

WTO SPS Agreement principles

General overview of WOH

Standards

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WOAH Standards Department



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE



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Framework for safe international trade

The framework to structure the discussions between exporting and importing countries and to agree on the sanitary requirements to be applied to achieve fair and safe trade of live animals and animal products is defined by...



The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements



Regional trade agreements

OIE international Standards





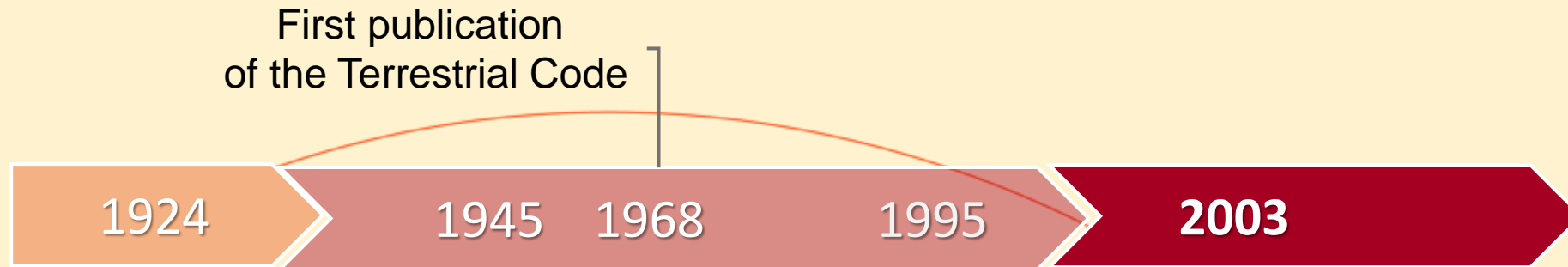
The World Trade Organization (WTO)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the international organization dealing with the global rules of trade. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

- Was established 1 January 1995
- 164 members, accounting for 98% of world trade.
- its roles:
 - operates a global system of trade rules,
 - acts as a forum for negotiating trade agreements,
 - settles trade disputes between its members, and
 - it supports the needs of developing countries.



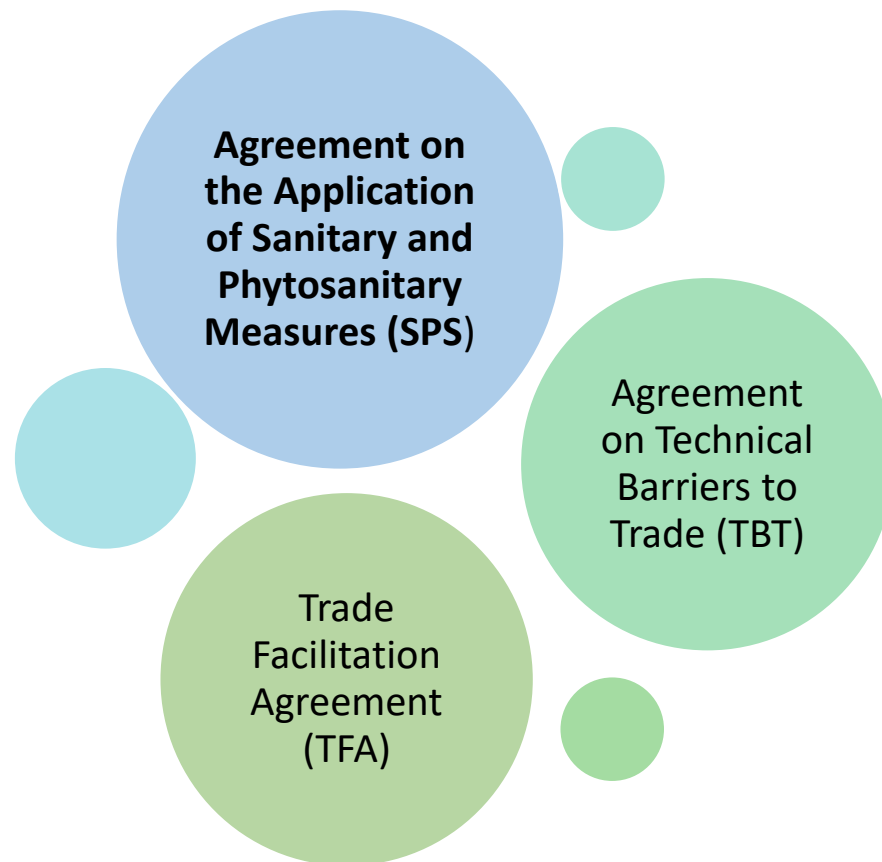
Timeline



First publication
of the Terrestrial Code

Establishment of the World Trade Organization
Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and
Phytosanitary Measures

Relevant WTO agreements



WTO Agreements define the legal rights and obligations of trading partners and reflect general WTO principles such as transparency, non-discrimination and harmonisation with international standards.



WORLD TRADE
ORGANIZATION

WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

Reach a balance between...

**The right to protect
animal, plant and
human life and
health**



**Avoiding
unnecessary barriers
to trade**

“applies to all sanitary and phytosanitary measures which may, directly or indirectly, affect international trade”



Definition of **sanitary measure**

- *Sanitary or phytosanitary measure - **Any measure applied:***
 - *to protect animal life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of diseases, disease-carrying organisms or disease-causing organisms;*
 - *to protect human or animal life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from disease-causing organisms in foods, beverages or feedstuffs;*
 - *to protect human life or health within the territory of the Member from risks arising from diseases carried by animals or products thereof, or from the entry, establishment or spread of pests; or*
 - *to prevent or limit other damage within the territory of the Member from the entry, establishment or spread of pests.*
- Include all relevant laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures including, inter alia, end product criteria; **processes and production methods; testing, inspection, certification and approval procedures; quarantine treatments** including relevant requirements associated with the transport of animals or plants, or with the materials necessary for their survival during transport; provisions on relevant statistical methods, sampling procedures and methods of risk assessment; and packaging and labelling requirements directly related to food safety.



Harmonisation

- SPS measures shall be based on scientific principles (Article 2.2)
- A country's sanitary measures must be based on International standards (Article 3.1)
 - ↳ For animal health and zoonosis:
WOHAN Standards

Scientific risk assessment

- In the absence of a relevant international standard; or when a Member chooses to adopt a higher level of protection than the international standards provide, a country's sanitary measures must be based on risk assessment (Articles 3.3 & 5)

Regionalisation

- Members shall recognise the concept of disease-free areas, whether all of a country, part of a country, or all or parts of several countries (Article 6)
- Members shall ensure sanitary measures take into account (Article 6):
 - Disease prevalence
 - The existence of eradication or control programmes
 - The criteria or guidelines developed by the relevant international organisations



Equivalence

- Members shall accept the sanitary measures of other Members as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Members trading in the same product, if the exporting Member objectively demonstrates that they achieve the importing Member's appropriate level of sanitary protection (Article 4)

Non discrimination

- Members shall ensure that their sanitary measures do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between Members where identical or similar conditions prevail, including between their own territory and that of other Members (Article 2)
- Sanitary measures shall not be applied in a manner which would constitute a disguised restriction on international trade (Article 2)

Least trade restrictive

- When establishing or maintaining sanitary measures, Members shall ensure that their appropriate level of sanitary protection is achieved through the application of measures that are least restrictive to trade, taking into account technical and economic feasibility (Article 5).

Transparency

- Members shall notify changes in their sanitary measures and shall provide information on their sanitary measures (Article 7)

WOAH International Standards

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes provide standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including through standards for safe international trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products. The manuals provide a standardised approach to the diagnosis of the diseases listed in the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes.



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WOAH international standards

WOAH establishes standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide, including the prevention of disease spread through international trade of animals and animal products.

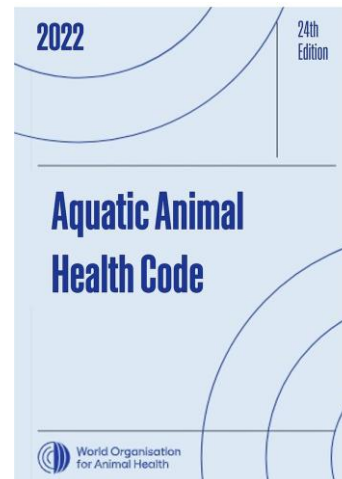
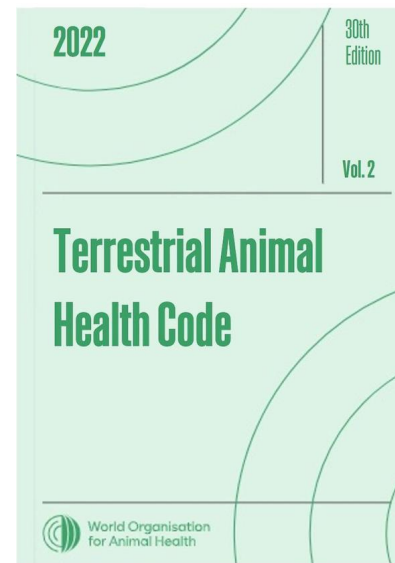
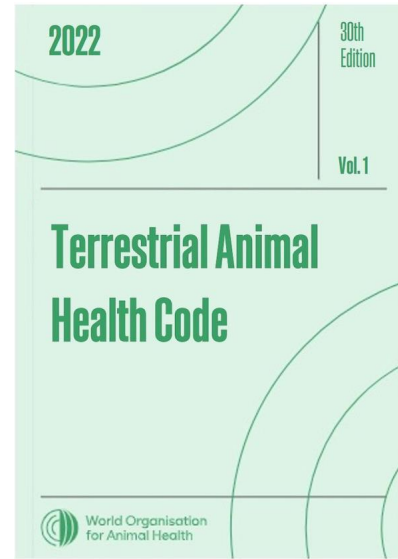
WOAH is recognised by the WTO SPS Agreement as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.



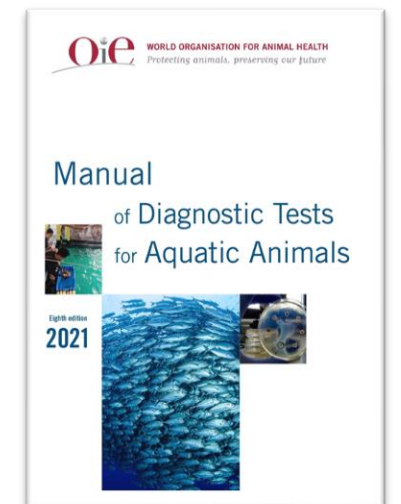
WOAH standards contribute to a **fairer rules-based trading system** by supporting **international harmonisation**.

WOAH international standards

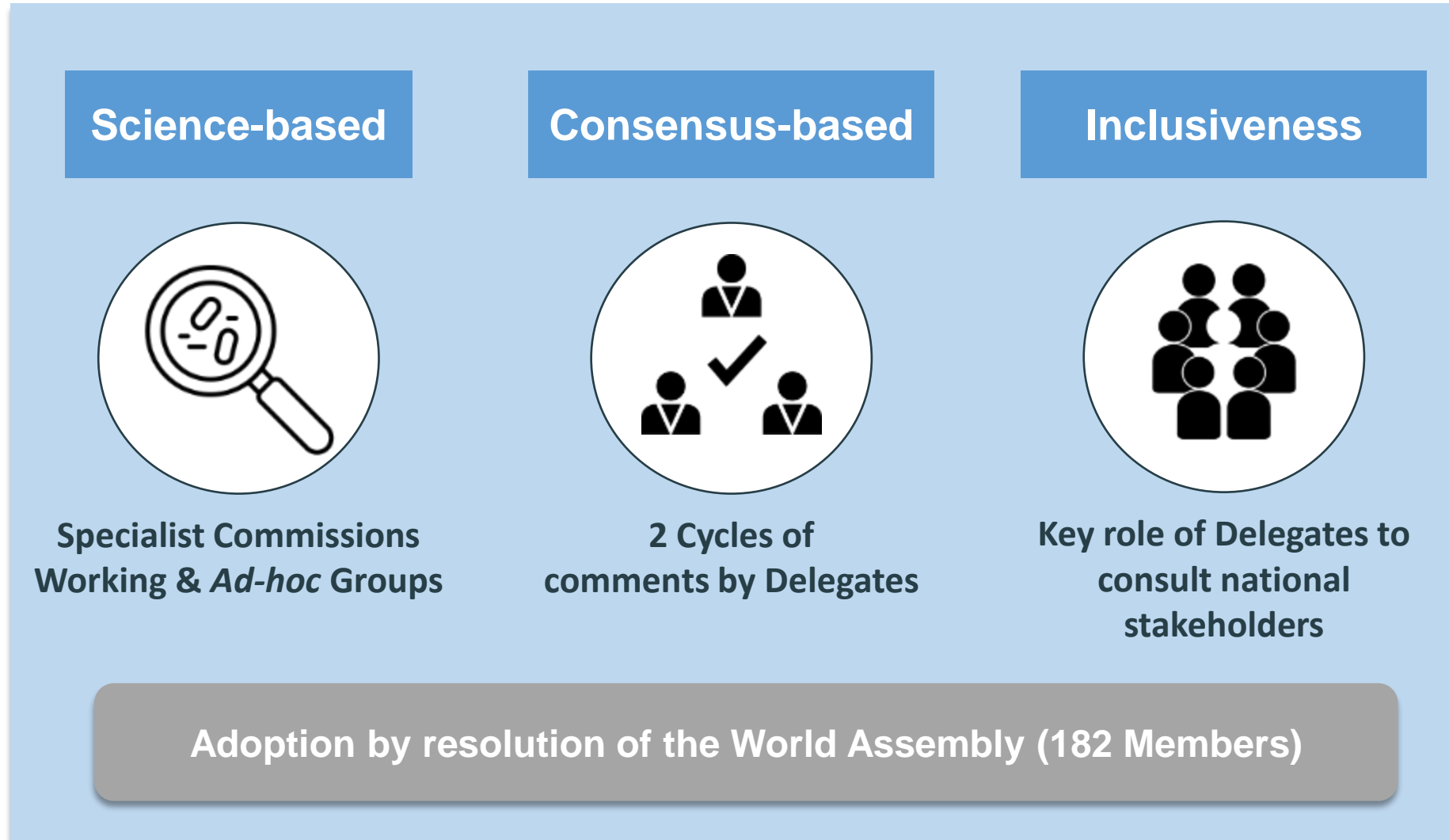
Codes



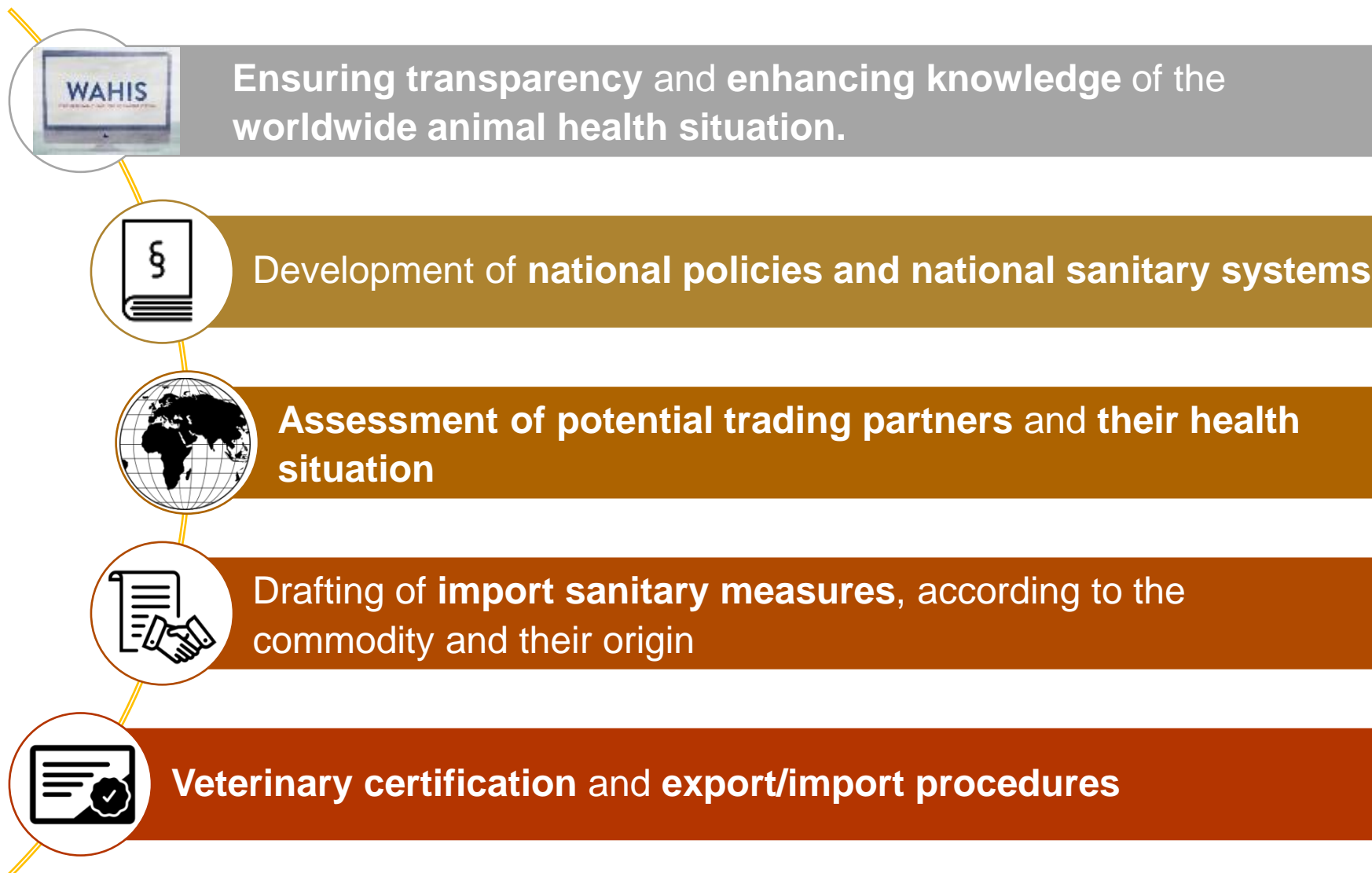
Manuals



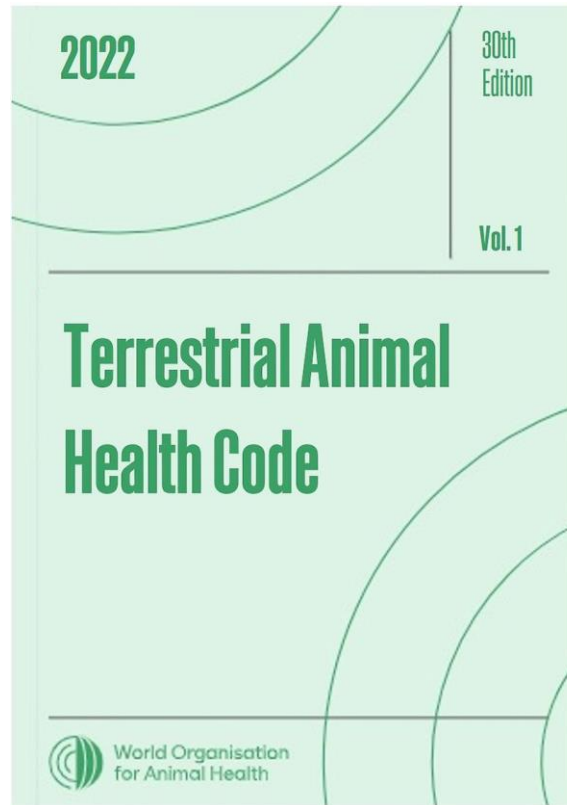
The principles of WOH standard setting process



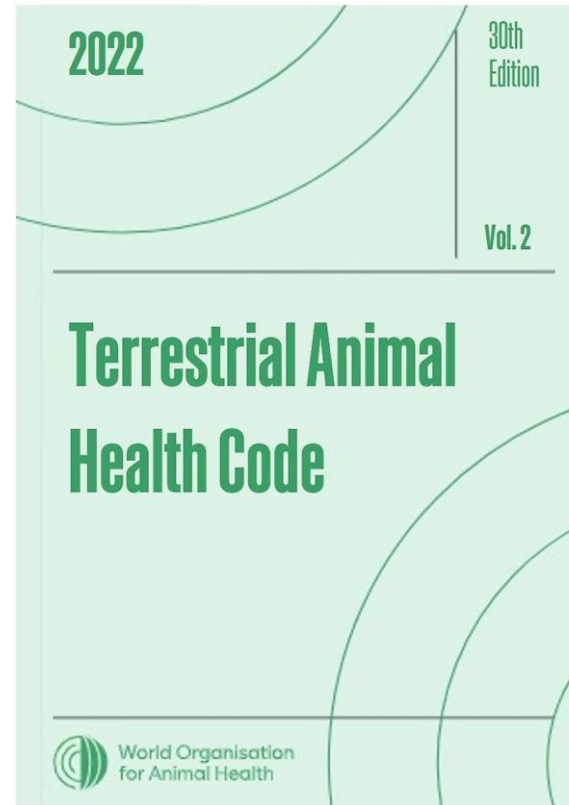
WOAH international standards, the basis for...



Terrestrial Code



Volume I
User's guide and
Horizontal chapters



Volume II
Disease-specific
chapters

- New version every year
- Latest version publicly available on the WOAHS website
- Previous editions are also available

Terrestrial Code - content

Volume I: Horizontal chapters

- User's Guide
- Glossary
- Animal disease diagnosis, surveillance and notification
- Risk analysis
- Quality of Veterinary Services
- Disease prevention and control
- Trade measures, import-export procedures and veterinary certification
- Veterinary public health
- Animal welfare

Volume II: Disease-specific chapters

- **Definition of infection/ infestation** and specific epidemiological considerations
- **Safe commodities** where appropriate
 - Safe commodities = based on absence of the pathogenic agent in the traded commodity OR inactivation by processing or treatment that the commodity has undergone
 - Importing countries should not apply trade restrictions to safe commodities with respect to the pathogenic agent concerned
- **Determination of the animal health status** of a country, zone or compartment
 - Official status recognition
 - Self declaration of animal health status
- **Recommendations on safe trade** for live animals, genetic material, other products of animal origin (meat, milk, eggs, skins, etc.)
- **Specific management** of commodities, e.g.
 - Recommendations on inactivation
 - Vector-protection during transport
- **Recommendations on surveillance**
 - Surveillance strategies specific to infection/ infestation
 - Link to Chapter 1.4 and 1.5 on animal health and vector surveillance

Terrestrial Manual



- **Part 1** contains ten introductory chapters that set general standards for the management of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production facilities;
- **Part 2** comprises specific recommendations and includes eight new chapters of recommendations for validation of diagnostic tests and three new chapters of recommendations for the manufacture of vaccines;
- **Part 3** comprises chapters on WOH listed diseases and other diseases of importance to international trade;
- **Part 4** is the list of WOH Reference Centres at the time of publication.

- Selected chapters updated every year
- Latest version publicly available on the WOH Website

Terrestrial Manual disease specific chapters

- Description of the pathogenic agent, the disease and relevant epidemiological information;
- Detailed recommendations on diagnostic methods and criteria;
- Requirements for vaccines.

Key for practical use in trade
Summary table on diagnostic methods and their purpose



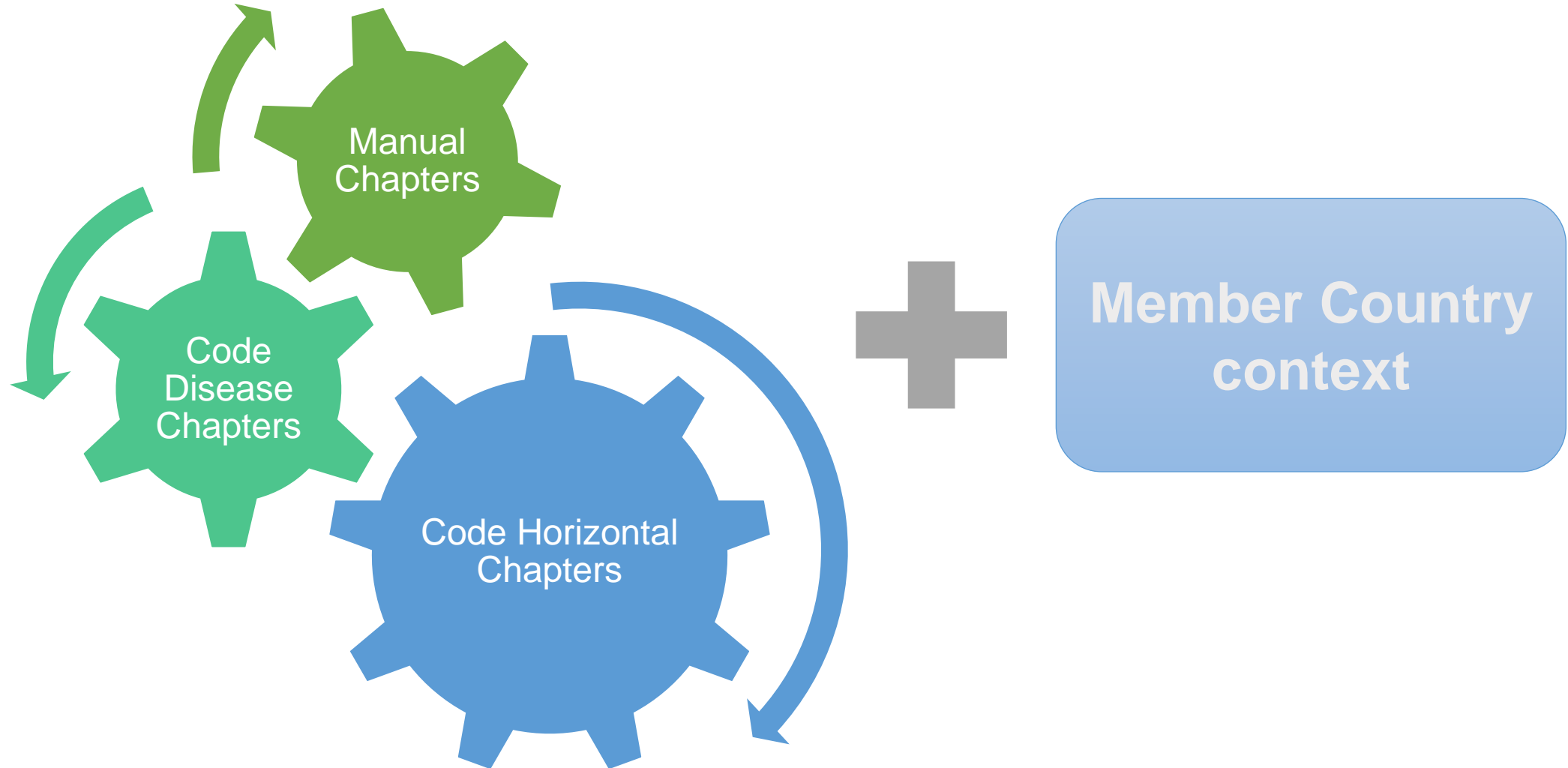
Table 1. Test methods available and their purpose

Method	Purpose					
	Population freedom from infection	Individual animal freedom from infection prior to movement	Contribute to eradication policies	Confirmation of clinical cases	Prevalence of infection – surveillance	Immune status in individual animals or populations post-vaccination
Agent identification						
Virus isolation/ HAD test ¹	n/a	n/a	++	+++	++	–
FAT	n/a	n/a	++	++	+	–
ELISA for antigen detection	+	++	+	+	+	–
Conventional PCR	++	++	++	++	++	–
Real-time PCR	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	–
Detection of immune response						
ELISA	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	–
IPT*	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	–
IFAT*	+++	+++	+++	+	+++	–
IBT*	++	++	++	+	++	–

Key: +++ = recommended for this purpose; ++ recommended but has limitations; + = suitable in very limited circumstances; – = not appropriate for this purpose.
HAD = haemadsorption; FAT= fluorescent antibody test; ELISA = enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay;
PCR = polymerase chain reaction; IPT= indirect immunoperoxidase test;
IFAT = indirect fluorescent antibody test; IBT = immunoblotting test.
*Recommended method as confirmatory serological test.



Using the WOH international standards



Thank you

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