

**THE BRAZILIAN BOVINE AND BUBALINE IDENTIFICATION AND  
CERTIFICATION SYSTEM (SISBOV)**

Communication from Brazil

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**Background**

1. Animal traceability and identification are issues of growing importance for international trade of animals and animal products. Although there is not an internationally agreed definition for animal traceability, some countries, including Brazil, have adopted animal identification systems as a tool for preventing and controlling animal diseases and promoting international trade of animal products.
2. It is important to note that animal identification and traceability is not an end in itself. Under well-defined circumstances, and based on scientific criteria, the implementation of animal identification systems contributes to accurate information recovery, which is useful to support veterinary actions to protect human and animal health.
3. Recent sanitary events such as the dioxin crisis and BSE have imposed huge economic costs to governments and consumers. Due to unusual dissemination patterns, these emergent diseases have also imposed new challenges for national sanitary authorities, mainly for prevention and control of disease outbreaks. Traceability has emerged as an important aid for sanitary services to face this new challenge.
4. In order to prevent risks related to diseases with different transmission patterns (contamination by feed from other animals of the same species) and to provide consumers with assurances that animal products do not pose any risk to human health, countries like Brazil have adjusted their sanitary control systems based on the production system as a whole. This adjustment has led to the adoption of a system capable of identifying the origin of the cause of a sanitary event by establishing a link between the end product and the animal from which the product is derived.
5. The implementation of an animal identification and traceability system can also provide fringe benefits such as value added to animals and animal products.

**The Brazilian Bovine and Bubaline Identification and Certification System (SISBOV)**

6. The Brazilian Bovine and Bubaline Identification and Certification System (SISBOV) was adopted in January 2002 by Instruction Norm N° 1/2002. The SISBOV consists of actions, measures, and procedures to characterize the origin, the sanitary status, the production and the productivity of the Brazilian cattle raising system, as well as the safety of products obtained from this activity.

7. The legislation related to the SISBOV is applied to the whole territory and covers all cattle raising farms and production facilities that process bovine and bubaline products and by-products.

8. The SISBOV is based on an individual identification of the animal from its birth to its slaughter or natural or accidental death. All movements of the animal shall be included in its record. The information is centralized on a single electronic database operated exclusively by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA). The Ministry of Agriculture is also responsible for accrediting private certification entities.

9. The system was originally designed to comply with specific import requirements from some importing markets. Given the sanitary and trade benefits of the system, it has been expanded according to a transition schedule to cover all bovine and bubaline production sites in Brazil. The program is constantly under review due to the specificity of the Brazilian production system (pasture feeding, number of heads, size of herds, etc.)

### **International initiatives**

10. At its last meeting, held in Paris in May 2004, Member States of the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) approved a resolution on future work of the organization in the field of animal identification and traceability. The OIE should work in close collaboration with the Codex Alimentarius Commission with a view to achieve a common definition of animal traceability and also to propose guidelines for the development of identification and traceability system adequate to sanitary risks.

11. Brazil welcomes this initiative and would like to express its support to the work to be undertaken by the OIE and Codex Alimentarius in this field. As already mentioned, animal identification and traceability systems are important tools for safeguarding animal and human health.

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