

**16th Conference
of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
Stockholm (Sweden), 28 June - 1 July 1994**

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

Control and prevention of *Salmonella* infection in livestock

CONSIDERING THAT

Salmonella-infected livestock is directly or indirectly one of the major sources of the increasing number of salmonella infections in man,

Control of *Salmonella* infection in livestock farms is an important part of preharvest pathogen reduction schemes being introduced to improve meat inspection and food control,

Certain, and especially the host-adapted, serovars of *Salmonella* can cause economically important disease in animals; and most serovars of *Salmonella* that infect animals can cause salmonellosis in humans,

The control and prevention of *Salmonella* infection should not be directed only at those serovars causing disease in animals,

Special attention should be directed to *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* particularly in poultry. However, this should not divert attention from other serovars such as *S. Dublin* which can be highly pathogenic to humans,

The level of *Salmonella* infection in livestock can be controlled and reduced by the use of available knowledge and technology and by application of well-known basic concepts for disease control and husbandry. Special attention should be directed to appropriate hygiene, management and infection control particularly in large units,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

Competent authorities should:

1. Formulate progressive limits on the prevalence of *Salmonella* infection in animals and *Salmonella* contamination of food of animal origin and animal feed, and should, in cooperation with producers, industry and consumers, formulate priorities, objectives, and strategies for control programmes.
2. Direct effort at controlling *Salmonella* infections in animals by applying methods that have been shown to be effective. In this connection, some guidelines for the control of salmonellae of public health significance have been and are being prepared by the World Health Organisation.
3. Collect epidemiological data concerning the true incidence and prevalence of salmonellosis, *Salmonella* infection in animals and *Salmonella* contamination of feedstuffs, carcasses and food of animal origin. Cooperation should be established with the bodies conducting disease surveillance in humans in order to establish the true incidence of food-borne diseases originating from food of animal origin.
4. Place emphasis on informing livestock producers regarding basic principles of hygiene, husbandry, management, and other specific actions necessary for control of *Salmonella* infection.
5. Direct research at the evaluation and application of methods for the diagnosis, prevention and control of *Salmonella* infection in individual regions, as well as in different types of animal production. Furthermore information regarding research results and practical experience should be exchanged.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 1 July 1994 during its 16th Conference and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 17 May 1995)

16th Conference
of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe
Stockholm (Sweden), 28 June - 1 July 1994

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

Harmonisation of activities of the Veterinary Services in Europe,
with special respect to principles of certification and to accreditation of European laboratories
and the mutual recognition of analysis results

CONSIDERING THAT

The Member Countries of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe recognise that it is necessary to reduce to a minimum the technical obstacles to free movement of animals and animal products within Europe,

In order to overcome these obstacles it is necessary to minimise barriers associated with differences in standardisation, organisation and culture,

Harmonisation of certification and recognition of laboratories and their test results cannot succeed without mutual recognition of the relevant national regulations and procedures,

Confidence requires transparency and is an indispensable element for mutual recognition of national standards concerning certification and the results of laboratory tests,

For the purpose of standardisation, it would be preferable to have a European reference infrastructure, with veterinary competence,

The Office International des Epizooties has solid and recognised experience in the harmonisation of international veterinary standards governing international exchange of animals and animal products,

In Europe there are other organisations devoted to standardisation within the field of certification and testing of laboratories, and these could contribute to international veterinary standardisation,

The principles of harmonisation of regulations within the European Union could provide a valuable reference,

The Federation of Veterinarians in Europe has drawn up principles of certification which could form a useful basis for standardisation activities,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. In Europe, acceptance of international veterinary certification and laboratory testing procedures should be based on mutual recognition of certificates, which should be issued and controlled by Veterinary Services. The Veterinary Services should follow harmonised standards of certification and of approval of laboratories, which should be accredited according to internationally recognised standards.
2. The Office International des Epizooties, by reason of the worldwide role it plays in veterinary standardisation, be the reference infrastructure for Europe for harmonising activities in international certification, approval of laboratories, and testing procedures.
3. The OIE International Animal Health Code and Standards Commissions should consider using standards of the series EN 45000 to evaluate international veterinary certification and testing laboratories, and the appropriateness of instituting an Ad hoc Group for this purpose.
4. The Office International des Epizooties should utilise the "twelve principles" presented to the 16th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Europe as a starting point for developing a system for harmonisation of international veterinary certification in Europe.
5. The OIE should enter into agreements with European organisations for standardisation for the joint development of norms related to harmonisation of international veterinary certification, and approval of laboratories and diagnostic procedures.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 1 July 1994 during its 16th Conference and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 17 May 1995)