
Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

Communication from the Office International des Epizooties

Addendum

The following communication was received from the Office international des épizooties (OIE) on 3 November 2000.

1. The Bureau of the International Animal Health Code Commission of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) met at the OIE headquarters from 25 to 29 September 2000. During the meeting, the Bureau continued its examination of matters concerning the OIE raised in the document entitled "Procedure to Monitor the Process of International Harmonisation", reference number G/SPS/13.

A. CHICKEN MEAT AND INFECTIOUS BURSAL DISEASE

2. The Bureau examined the replies from three experts to questions posed by the Code Commission on infectious bursal disease (IBD) virus and its possible transfer via chicken meat. The replies confirmed that the IBD virus is highly resistant to heating and freezing, that there is a wide variety of strains with varying degrees of virulence, that there are several forms of the disease (ranging from immunosuppression to high mortality) and that there are different vaccination strategies.

3. It was evident that there remain significant gaps in the necessary scientific information to develop specific recommendations for trade in chicken meat. The Bureau will request the Director General to convene an Ad hoc Group to determine the key areas in which further research is required before further development of the chapter is possible.

B. FREQUENCY OF HEALTH CONTROLS TO BE CARRIED OUT ON BULLS AT ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION CENTRES

4. The Bureau of the Code Commission took note of the conclusions of the two meetings of international specialists on reproduction held in Brussels (Belgium) in May 2000 and Stockholm (Sweden) in July 2000, respectively. These meetings enabled the development of revised draft appendices relating to bulls and artificial insemination centres and the hygienic collection and processing of bovine semen.

5. These draft appendices will be submitted to the OIE Member Countries for comment. Any comments received will be examined at the meeting of the International Animal Health Code Commission in January 2001.

C. CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN OF ANIMALS

6. Issue No. 2 of volume 20 of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, which will deal with the traceability of animals and animal products, is due to be published in August 2001. The International Animal Health Code Commission intends to make use of the information published in this issue to allow its deliberations on the certification of the origin of animals to go into the subject in greater depth.
