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International work on traceability and identification

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Objectives

1. Ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation
2. Collect, analyze, and disseminate scientific veterinary information
3. Provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases
4. Within its mandate under the WTO SPS Agreement, to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products
5. Improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services
6. Provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach

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Formal Role of OIE Recognized by WTO

Develop international standards based on existing scientific information, taking into account problems of epidemiology and control of animal diseases and health risks associated with importing animals and animal products in countries or regions free of disease and public health risks for animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses).

Develop standards up to the first processing stage of products, taking into account the work under way at other international organizations, in particular the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

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International work on Traceability

- Regular debates since 2001 at meetings of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and OIE Regional Commissions
- Concept of traceability in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code:
  - Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
  - Organization and structure of Veterinary Services
  - Classical swine fever

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International work on Traceability

- Concept of traceability in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code:
  - Evaluation criteria for the organizational structure of the Veterinary Services

"Organizational components of Veterinary Services which have responsibility for key functional capabilities should be identified. These capabilities include epidemiological surveillance, disease control, import controls, animal disease reporting systems, animal identification systems, **traceability systems**, animal movement control systems, communication of epidemiological information, training, inspection and certification."

- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy

Veterinary Administrations should require, for fresh meat and meat products from cattle, the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that **a traceability system** is in operation enabling the fresh meat and meat products destined for export to be traced back to the establishments from which they are derived.

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International work on Traceability

- Concept of traceability in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code:
  - Classical swine fever

"A country or zone may be considered free from the disease in domestic and wild pigs after conducting a risk assessment as referred to in Article 2.1.13.2. and if ...a **reliable tracing back procedure is in place for all pigs** leaving their establishment of origin."

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**International work on Traceability and Identification**

OIE questionnaire sent to 167 Member Countries:  
Responses from 93 countries

**Purpose of Animal Identification (%)**

	Cattle	Sheep	Swine	Poultry
Animal health	80	51	49	30
Ownership	75	52	47	32
Public health	67	38	39	24
Movement	67	47	48	19
Domestic trade	56	38	39	20
International trade	55	44	34	22
Genetics	48	30	31	15
Exhibitions/competitions	33	26	24	7
Quality	28	16	16	10
Fiscalization	10	3	5	2

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**Identification Regulations**

78% of countries have animal identification regulations.

Competent national authorities: 33 countries for cattle  
22 countries for sheep/goats  
20 countries for swine  
11 countries for poultry

**Traceability Regulations**

69% of countries have traceability regulations.

Competent national authorities: 30 countries for cattle  
19 countries for sheep/goats  
18 countries for swine  
13 countries for poultry

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**Mandatory Identification**

75% of countries for cattle  
=> 34% of countries identify herds

45% of countries for sheep  
=> 30% of countries identify herds

42% of countries for swine  
=> 35% of countries identify herds

26% of countries for poultry

Note: For many countries, this does not apply to all livestock.

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**Identification Techniques Used**

	Cattle	Swine	Sheep	Poultry
Hot-iron branding	41	1	1	0
Cold branding	9	3	1	0
Ear tags	77	42	59	1
Rings	17	10	11	11
Tattoos	20	39	26	2
Electronic chips	10	2	7	3
DNA	6	2	2	0
Drawings	8	2	0	0
Photos	10	3	1	1

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**Identification Mode**

	Cattle	Sheep	Swine
Identification at birth	77	43	30
Identification upon entering the farm	40	23	20
Identification upon leaving the farm	22	26	32
Re-identification of imported animals	57	37	26
Identification using country code	55	26	23
Identification using herd number	13	15	25
Identification by the owner	49	36	32
Identification by a specialised technician	11	8	8
Identification by a veterinarian	11	7	7

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**Document Use**

	Cattle	Swine	Sheep	Poultry
Transportation between two farms	70	64	44	34
Transportation from farm to market	70	49	47	36
Transportation between farm and abattoir	75	49	51	52
Individual document (one per animal)	48	10	22	6
Document for a group of animals	52	43	45	44

**Non-use of Registers**

6 countries for cattle, 7 for sheep, 7 for swine, 11 for poultry

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**OIE International work on Traceability and Identification**

- Identification and traceability are key tools in the sphere of animal health, public health, and trade.
- Differences in identification and traceability systems can be felt in the quality of information transmitted.
- Guidelines and standards are required for the sake of animal health, public health, and trade.
- Technical assistance and audit engagements are requested from the OIE.
- Standardization of exchange of "identification and traceability" data is requested.

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**OIE Resolution Adopted at the 2004 General Session**

- The OIE, in close collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission, should determine a common definition for animal traceability and propose guidelines for the development of identification and traceability systems that are appropriate for the risk involved to attain the desired outcomes.
- The OIE should disseminate updated information on animal identification and traceability, including the latest advances in the field.

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**OIE Resolution Adopted at the 2004 General Session**

- The OIE, in collaboration with other international organisations, should provide Member Countries with specialised technical assistance to facilitate the design and implementation of animal identification and traceability systems.
- The OIE should define criteria for establishing work priorities, also taking into account the needs of developing countries.
- Launch of ad hoc work group in second quarter of 2005

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**OIE New standards on identification & traceability adopted in 2006 GS**

**Definitions**

Animal identification means 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*

Animal traceability means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stage(s) of its(their) life(lives)

Registration is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, traceability, certification, epidemiology, *establishments*) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be used by the *Competent Authority*

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**OIE New standards on identification & traceability adopted in 2006 GS**

**General principles**

1. There is a critical relationship between *animal identification* and the traceability of animals and *products of animal origin*.
2. *Animal traceability* and traceability of *products of animal origin* should have the capability to be linked to achieve traceability throughout the food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.
3. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* are important tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses) and food safety. These and may significantly improve the effectiveness of: 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 and assurances of safety, fair practices in trade and the utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides at farm level.

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**OIE New standards on identification & traceability adopted in 2006 GS**

**General principles (cont'd)**

4. The objective(s) and outcomes of *animal identification* and *animal traceability* for a particular 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 below. They should be defined through consultation between the *Veterinary Administration* and relevant sector(s) sectors/stakeholders prior to implementation, and periodically reviewed.

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**General principles** (cont'd)

5. There are various factors which may determine the chosen approach system for animal identification and animal traceability. Factors such as the outcomes of the risk assessment, the animal and public health situation (including zoonoses), animal population parameters (such as species and breeds, numbers and distribution), types of production, animal movement patterns, available technologies, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis and other economic considerations, and cultural aspects, should be taken into account when designing the approach system. Whatever approach system is used, it should comply with relevant OIE standards to ensure that the defined objectives are able to be achieved.

**General principles** (cont'd)

6. *Animal identification* and *animal traceability* should be under the responsibility of the *Veterinary Administration*.
7. The *Veterinary Administration* in consultation 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. In order to facilitate compatibility and consistency, relevant international standards and obligations should be taken into account. This legal framework should include elements such as the objectives, scope, organisational arrangements including the choice of technologies used for identification and registration, obligation of the parties, confidentiality, accessibility issues and the efficient exchange of information.

**General principles** (cont'd)

8. Whatever the specific objectives of the chosen *animal identification system* and *animal traceability*, there is a series of basic factors that are common to all systems, and these must be considered before their implementation, such as the legal framework, procedures, *Competent Authority*, identification of *establishments/owners*, *animal identification* and animal movements.
9. The equivalent outcomes (performance criteria), rather than identical systems (design criteria), should be the basis for comparison of *animal identification systems* and *animal traceability*.

**Guidelines for animal identification and traceability**

The purpose of these guidelines for animal identification and traceability is to provide an instrument for OIE Member Countries to improve animal health and public health as well as to ensure better management of health crises at national and international levels.

Animal traceability requires an efficient animal identification system in order to ensure a continuum in the food production chain.

Several steps need to be taken before implementation can commence.

This system can be used to assist in meeting other objectives such as: quality assurance programmes, certified products, organic farming, ownership.

The development and implementation of the system should be done in consultation with representatives of the applicable animal and industry sectors.

The scope of these guidelines is to present the main points that constitute a system for identification and traceability of live animals as well as the outcomes required.

**The WORK is in progress .....**