

OIE's Standards Governing Electronic Veterinary Certification



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future

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OIE under WTO SPS Agreement



Encouraging “harmonization”

“establishment, recognition and application of common sanitary and phytosanitary measures by different Members...”

Annex A, 2

“the relevant international organizations”



Article 3

OIE Standards = Codes and Manuals

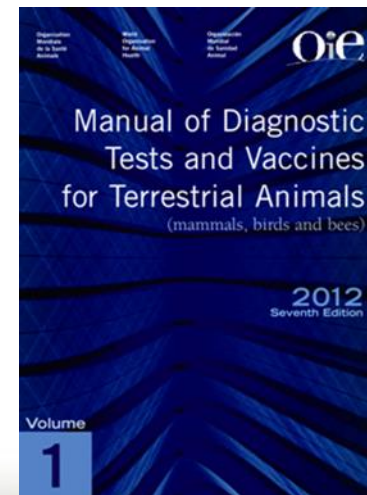
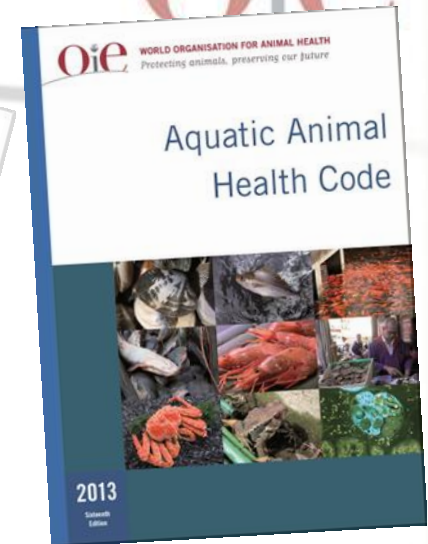


❑ Terrestrial Animal Health Code

❑ Aquatic Animal Health Code

❑ Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

❑ Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals



OIE Standards on Certification

Chapter 5.2. Certification Procedures



Art. 5.2.1. Protection of the professional integrity of the certifying veterinarian

Art. 5.2.2. Certifying veterinarians

Certifying veterinarians should:.....

Art. 5.2.3. Preparation of international veterinary certificates

Certificates should be drawn up in accordance with the following principles:.....

Art. 5.2.4. Electronic certification

Added to the Chapter in late 1990s'

Updated in 2014 by EU's request

Art.5.2.4. Electronic certification



- 1) Certification may be provided by electronic exchange of data sent directly from the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to the Veterinary Authority of the importing country.
 - a) Systems providing electronic certificates normally provide an interface with the commercial organisation marketing the commodity for provision of information to the certifying authority. The certifying veterinarian should have access to all information such as laboratory results and animal identification data.
 - b) ..
 - c) ..

Art.5.2.4. Electronic certification



- 1) Certification may be provided by electronic exchange of data sent directly from the [Veterinary Authority](#) of the [exporting country](#) to the [Veterinary Authority](#) of the [importing country](#).
 - a) ...
 - b) When exchanging electronic certificates and in order to fully utilise electronic data exchange the [Veterinary Authorities](#) should use internationally standardised language, message structure and exchange protocols. Guidance for electronic certification in standardised Extensible Markup Language (XML) as well as secure exchange mechanisms between [Veterinary Authorities](#) is provided by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).
 - c)...

Art.5.2.4. Electronic certification



- 1) Certification may be provided by electronic exchange of data sent directly from the Veterinary Authority of the exporting country to the Veterinary Authority of the importing country.
 - a) ..
 - b) ..
 - c) A secure method of electronic data exchange should be ensured by digital authentication of the certificates, encryption, non-repudiation mechanisms, controlled and audited access and firewalls.

Art.5.2.4. Electronic certification

- 2) Electronic certificates may be in a different format but should carry the same information as conventional paper certificates.
- 3) The *Veterinary Authority* should have in place systems for the security of electronic certificates against access by unauthorised persons or organisations.
- 4) The certifying *veterinarian* should be officially responsible for the secure use of his/her electronic signature.

Past discussions on electronic certification



Discussion paper on Electronic Certification

- The ad hoc Group on the Use of Animals in Research and Education recommended that the OIE champion the use of electronic health certification, with the possibility of using laboratory animals as a pilot project (in 2011).
- The Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission discussed the movement towards as well as merits of electronic certification. And discussion paper was distributed among member countries as a part of Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission meeting report.

http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/International_Standard_Setting/docs/pdf/A_TAHSC_SEP_2011_Introduction.pdf

Recent discussion

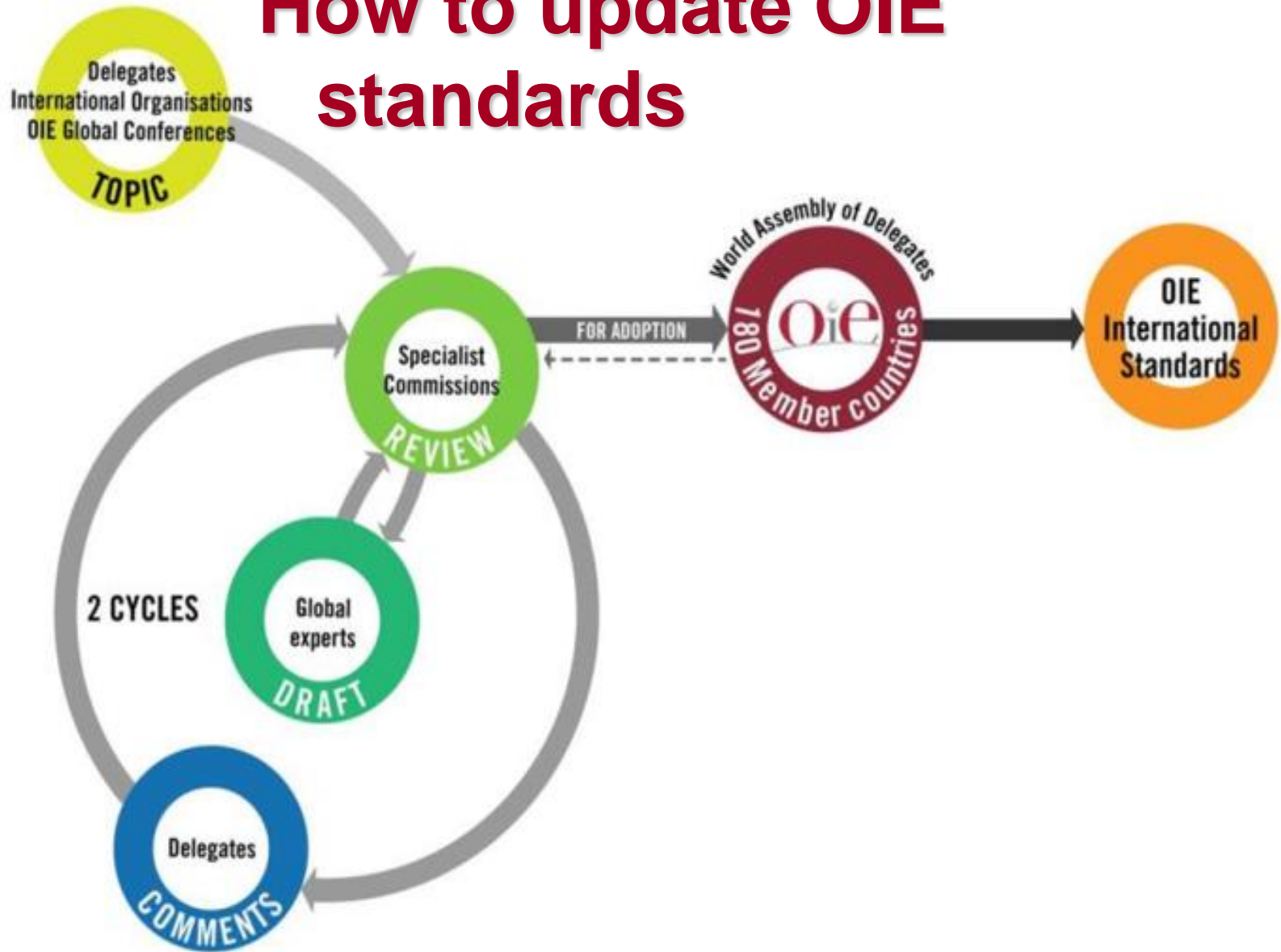
During the 84th OIE General Session in May 2016

- One Member Country encouraged the OIE to commence further work on electronic certification and noted that there is scope for collaboration on this issue with the Codex Alimentarius Commission.
- Another Country also noted the importance of electronic certification and stated that it is implementing this on a bilateral basis, in accordance with the definitions in Article 5.2.4.



If Member Countries considered it necessary with high propriety, further work may be started

How to update OIE standards



Updating OIE standards (1/4)



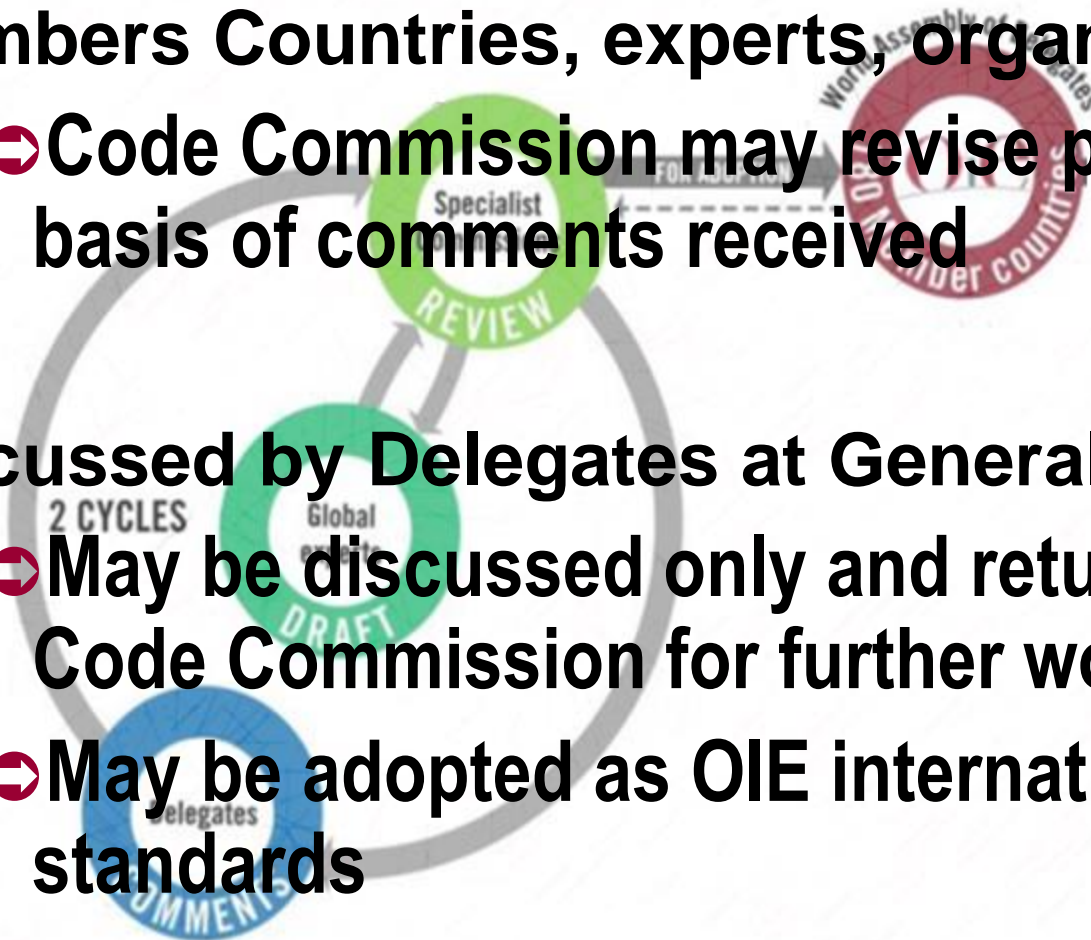
- > **Issue / problem**
 - ➔ **New scientific information e.g. from research or disease outbreak**
 - ➔ **New diseases – emerging**
 - ➔ **New approach e.g. vaccination**
- > **Issue / problem identified by Delegates, OIE Commission, industry, scientists, individuals, SPS Committee of WTO...**

Updating OIE standards (2/4)

- > **Addressed as new or revised standard if**
 - ⇒ **Wide support from MC to the proposal**
 - ⇒ **Scientific information is available to develop the standards**
 - ⇒ **The proposal is in link with the OIE 6th Strategic Plan priorities**
- > **Using working groups and ad hoc groups for specialist tasks**
- > **Passing through relevant Commissions**

Updating OIE standards (3/4)

- > Proposal circulated for comments to Members Countries, experts, organisations
 - ⇒ Code Commission may revise proposal on basis of comments received
- > Discussed by Delegates at General Session
 - ⇒ May be discussed only and returned to Code Commission for further work
 - ⇒ May be adopted as OIE international standards



Updating OIE standards (4/4)



- **Adoption during the General Session in May**
 - **By consensus in most cases**
 - **By vote (2/3 majority, quorum needed)**
- **Revisions to the Codes are adopted via Resolutions of the World Assembly of Delegates**

Thank you for your attention!



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