

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENT G/SPS/13
PROCEDURE TO MONITOR
THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL HARMONIZATION

First annual report

Communication from the Office International des Epizooties

1. By letter of 16 July 1999, Mr. A. Swart, Chairman of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, drew the attention of Dr. N.G. Willis, President of the International Committee of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) to issues of relevance to the Office raised in the document entitled "Procedure to monitor the process of international harmonization – First annual report", reference number G/SPS/13. This letter was forwarded to the Bureau of the OIE International Animal Health Code Commission.

2. The Bureau of the Code Commission examined document G/SPS/13 when it met at the OIE Headquarters in Paris from 13 to 16 September 1999. The Bureau duly noted the issues relevant to the field of animal health raised in that document.

Chicken meat and infectious bursal disease

3. The Bureau of the Code Commission noted that Chapter 3.6.1. of the *International Animal Health Code* (the *Code*) provided recommendations on international trade in domestic birds, day-old chicks and hatching eggs from domestic birds but remained silent on the subject of products derived from birds, and in particular on chicken meat. To decide whether it would be appropriate to include provisions on chicken meat in the aforementioned chapter, the Bureau asked experts from the OIE Reference Laboratories for infectious bursal disease for information on the probability of finding the causal virus in fresh meat obtained from chickens that were healthy at the time of slaughter, the effect of refrigeration and freezing on the survival of the virus in chicken meat, etc.

4. The replies submitted by the Reference Laboratory experts will be examined by the Code Commission when it meets in January 2000.

Frequency of health controls to be carried out on bulls at artificial insemination centres

5. The health controls to be carried out on bulls at artificial insemination centres are described both in the *Code* chapters dealing with diseases transmissible by semen and in the appendices relating to artificial insemination in bovines.

6. The Bureau of the Code Commission has invited a specialist to submit proposals aimed at greater harmonization of these chapters and appendices.

Certification of origin of animals

7. The Bureau of the Code Commission intends to deal with the certification of the origin of animals within the framework of its deliberations on the traceability of animals and animal products.

Certification requirements on diseases transmitted through meat products

8. With regard to certification requirements on diseases transmitted through meat and meat products, the Bureau of the Code Commission noted that the relevant recommendations were given disease by disease in the various chapters of the *Code*, and that the recommendations should not be restricted to List A diseases.
