Commissions and WOAH Members

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

- 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)

- 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 Kiyokazu Murai
(Japan)
Vice-President



Dr Gaston Funes
(Argentina)
Vice-President



Dr Salah Hamami
(Tunisia)
Member



Dr John Stratton
(Australia)
Member

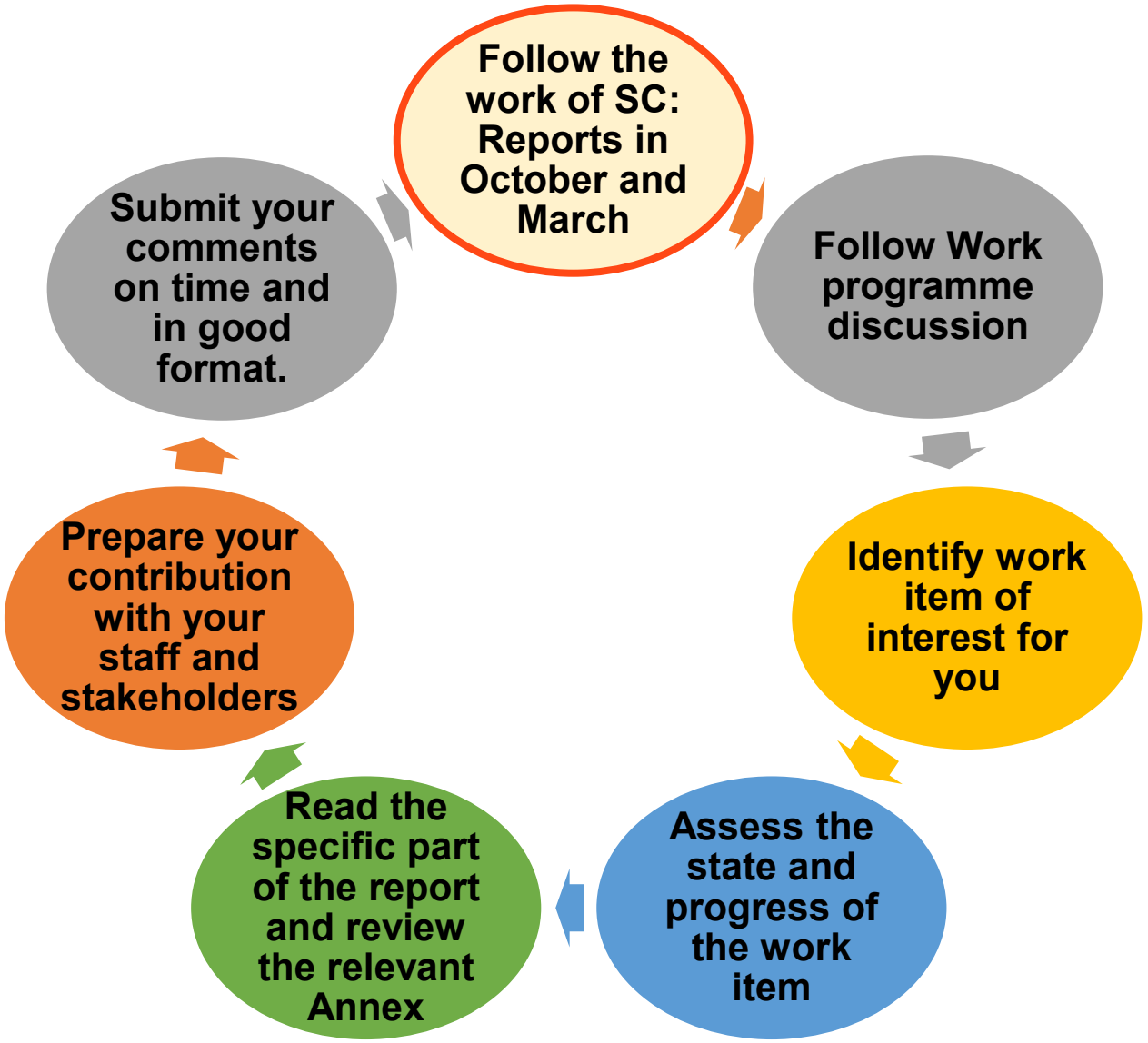


Dr Caroline Dubé
(Canada)
Member



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!



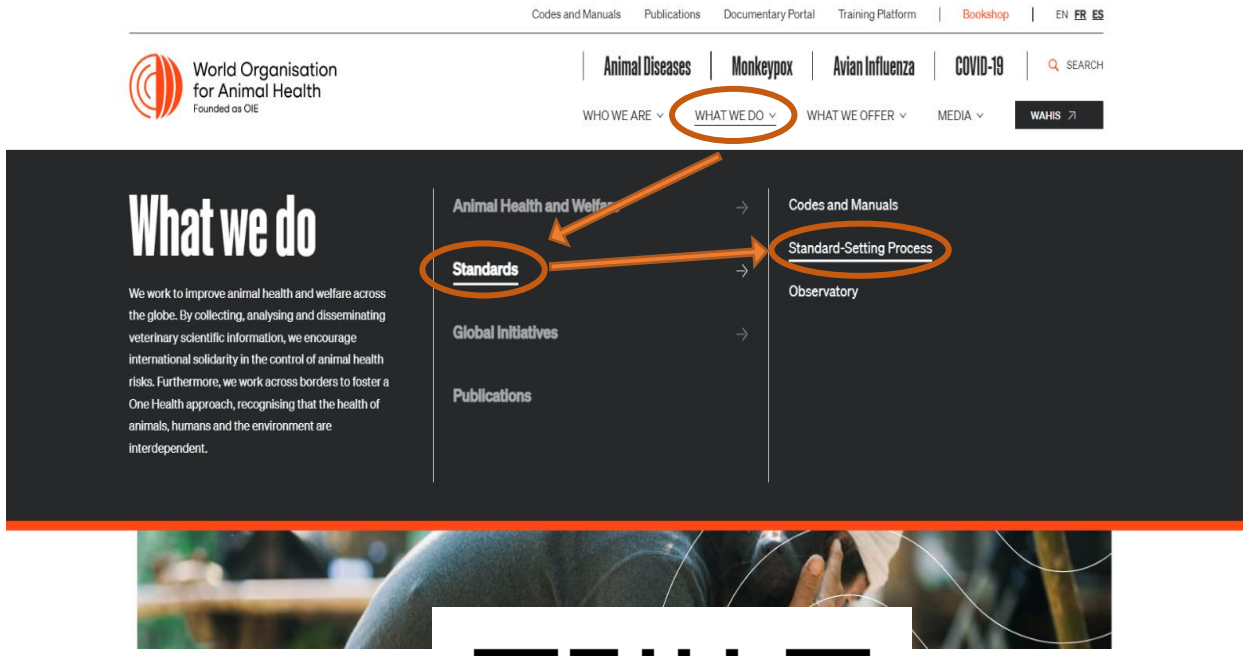
Where can I find information on the Standard Setting Process?

Only for WOAH Delegates: WOAH Delegates Website

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

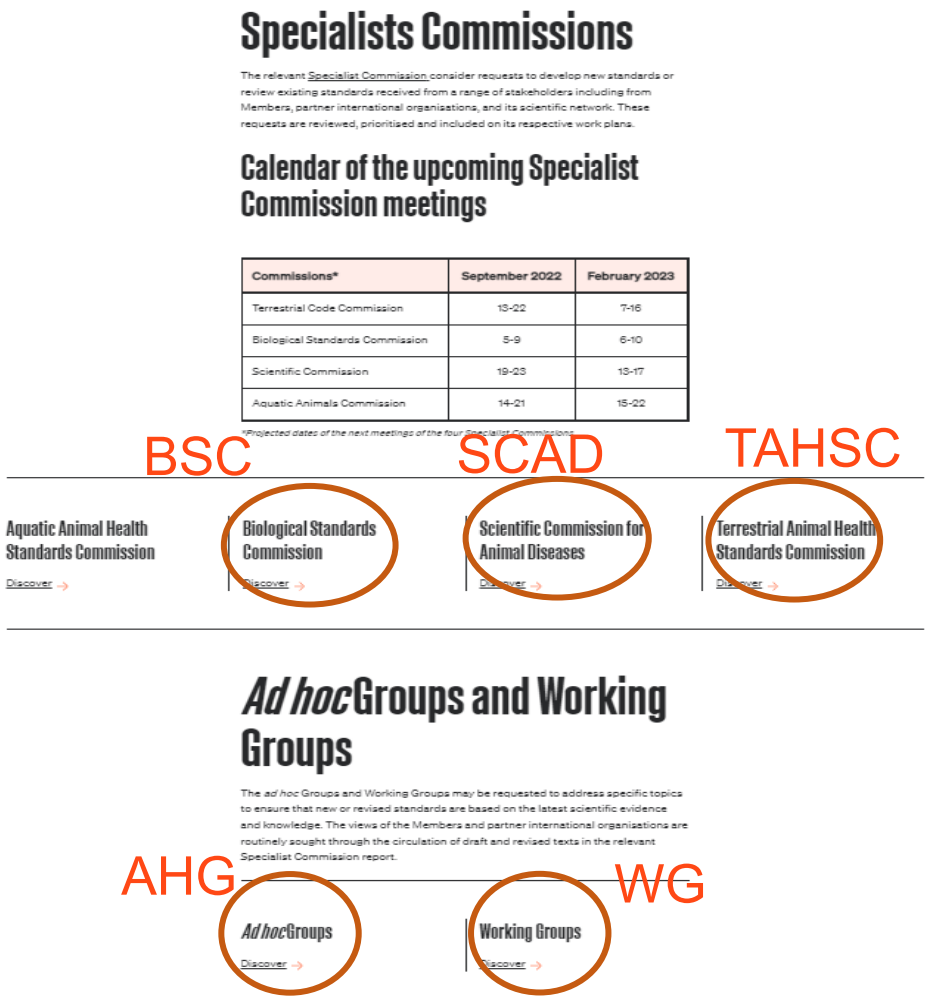
Publicly available

- Report and annexes in PDF Format
- Comments considered by Specialist Commissions and their responses (for information)
- 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.



2. Code Commission's work programme

At February 2026 meeting

- 13 texts proposed for adoption in May 2026

  (All texts was adopted)
- 17 texts circulated for comments
- 4 new work items added

State of play

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

Report of September 2026 Code Commission

Report (under preparation) 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

Next steps

- Members submit comments on Code Commission's report and relevant annexes by December 2026 (dates will be informed in the report).
- Next Meeting of the Code Commission 2-12 February 2027

Send comments to WOAH Standards Department at TCC.Secretariat@woah.org

3. Circulated Texts discussed by the Code Commission

Circulated Texts discussed by the Commission in Sep 2026

19 texts (the TAHSC discussed many other topics, not yet accompanied by draft texts, cf. report Oct26)

1. User's Guide
2. Glossary
3. Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)
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 WOAH. (Chapter 1.6.)
5. Emergency management (new Chapter 3.X.)
6. Defining, establishing and maintaining populations and subpopulations of animals (Chapter 4.4.)
7. Application of zoning (new Chapter 4.Y.)
8. Introduction to recommendations for international veterinary certifications and export and import procedures (new Chapter 5.X.)

(Continued on next slide)

Circulated Texts discussed by the Commission in Sep 2026

(con't)

9. Animal welfare during transport (Chapter 7.2.)
10. Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter (Chapter 7.6.)
11. Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (two articles of Chapter 8.8.)
12. Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus (Japanese encephalitis) (Chapter 8.10.) (circulated in Sep 2025 report)
13. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus (five articles of Chapter 10.4.)
14. Infection with Newcastle disease virus (one article of Chapter 10.9.)
15. Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (Chapter 11.9.)
16. Infection with Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis) (Chapter 12.11.)
17. Infection with peste des ruminants virus (Chapter 14.7.) (circulated in Sep 2025 report)
18. Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox) (Chapter 14.9.)
19. Terminology: Use of the term 'notify', 'notifiable disease', 'report' and 'reportable disease'

User's Guide	Partial revision • to address Members concerns regarding the clarification of the case definitions • to provide clearer guidance to enhance understanding of the contents of the Code	• First circulation in February 2026 • Comments and proposed adoption 2027
Glossary definitions for the terms 'animal host', 'notifiable disease' and 'notification'	New definition for 'animal host' • to address a wider range of purposes Partial revision for 'notifiable disease' and 'notification' • to include a reference to approval by other relevant Competent Authorities	• First circulation in September 2025 • Collaboration with BSC • Circulated once • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information (Chapter 1.1.)	Partial revision • to incorporate the work progressed on animal hosts • To address areas of ambiguity regarding Member notification obligations	• First circulation in February 2026 • Collaboration with AAC • Comments and proposed adoption 2027
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 WOAH. (Chapter 1.6.)	• 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 • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

Emergency management (New Chapter 3.X.)	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 • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

Defining, establishing and maintaining populations and subpopulations of animals (Chapter 4.4.) Application of zoning (new Chapter 4.Y.) Relevant Glossary	Comprehensive revision: • to clarify the establishing subpopulations of animals New chapter: • to provide clear provisions regarding the application of zoning	• First circulation in February 2026 • Collaboration with SCAD • Drafted by AHG • Comments only

Introduction to recommendatios for international veterinary certifications and export and import procedures (new Chapter 5.X.)	New chapter to provide background and clarity on the objective, scope and content of the chapters in Section 5	• First circulation in February 2026 • Collaboration with AAC • Drafted by AHG • Comments and proposed adoption 2027
Animal welfare during transport (Chapter 7.2.)	Comprehensive revision: • to merge three chapters regarding animal welfare during transport	• First circulation in February 2026 • Drafted by AHG • Back to AHG
Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter (Chapter 7.6.)	Comprehensive revision: • to restructure the articles • to update the relevant information	• First circulation in February 2024 • Drafted by AHG • Back to AHG

Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (two articles of Chapter 8.8.)	Partial revision: • to develop a new article regarding importation of fetal bovine serum (Article 8.8.33bis) • to resolve the discrepancy between 'importation of susceptible animals from free country/zone/compartment without vaccination' and 'importation of susceptible animals from free country/zone/compartment with vaccination) (Article 8.8.13.)	• First circulation September 2024 • Collaboration with SCAD • Comments and proposed adoption 2027
Infection with Japanese encephalitis virus (Japanese encephalitis) (Chapter 8.10.)	Comprehensive revision: • Chapter not revised since 2000 • Need to update it in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions	• First circulation in February 2025 • Collaboration with SCAD • Drafted by AHG • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

Poultry definition	Comprehensive revision: • to review the Glossary for ‘poultry’ to address birds that do not play a significan epidemiological role in the spread of HPAI through international trade • to update the relevant articles in Chapter 10.4. to align with the update of the Glossary for ‘poultry’	• First circulation in February 2026 • Collaboration with SCAD • Comments only
Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus (five articles of Chapter 10.4.)		

Infection with Newcastle disease virus (one article of Chapter 10.9.)	Partial revision to: • Reconsider the time required to recover free status for Newcastle disease (Article 10.9.3.)	• First circulation in February 2026 • Collaboration with SCAD • Article for comments and proposed adoption 2027

Infection with lumpy skin disease virus (Chapter 11.9.)	Comprehensive revision: • Chapter not thoroughly revised since 1998 • Need to update in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions	• First circulation in September 2025 • Collaboration with SCAD • Drafted by AHG • Comments and proposed adoption 2027
Infection with Venezuelan equine encephalitis virus (Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis) (Chapter 12.11.)	Comprehensive revision: • Chapter not revised since 1998 • Need to update in line with latest scientific evidence and current Terrestrial Code conventions	• First circulation in September 2025 • Collaboration with SCAD • Drafted by AHG • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

Infection with peste des petits ruminants virus (Chapter 14.7.)	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 regarding official recognition of status	• First circulation in September 2025 • Collaboration with SCAD • Drafted by AHG • Comments only
Infection with sheeppox virus (sheeppox) and goatpox virus (goatpox) (Chapter 14.9.)	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 • Comments and proposed adoption 2027

4. Some take-home messages

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. 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.

How to submit comments

1. Through the WOAH Delegates of Members or Organisations with which WOAH has a Cooperative Agreement;
2. Follow the Guide for WOAH Members and International Organisations on submitting comments during the process for the elaboration of WOAH 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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