



**OIE STANDARDS ON ANIMAL
IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY,
AND THE LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH
THESE STANDARDS IN AFRICA**



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

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Presentation Layout



- 1. Background information**
 - **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)**
 - **Animal Identification and traceability**
- 2. General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals**
- 3. Guidelines on the design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability**
- 4. Level of compliance with Animal identification and Traceability in Africa**
- 5. Conclusion**

Background Information - OIE



- An International Standard setting body for **Animal health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health (Zoonosis)**
- Works through OIE Delegate, Director of VS for the 180 member countries
- Standards are constantly made and reviewed, and approved by the World Assembly of Delegates at the Annual General Session of the OIE

Background Information - OIE



International Standard-Setting Organizations



BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- In Africa, animal ID for *ownership* (stock theft control) is an ancient practice – naming of animals and marks such skin marks/colours, ear notching and iron branding etc.
- Commercialization of livestock production brought more complex modes of animal identification like ear tagging, tattooing, freeze-branding, etc. primarily for *management* purposes.
- Nowadays animal identification and traceability are crucial in *animal health* and *food safety*, id devices are complex - microchips, digital ear tags and boluses. etc.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- Animal identification redefined to include *registration* of an animal individually or as a group.
- *Registration* refers to collection, recording, securely storing and making information accessible and useable by Competent Authorities, (DVS).
- Animals can be followed individually or as a group during all stages of their life -- animal traceability.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- **traceability of live domestic animals and of products of animal origin has become a legal requirement, and it is a crucial for international trade** - provides assurance to consumers of safe and high quality animal products.
- MC requested OIE to develop standards in this area;
 - 1999: OIE Regional Conference for the Middle East
 - 2005: OIE Regional Conference for Africa in Khartoum

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- 2001 Special edition of the Rev. Sci. & Tech. on Traceability of Animals and Animal Products
- In 2004 the OIE assessed the global situation through a MC questionnaire on animal identification and traceability
- In May 2006 the OIE International Committee adopted **General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION



- In 2007- **Guidelines for the design and implementation of animal traceability**
- These are the basis for the current Chapters 4.1 and 4.2 of the TAHC.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY OF LIVE ANIMALS

The objective - to outline the basic requirements for the design and implementation of an animal identification system to achieve traceability, without being too prescriptive.

A traceability system need not be too complicated – it must be applicable to MC unique situation but achieving traceability

General principles – Definitions



- **Animal identification** means the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.
- **Animal identification system** means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments/owners, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with animal identification.

General principles – Definitions



- **Registration** is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilised by the Competent Authority.
- **Animal traceability** means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.

1- Animal identification and animal traceability are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses) and food safety issues. Relevant activities include:

- the management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents,
- vaccination programmes,
- herd/flock husbandry,
- zoning/compartmentalisation,
- surveillance, early response and notification systems,
- animal movement controls,
- inspection, certification, fair practices in trade
- utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides.

General principles



- 2- There is a strong relationship between **animal** identification and the traceability of animals and **products** of animal origin.

- 3- Animal traceability and traceability of products of animal origin should have the **capability to be linked** to achieve traceability throughout the animal production and food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards

4- The objectives of animal identification and animal traceability for a country, zone or compartment and the approach used should be clearly defined following an assessment of the risks to be addressed and a consideration of the factors listed.

They should be defined in consultation between the Veterinary Authority and relevant sectors/stakeholders and periodically reviewed.

5- Factors that determine the system chosen include

- the outcomes of the risk assessment
- the animal and public health situation and related programmes,
- animal population parameters: species, breed, numbers, distribution
- types of production
- animal movement patterns
- available technologies
- trade in animals and animal products
- cost/benefit analysis and other economic, geographical and environmental considerations and
- cultural aspects.

General principles

6- Animal identification and animal traceability should be under the responsibility of the Veterinary Authority.

Other Authorities may have jurisdiction over other aspects of the food chain, including food traceability.



General principles



7- The Veterinary Authority, with relevant governmental agencies and in consultation with the private sector, should establish a legal framework for the implementation and enforcement of animal identification and animal traceability in the country.



General principles



7- This legal framework should include elements such as:

- relevant international standards and obligations
- the objectives and scope of the system
- organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration,
- the obligations of the parties involved including third parties confidentiality of information
- accessibility to information and arrangements for exchange.

Relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account.

8- Whatever the specific objectives of the chosen animal identification system and animal traceability, there is a series of common basic factors and these must be considered before implementation, such as:

- the legal framework,
- procedures,
- the Competent Authority,
- identification of establishments/owners,
- animal identification and
- animal movements.

General principles

9- **Equivalent outcomes** based on performance criteria rather than identical systems based on design criteria should be the basis for comparison of animal identification systems and animal traceability.



GUIDELINES ON THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO ACHIEVE ANIMAL TRACEABILITY

These are basic elements to be considered in the design and implementation of an animal identification system to achieve animal traceability.

Guidelines on the design and implementation



- **A country should design a programme in accordance with the scope and relevant performance criteria to ensure that the desired animal traceability outcomes can be achieved.**
- **All stages should be designed and implemented in consultation with all stakeholders**

Guidelines on the design and implementation



- **Desired outcomes** – consider animal health, public health, management of emergencies, trade and aspects of animal husbandry.
- **Scope** – consider the farming systems - species and sector in general and determine the scope
- **Performance criteria**
 - depends on the desired outcomes and scope of the programme
 - described in quantitative terms according to the epidemiology of the disease.

- **Preliminary studies**

- preliminary studies guide system design
- Pilot projects may form part of the preliminary study to test the system and the implementation of the programme.

Guidelines on the design and implementation



- **Design of the animal identification system and animal traceability programme**
 - Means of animal identification
 - Registration
 - Documentation
 - Reporting
 - Information system
 - Laboratories

- **Design of the animal identification system and animal traceability programme (cont..)**
 - Abattoirs, rendering plants, dead stock collection points, markets and assembly centres
 - Penalties

Guidelines on the design and implementation



- **Legal framework**

- for the implementation and enforcement of animal identification system and animal traceability in the country.

- **Implementation**

- Implementation of the system requires an action plan specifying the timetable and including the milestones and performance indicators, the human and financial resources, and checking, enforcement and verification arrangements.

LEVEL OF COMPLIANCE WITH ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY IN AFRICA



- not been objectively determined; views are largely speculative and subjective.
- uptake for food safety reasons limited only to countries exporting animals and their products to countries with stringent sanitary requirements.
- high costs associated with establishing a complete traceability system and the ICT infrastructure required for effective systems.
- opportunity for trade, MC should innovate and design simple and cost effective systems suitable to their situations

CONCLUSION



- Animal identification and traceability;
 - is important tool for the control of animal diseases and assuring consumers of the safety of animal products.
 - provides consumers with accurate information on the source and quality of the products and their link to a specific location of origin;
 - should be custom made to suit individual MC, given their unique situation, and

CONCLUSION (CONT..)



- Should be designed by the veterinary authority in collaboration with all stakeholders – for sustainability and success
- The OIE will continue to develop standards using the expertise available to it, as well as in collaboration with partners to promote safe trade in animals and animal products.



*Thank you for
your attention*



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