

**OIE TOOL
FOR THE EVALUATION
OF PERFORMANCE OF
VETERINARY SERVICES**



PVS TOOL

2019

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OF PERFORMANCE
OF VETERINARY SERVICES**

PVS TOOL
SEVENTH EDITION, 2019

OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
Seventh Edition, 2019
© World Organisation for Animal Health, 2019
(OIE [Office International des Épizooties])
12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
Telephone: 33-(0)1 44 15 18 88
Fax: 33-(0)1 42 67 09 87
Electronic mail: oie@oie.int
www.oie.int

This document has been prepared by experienced PVS expert members of the OIE Ad Hoc Group on the Evaluation of *Veterinary Services*, convened by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and representing all OIE regions.

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INTRODUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST AND AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD

‘Veterinary Services preserve and develop animal resources, reducing poverty and hunger worldwide through improving rural livelihoods and feeding the world. Their additional impact on global health security by addressing ‘risk at source’ for emerging pandemic threats, antimicrobial resistance and food safety crises further safeguards the planet. For these compelling reasons, supporting the livestock sector through investments in national animal health systems, based on international standards and principles of ‘good governance’, promotes and safeguards trade and protects and develops all communities, from global to local.’

Dr Monique Eloit, OIE Director General

Animals, and the *Veterinary Services* which ensure their protection, are a global public good, playing a vital role in the security and the economic and social wellbeing of humanity.

The rationale for strengthening health systems to counter emerging threats has been never been more convincing, with animal health a key platform. For global and national health security, prevention is better than cure, and there has been a steady and growing realisation that targeting ‘risk at source’ in animal populations is a vital strategy in safeguarding the planet from risks from emerging zoonoses, neglected zoonoses and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). 75% of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are of animal origin; and approximately 60% of all human pathogens are zoonotic. In 2018 the WHO reviewed its ‘Blueprint’ list of diseases to prioritise in public health emergency contexts due to their epidemic potential. It is notable that all seven identified pathogens are zoonoses. Aligned with this, the recent surge in emerging zoonoses like Ebola virus, novel coronaviruses like SARS and MERS, and zoonotic avian and human influenza, has increased awareness of the opportunity and critical need for this One Health approach. Neglected zoonoses like rabies and bovine tuberculosis are also best managed in their animal source. They continue to have a devastating global impact on human health every day.

In terms of food security and nutrition, providing the highest quality protein in *meat*, milk and eggs

for all populations, particularly rural subsistence communities, makes a valuable contribution to key nutritional indicators such as childhood mortality and stunting. Demand for *meat* and milk is set to triple in Africa by 2050. Such expanding markets are more demanding in terms of food safety and quality, and managing risks of animal disease spread. Stronger, adapted national *Veterinary Services* make food and trade safer and open such growing value chains to the rural poor who gain the most in accessing their benefits. Strong *Veterinary Services* also provide a secure framework that gives confidence to private sector investment from both individual farmers and livestock enterprises across the value chain. Consequently, at local and broader market levels, sound investments in *Veterinary Services* improve economies and livelihoods.

Beyond income generation and food security, livestock are a valuable asset to the rural poor, serving as a store of wealth, collateral for credit and a safety net during times of crisis. Livestock consume waste, produce manure for fertilisation and provide draught power for ploughing and transport. To millions of smallholders and pastoralists, the sudden loss of their major asset class in livestock through disease events is devastating, a crisis that shatters resilience and forces desperate measures such as high risk borrowing, urban migration, family and social dislocation. In vulnerable worst-case scenarios, such shocks can increase recruitment to conflicts and terrorism, or human trafficking, potentially involving children.

Overall, livestock and *Veterinary Services* are chronically under-resourced against all comparative measures i.e. proportional to the contribution of livestock to; the broader economy, within agriculture, and as a component of health security. Poor financial resources and inadequately staffed and organised *Veterinary Services* results in high livestock losses and uncontrolled epidemics. The rapid spread of major transboundary animal diseases such as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), foot and mouth disease (FMD), peste-des-petits ruminants (PPR), African swine fever (ASF), infection with tilapia lake virus and infection with white spot syndrome in many parts of Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas and the Middle East demonstrates the weakness of *Veterinary Services* to provide effective control methods and treatments, especially where they are needed most: in poor, remote communities. All this presents a strong case for national and international investment in the livestock sector, and particularly the *Veterinary Services* that supports and protects it.

Veterinary Services are the basis of safe and equitable international and domestic trade of livestock and livestock products. The OIE is the official standard setting organisation for safe trade in *animals* and animal products under the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement. In more developed contexts the risk of complacency in protecting livestock populations, markets and consumers is real. The recent spread of diseases such as FMD, HPAI, porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED), African swine fever (ASF) and white spot disease (WSD) in more developed regions of the world demonstrates the need to maintain vigilance and resourcing everywhere.

Across all societies, despite cultural differences, the importance of people's relationships with *animals* are universally recognised along with the principle of a duty of care to ensure that *animals* are treated humanely and responsibly. The OIE and its national *Veterinary Services* members lead the global development of *animal welfare* standards, incorporating concepts such as the five freedoms, and encouraging implementation of *animal welfare* principles by Member Countries with particular reference to critical areas such as farming, transport, slaughter, working conditions, use in research, stray dog management and during and after natural disasters.

The OIE is a unique intergovernmental organisation to work with to achieve a healthier and safer planet. It has a strong technical and governance reputation, harnesses the best international experts, and provides value for money and efficiency, with

a relative lack of bureaucracy. Health systems are context-specific without a one-size-fits-all solution. However, the OIE has built international consensus on the principles of good governance and the quality of *Veterinary Services*, as incorporated within OIE international standards.

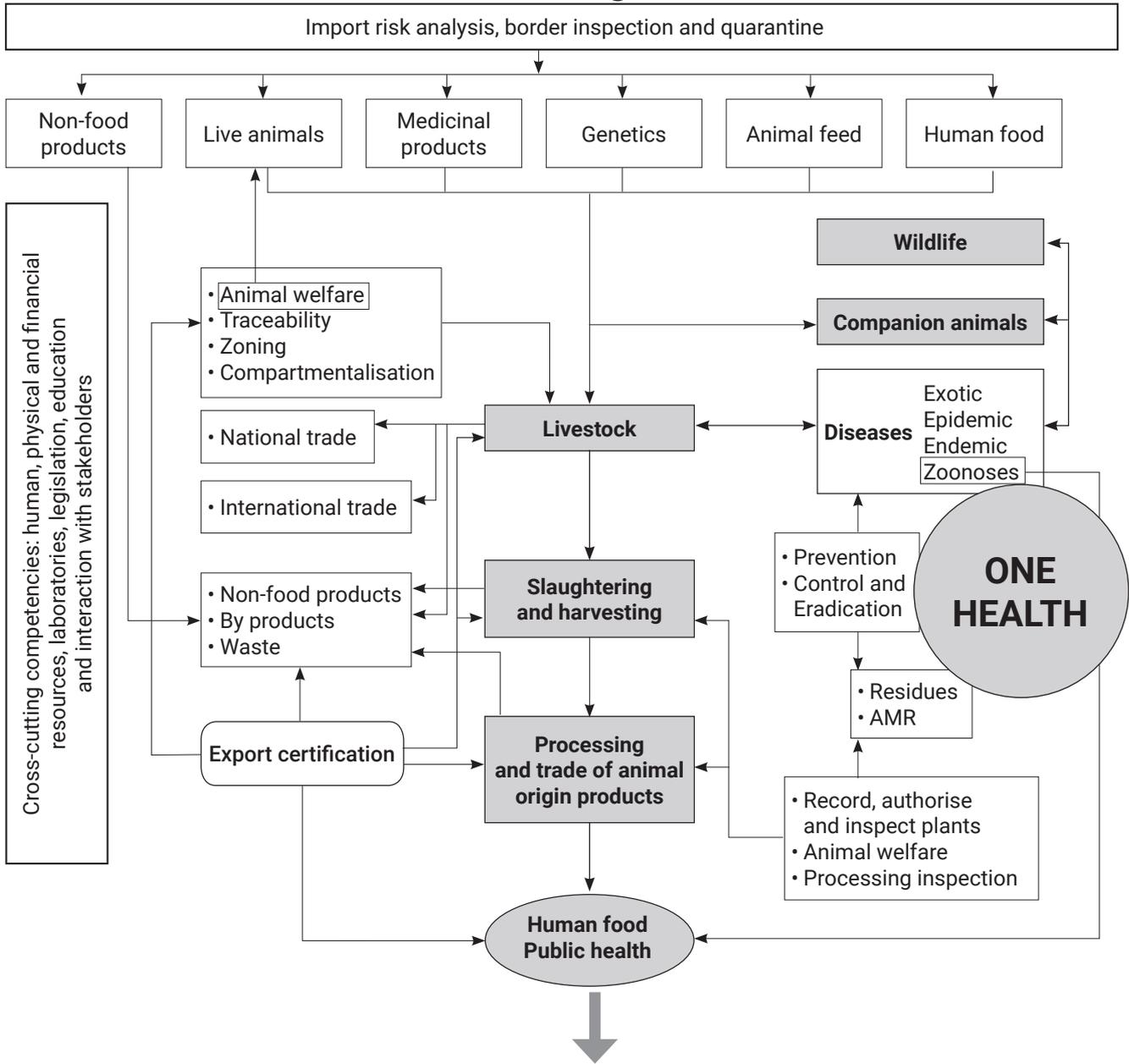
The OIE has a proven track record in supporting stronger national *Veterinary Services* based on these principles and standards, particularly since the advent of its flagship PVS Pathway programme in 2007. Over 140 countries have benefitted. Despite the programme's undoubted success, the OIE is not being complacent. During 2017 it has undertaken a fully consultative process to evolve its PVS Pathway activities for the future, to ensure it remains relevant, adaptable and well targeted - a powerful mechanism for continued engagement with Member Countries and partners in developing stronger *Veterinary Services*, one country at a time, as a global public good.

To this end the OIE has developed expanded PVS Pathway options to support Member Countries to understand and tailor their engagement based on their own governance and technical priorities. The OIE also has a powerful One Health partnership with the WHO integrating the OIE PVS Pathway with the WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in addressing global health security.

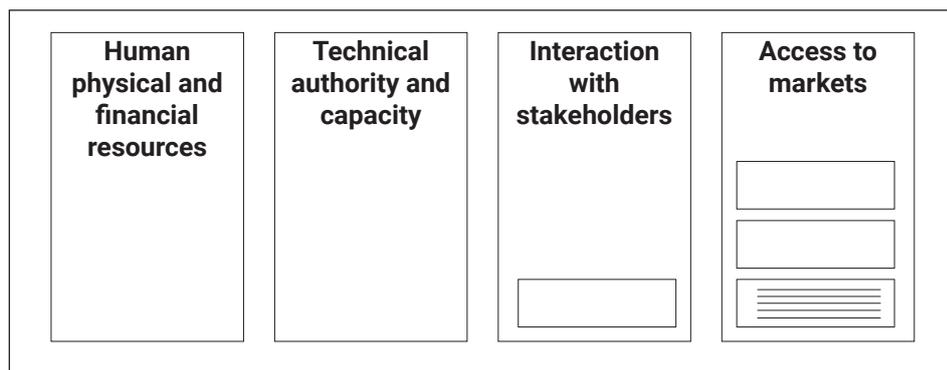
By engaging in proven and expanded OIE PVS initiatives closely aligned with principles of sustainable development and aid effectiveness, the global community can strengthen the capacity of national *Veterinary Services* to safeguard health and food security, grow economies and improve the lives of at least the 1.3 billion individuals whose livelihoods depend on healthy *animals*.

Scope of the PVS Evaluation

The Veterinary Domain



OIE PVS Tool



The above diagram describes the veterinary domain, which comprises the scope of the PVS Tool and therefore the PVS Pathway. First, the top diagram describes on its left edge several cross cutting or transversal elements, the basic requirements for functioning VS which include; adequate human and financial resources, quality veterinary education, effective *laboratory* services, and supporting legislation. The interior flow diagram then provides the detail of threats to the health of a country's *animals* and people, starting at the top from overseas through risk products such as *feed*, food, live *animals*, genetics and medicines crossing the border, then domestically through in country trade and movement of *animals* and products, or through interaction with *wildlife* reservoirs, including zoonotic risks. The livestock population is then processed into food, fibre and waste products through slaughter or harvest; bringing additional food safety and animal health risks, including via subsequent trade, transport and consumption of animal products. The One Health concept reflects the need to integrate *animal*, human and environmental health issues particularly in relation to the interface between *wildlife*, domestic *animals* and humans. *Animal welfare* is particularly relevant to transport, production systems, and slaughter within this flow diagram. Finally, to successfully export, a robust certification system must be able to confidently assert to the integrity of the system at all points, to produce animals and animal products that can be traded safely without unacceptable risks to importing countries in terms of animal and public health.

The second diagram represents the PVS Tool with its four Fundamental Components (and 45 Critical Competencies). It shows how the complex veterinary domain and all its various elements are synthesised into component parts for assessment and planning within the OIE PVS Pathway via the PVS Tool.

It shows that effective VS have four Fundamental Components:

- 1) the **human, physical and financial resources** to effectively plan, coordinate and implement activities within the veterinary domain covering all necessary elements and at all levels, in the national interest;
- 2) the **technical authority and capability** to address current and new veterinary issues based on scientific principles, including the preparedness, prevention, detection and control of animal diseases, addressing veterinary public health risks including from zoonoses and food safety, and improving *animal welfare*.
- 3) the sustained **interaction with non-government stakeholders** in order to harness non-government expertise and support the growth and protection of livestock production and markets in the country based on stakeholders' needs; and

4) the ability to **access markets** through harmonising with existing international standards, and by demonstrating overall system integrity and transparency, to inspire confidence in trading partners.

Applying the OIE PVS Tool

To establish the current level of performance, Critical Competencies (CC) with five possible levels of advancement are identified within each of the four Fundamental Components. A higher level of advancement assumes that the VS are complying with the preceding levels (e.g. level 3 assumes compliance with level 2 criteria). For each CC, the OIE provides their PVS teams with suggested sources of verification, based on the OIE's extensive experience with countries following the PVS pathway.

Companion publications to the PVS Tool include the *OIE Manual of the Assessor* and the *OIE Manual on PVS Gap Analysis*.

Chapters 3.1. and 3.2. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* provide the legal basis via internationally agreed OIE quality standards for VS and for the PVS evaluation and other PVS Pathway activities, as reflected in this PVS Tool. Chapter 3.4. of the *Terrestrial Code* contains recommendations for *veterinary legislation*, which underpins effective programmes in the entire veterinary domain. It is also the basis for the PVS Veterinary Legislation Support Programme.

In addition, almost all other Chapters of the *Terrestrial Code Volume 1 – General Provisions* are referenced throughout the PVS Tool. The most important *Code* references are quoted under each Critical Competency. There are also references to the *OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, particularly referenced relevant to *laboratory* diagnosis. *Terrestrial Code Volume 2*, the disease-specific volume of the *Terrestrial Code* is less directly relevant to generic *Veterinary Services* provision as covered in the PVS Tool, but should be referenced when evaluating disease specific activities of a national VS, particularly relating to *sanitary measures* for international trade.

Relevant definitions from the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* may be found in the PVS Tool Glossary of Terms.

Seventh edition of the OIE PVS Tool

To help countries and VS to address evolving challenges and priorities in animal and veterinary public health, some critical competencies were modified in the 7th edition of the OIE *PVS Tool*. The modifications primarily had two aims. Firstly, the need to more clearly **categorise** and **define** the Critical Competencies so the PVS Tool is more user-friendly. This included the aim of ensuring that those with less familiarity in the PVS Tool can still make good use of it, such as at national level for PVS self-evaluation, or nominees being trialed as new PVS Team observers or trainee experts. The new edition also improves **coverage**, with a clearer

incorporation of contemporary veterinary issues relating to antimicrobial resistance, One Health and bio-threat reduction in addition to a number of issues of critical importance to *Veterinary Services* such as; the implementation of standards, *laboratory* biosafety and *biosecurity*, disease investigation and tracing, livestock markets (domestic trade), and public private partnerships. Although all these issues were covered in previous editions, they are more clearly highlighted and emphasized within the current version.

The PVS Pathway

The PVS Tool forms the fundamental methodological basis of OIE's multi-staged PVS Pathway cycle of *Veterinary Services* support, represented by the following cycle diagram:



The PVS Pathway Cycle includes four stages; Orientation, Evaluation, Planning and Targeted Support. The PVS Tool is the basis of PVS Pathway Orientation Training; PVS Evaluation and related activities/options; and PVS Gap Analysis and Strategic Planning support. Targeted support is more specific support for countries, provided by OIE on the basis of PVS Pathway mission findings at national, regional and global levels. Further details on the PVS Pathway Cycle are available on the OIE website.

OIE PVS Evaluation using the PVS Tool is a mechanism to ensure full coverage of the veterinary domain and is primarily to identify areas of relative strength and weakness within a particular national Veterinary Service, against relevant international standards. The primary client of PVS Evaluation is the targeted country's *Veterinary Services*, not the OIE or other regional or international partners or donors. The PVS report is the country's, aiming to provide its national *Veterinary Services* a form of self-awareness to guide the prioritisation of their policy, programme, resourcing and/or restructuring activities against international standards, a purpose for which the Tool can be considered robust. This further planning and resourcing phase based on such relative strengths, weaknesses and national priorities, can either be undertaken via OIE PVS Gap Analysis and/or Strategic Planning support, developed in-country, or with the assistance of external partners. In addition, the OIE has developed its own forms of PVS Targeted Support to assist countries in key areas such as One Health

collaboration, *veterinary legislation, laboratories, education and OIE Focal Points.*

The OIE encourages both its Member Countries and partners to avoid the over-interpretation or simplistic analysis of PVS report results. For example, the OIE discourages countries (or partners) giving themselves or others an overall rating by averaging their scores for all 45 CCs (or each of the four Fundamental Components), and comparing these to other countries. This type of use is not in the 'spirit' of the PVS Pathway and its primary aim to assist Member Countries to improve their own systems, and not necessarily to 'score' themselves relative to other countries, or to have other countries 'score' them.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

(Terms defined in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* that are used in this publication are reprinted here for reference, as at 2018. Users are advised to refer to the latest version of the Glossary within the *Code* to ensure they are using the most up to date definitions).

Animal

means a mammal, reptile, bird or bee.

Animal identification

means the combination of the identification and registration of an *animal* individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its *epidemiological unit* or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal identification system

means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments or owners, the person(s) responsible for the *animal(s)*, movements and other records with animal identification.

Animal traceability

means the ability to follow an *animal* or group of *animals* during all stages of its life.

Animal welfare

means the physical and mental state of an *animal* in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

Antimicrobial agent

means a naturally occurring, semi-synthetic or synthetic substance that exhibits antimicrobial activity (kill or inhibit the growth of micro-organisms) at concentrations attainable *in vivo*. Anthelmintics and substances classed as disinfectants or antiseptics are excluded from this definition.

Biosecurity

means a set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population.

Border post

means any airport, or any port, railway station or road check-point open to international trade of commodities, where import veterinary inspections can be performed.

Case

means an individual *animal* infected by a pathogenic agent, with or without clinical signs.

Compartment

means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments, separated from other susceptible *populations* by a common *biosecurity* management system, and with a specific animal health status with respect to one or more infections or infestations for which the necessary *surveillance*, *biosecurity* and control measures have been applied for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention and control in a country or *zone*.

Competent Authority

means the *Veterinary Authority* or other Governmental Authority of a Member Country, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory.

Containment zone

means an infected *zone* defined within a previously free country or *zone*, which includes all suspected or confirmed *cases* that are epidemiologically linked and where movement control, *biosecurity* and *sanitary measures* are applied to prevent the spread of, and to eradicate, the infection or infestation.

Emerging disease

means a new occurrence in an *animal* of a disease, infection or infestation, causing a significant impact on animal or public health resulting from:

- a. a change of a known pathogenic agent or its spread to a new geographic area or species; or
- b. a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time.

Epidemiological unit

means a group of *animals* with a defined epidemiological relationship that share approximately the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent. This may be because they share a common environment (e.g. *animals* in a pen), or because of common management practices. Usually, this is a herd or a flock. However, an *epidemiological unit* may also refer to groups such as *animals* belonging to residents of a village, or *animals* sharing a communal animal handling facility. The epidemiological relationship may differ from disease to disease, or even strain to strain of the pathogenic agent.

Feed

means any material (single or multiple), whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed directly to terrestrial *animals* (except bees).

Hazard

means a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, an *animal* or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

International veterinary certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, describing the animal health and public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Laboratory

means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The *Veterinary Authority* approves and monitors such *laboratories* with regard to the diagnostic tests required for international trade.

Meat

means all edible parts of an *animal*.

Monitoring

means the intermittent performance and analysis of routine measurements and observations, aimed at detecting changes in the environment or health status of a population.

Notifiable disease

means a *disease* listed by the *Veterinary Authority*, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, should be brought to the attention of this Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

Official veterinarian

means a *veterinarian* authorised by the *Veterinary Authority* of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in accordance with Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Outbreak

means the occurrence of one or more cases in an *epidemiological unit*.

Risk analysis

means the process composed of *hazard* identification, *risk assessment*, *risk management* and *risk communication*.

Risk assessment

means the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment and spread of a *hazard*.

Risk communication

means the interactive transmission and exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions among risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators, the general public and other interested parties.

Risk management

means the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member Country from risks arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a *hazard*.

Surveillance

means the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken.

Terrestrial Code

means the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Veterinarian

means a person with appropriate education, registered or licensed by the relevant *veterinary statutory body* of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of a Member Country, comprising *veterinarians*, other professionals and paraprofessionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of the animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* in the whole territory.

Veterinary legislation

means laws, regulations and all associated legal instruments that pertain to the veterinary domain.

Veterinary paraprofessional

means a person who, for the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, is authorised by the *veterinary statutory body* to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of *veterinary paraprofessional*) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a *veterinarian*. The tasks for each category of *veterinary paraprofessional* should be defined by the *veterinary statutory body* depending on qualifications and training, and in accordance with need.

Veterinary Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code* and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the territory. The *Veterinary Services* are under the overall control and direction of the *Veterinary Authority*. Private sector organisations, *veterinarians*, *veterinary paraprofessionals* or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the *Veterinary Authority* to deliver the delegated functions.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous regulatory body for *veterinarians* and *veterinary paraprofessionals*.

Wildlife

means feral *animals*, captive wild *animals* and wild *animals*.

Zone

means a part of a country defined by the *Veterinary Authority*, containing an animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to an infection or infestation for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.

CHAPTER I

HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Institutional effectiveness and sustainability as demonstrated by the levels of human, physical and financial resources available and their efficient application.

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES:

I-1	PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFFING OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES	2
I-2	COMPETENCY AND EDUCATION OF VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS	4
I-3	CONTINUING EDUCATION	6
I-4	TECHNICAL INDEPENDENCE	7
I-5	PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.....	8
I-6	COORDINATION CAPABILITY OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES.....	9
I-7	PHYSICAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT.....	11
I-8	OPERATIONAL FUNDING.....	12
I-9	EMERGENCY FUNDING	13

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES¹:

Points 1-7, 9 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity/Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards/Human and financial resources.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial/Administrative/Technical.

Points 3 and Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance/In-Service training and development programme for staff.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-5 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Financial management information/Administration details/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis/Performance assessment and audit programmes.

¹ Disclaimer: All OIE Terrestrial Code References are based on the 2018 version of the Code. Users are advised to refer to the latest version of the (available online), and they are invited to contact the PVS Pathway Secretariat if they require further information relating to references that may have changed

I-1. PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFFING OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES (VS)	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualified)</p> <p>The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and other professional functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.</p>	<p>1. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are not occupied by appropriately qualified professionals.</p>
	<p>2. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are occupied by appropriately qualified professionals at central and state/provincial levels.</p>
	<p>3. The majority of positions requiring veterinary or other professional skills are occupied by appropriately qualified professionals at local (field) levels.</p>
	<p>4. There is a systematic approach to defining job descriptions and formal, merit-based appointment and promotion procedures for <i>veterinarians</i> and other professionals.</p>
	<p>5. There are effective procedures for formal performance assessment and performance management of <i>veterinarians</i> and other professionals.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity.*

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Human and financial resources.*

Article 3.2.5. on *Evaluation criteria for human resources.*

Article 3.2.12. on *Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.*

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on *Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.*

I-1. PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFFING OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES (VS)	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Veterinary paraprofessionals</p> <p>The appropriate level of staffing of the VS to allow for <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> (according to the OIE definition) functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>This covers OIE <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> categories² having trained at dedicated educational institutions with formal qualifications which are recognised by the government or the VSB.</p>	<p>1. The majority of positions requiring <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> skills are not occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.</p>
	<p>2. Some positions requiring <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> skills are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications. There is little or no veterinary supervision.</p>
	<p>3. The majority of positions requiring <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> skills are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications. There is a variable level of veterinary supervision.</p>
	<p>4. The majority of <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> positions are effectively supervised on a regular basis by <i>veterinarians</i>.</p>
	<p>5. There are effective management procedures for formal appointment and promotion, as well as performance assessment and performance management of <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i>.</p>

² Reference can be made to the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals, May 2018, available on the OIE website at <http://www.oie.int/solidarity/veterinary-paraprofessionals/>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity.

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Human and financial resources.
Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.
Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.

I-2. COMPETENCY AND EDUCATION OF VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS

DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to effectively carry out their veterinary and technical functions, as indicated by the level and quality of the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> positions.</p> <p>A. Veterinarians</p> <p>This references the OIE recommendations on the Competencies of graduating <i>veterinarians</i> ('Day 1 graduates') to assure National <i>Veterinary Services</i> of quality, and OIE guidelines on <i>Veterinary Education Core Curriculum</i>³.</p>	<p>1. The <i>veterinarians'</i> knowledge, skills and practices, are of a variable standard that allow only for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.</p>
	<p>2. The <i>veterinarians'</i> knowledge, skills and practices are of a uniform standard sufficient for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.</p>
	<p>3. The <i>veterinarians'</i> knowledge, skills and practices are sufficient for all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. <i>surveillance</i>, treatment and control of animal disease, including conditions of public health significance).</p>
	<p>4. The <i>veterinarians'</i> knowledge, skills and practices are sufficient for specialised technical activities (e.g. higher level epidemiological analysis, disease modelling, <i>animal welfare science</i>) as may be needed by the VS, supported by post-graduate level training.</p>
	<p>5. The <i>veterinarians'</i> knowledge, skills and practices are subject to regular updating, and are internationally recognised such as through formal evaluation and/or the granting of international equivalence with other recognised veterinary qualifications.</p>

³ Reference can be made to the *Recommendations on Competencies of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') to assure National Veterinary Services of quality* and the *OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Education Core Curriculum* both available at the OIE website at <http://www.oie.int/solidarity/veterinary-education/>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/Independence/Impartiality/Integrity/Objectivity.*

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Human and financial resources.*

Article 3.2.5. on *Evaluation criteria for human resources.*

Article 3.2.12. on *Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.*

Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on *Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services/National information on human resources/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.*

I-2. COMPETENCY AND EDUCATION OF VETERINARIANS AND VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONALS

DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Veterinarians paraprofessionals</p> <p>This references the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals and OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals⁴.</p>	<p>1. Positions requiring <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> skills are generally occupied by those having no formal training or qualifications from dedicated educational institutions.</p>
	<p>2. The training and qualifications of those in positions requiring <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> skills is of a variable standard and allows for the development of only basic competencies.</p>
	<p>3. The training and qualifications of <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i> is of a fairly uniform standard that allows the development of some specific competencies (e.g. vaccination on farms, <i>meat</i> hygiene control, basic <i>laboratory</i> tests).</p>
	<p>4. The training and qualifications of <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i> is of a uniform standard that allows the development of more advanced competencies (e.g. blood and tissue sample collection on farms, supervised <i>meat</i> inspection, more complex <i>laboratory</i> testing).</p>
	<p>5. The training and qualifications of <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i> is of a uniform standard and is subject to regular evaluation and/or updating.</p>

⁴ Reference can be made to the OIE Competency Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2018) and OIE Curricula Guidelines for Veterinary Paraprofessionals (2019) available on the OIE website at <http://www.oie.int/solidarity/veterinary-paraprofessionals/>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2.

Points 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Procedures and Standards.

Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Veterinary Services administration.

I-3. CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) ⁵	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to maintain, update and improve the knowledge, attitudes and skills of their personnel, through an ongoing staff training and development programme assessed on a regular basis for relevance and targeted skills development.</p>	<p>1. The VS have no access to veterinary or paraprofessional CE.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external training) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed and sometimes updated, but it is implemented only for some categories of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have access to a CE programme that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and is implemented for all categories of veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.</p>
	<p>5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented or is a requirement for all relevant veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals and is subject to dedicated planning and regular evaluation of effectiveness.</p>

⁵ Continuing education includes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for veterinary, professional and technical personnel.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 1, 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement/General organisation/Human and financial resources.

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: In-service training and development programme for staff.

Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-4. TECHNICAL INDEPENDENCE	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to carry out their duties with autonomy and without undue commercial, financial, hierarchical and political influences that may affect technical decisions in a manner contrary to the provisions of the OIE (and of the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>	<p>1. The technical decisions made by the VS are generally not based on scientific considerations.</p>
	<p>2. The technical decisions consider scientific evidence, but are routinely modified based on non-scientific considerations.</p>
	<p>3. The technical decisions are based on scientific evidence but are subject to review and occasional modification based on non-scientific considerations.</p>
	<p>4. The technical decisions are made and generally implemented in accordance with scientific evidence and the country's OIE obligations (and with the country's WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).</p>
	<p>5. The technical decisions are based on a high level of scientific evidence, which is both nationally relevant and internationally respected, and are not unduly changed to meet non-scientific considerations.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 2 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Independence.

I-5. PLANNING, SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS leadership and organisation to develop, document and sustain strategic policies and programmes, and also to report on, review and evolve them, as appropriate over time.</p>	<p>1. Policies and programmes are insufficiently developed and documented. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in a lack of sustainability of policies and programmes.</p>
	<p>2. Some basic policy and programme development and documentation exists, with some reporting on implementation. Sustainability of policies and programmes is negatively impacted by changes in the political leadership or other changes affecting the structure and leadership of the VS.</p>
	<p>3. There is well developed and stable policy and programme documentation. Reports on programme implementation are available. Sustainability of policies and programmes is generally maintained during changes in the political leadership and/or changes to the structure and leadership of the VS.</p>
	<p>4. Policies or programmes are sustained, but also reviewed (using data collection and analysis) and updated appropriately over time through formal national strategic planning cycles to improve effectiveness and address emerging concerns. Planning cycles continue despite changes in the political leadership and/or changes to the structure and leadership of the VS.</p>
	<p>5. Effective policies and programmes are sustained over time and the structure and leadership of the VS is strong and stable. Modification to strategic and operational planning is based on a robust evaluation or audit process using evidence, to support the continual improvement of policies and programmes over time.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 1 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.

I-6. COORDINATION CAPABILITY OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>A. Internal coordination (chain of command)</p> <p>The capability of the <i>Veterinary Authority</i> to coordinate their mandated activities with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer or equivalent), to the field level of the VS, as relevant to the OIE <i>Codes</i> (e.g. <i>surveillance</i>, disease control, food safety, emergency preparedness and response).</p>	<p>1. There is no formal internal coordination and the chain of command is not clear.</p>
	<p>2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.</p>
	<p>3. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for some activities, such as for export certification, border control and/or emergency response.</p>
	<p>4. There are formal, documented internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for most activities, including <i>surveillance</i> (and reporting) and disease control programmes.</p>
	<p>5. There are formal and fully documented internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for all activities, and these are periodically reviewed/audited and updated to re-define roles and optimise efficiency as necessary.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Article 3.2.2. on *Scope.*

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on *Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.*

I-6. COORDINATION CAPABILITY OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. External coordination (including the One Health approach)</p> <p>The capability of the <i>Veterinary Authority</i> to coordinate its resources and activities at all levels with other government authorities with responsibilities within the veterinary domain, in order to implement all national activities relevant to the OIE <i>Codes</i>, especially those not under the direct line authority of the Chief Veterinary Officer (or equivalent).</p> <p>Relevant authorities include other ministries and <i>Competent Authorities</i>, such as government partners in public health (e.g. zoonoses, food safety, drug regulation and anti-microbial resistance), environment (e.g. <i>wildlife</i> health), customs and border police (e.g. border security), defence/intelligence (e.g. bio-threats⁶), or municipalities/local councils (e.g. local slaughterhouses, dog control).</p>	<p>1. There is no external coordination with other government authorities.</p>
	<p>2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities at national level, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.</p>
	<p>3. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding) for some activities and/or sectors at the national level.</p>
	<p>4. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements at the national level for most activities (such as for One Health), and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country, including at state/provincial level.</p>
	<p>5. There are external coordination mechanisms for all activities, from national to field, and these are periodically reviewed and updated to re-clarify roles and optimise efficiency.</p>

⁶ *Recommended Reading:*
OIE *Biological Threats Reduction Strategy 2015*.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation/Procedures and Standards*.

Article 3.2.2. on *Scope*.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on *Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services*.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on *Performance assessment and audit programmes: Veterinary Services administration*.

I-7. PHYSICAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The access of the VS to functional and well-maintained physical resources including buildings, transport, information technology (e.g. internet access), cold chain, and other necessary equipment or structures. This includes whether major capital investment is available.</p>	<p>1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level and at some state/provincial levels, but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs rarely.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, state/provincial and some local levels but maintenance, as well as replacement of obsolete items, occurs irregularly.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained. Major capital investments occur occasionally to improve the VS operational infrastructure over time.</p>
	<p>5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, state/provincial and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced items become available. Major capital investments occur regularly to improve the VS operational capability and infrastructure.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system.

Points 2 and 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Administrative/Technical.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.

I-8. OPERATIONAL FUNDING	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The ability of the VS to access operational resources adequate for their planned and continued activities (e.g. salaries, contracts, fuel, vaccines, diagnostic reagents, personal protective equipment, per diem or allowances for field work).</p>	<p>1. Operational funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined and depends on irregular allocation of resources.</p>
	<p>2. Operational funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, but is inadequate for their required baseline operations (e.g. basic disease <i>surveillance</i>, disease control and/or veterinary public health).</p>
	<p>3. Operational funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, and is adequate for their baseline operations, but there is no provision for new or expanded operations.</p>
	<p>4. Operational funding for new or expanded operations is on a case-by-case basis, and not always based on <i>risk analysis</i> and/or benefit-cost analysis.</p>
	<p>5. Operational funding for all aspects of VS activities is generally adequate; all funding, including for new or expanded operations, is provided via a transparent process that allows for technical independence, based on <i>risk analysis</i> and/or cost-benefit analysis.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on
*Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary
legislation/Human and financial resources.*

Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on *Evaluation
criteria for material resources: Financial.*

Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on *Financial
management information.*

I-9. EMERGENCY FUNDING	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or newly emerging issues, as measured by the ease with which contingency and related funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made rapidly available when required.</p>	<p>1. No emergency funding arrangements exist.</p>
	<p>2. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for likely emergency situations (including newly emerging issues).</p>
	<p>3. Emergency funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources may be approved but approval is through a political process.</p>
	<p>4. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established; their provision must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.</p>
	<p>5. Emergency funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with interested parties.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Human and financial resources.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial.
Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.

TERRESTRIAL MANUAL REFERENCE:
Chapter 1.1.1. on Management of veterinary diagnostic laboratories

CHAPTER II

TECHNICAL AUTHORITY

AND CAPABILITY

The authority and capability of the VS to develop and apply *sanitary measures* and science-based procedures supporting those measures.

For relevant sections of this chapter, the critical competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and *Competent Authorities*, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas e.g. food safety, veterinary medicines and biologicals etc.

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES:

II-1	VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS	17
II-2	RISK ANALYSIS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY.....	20
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TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.

Chapter 6.11. on Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General Organisation/Procedures and standards.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/Export/import inspection.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene/Zoonoses/Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines/Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.

Points 2, 5, 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources/Laboratories engaged in diagnosis/Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls.

Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animals.

Chapter 6.3. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.

Chapter 6.4. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Chapters 6.7. to 6.11. on Antimicrobial resistance.

Chapter 7.1. on Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.

Chapter 7.2. on Transport of animals by sea.

Chapter 7.3. on Transport of animals by land.

Chapter 7.4. on Transport of animals by air.

Chapter 7.5. on Slaughter of animals.

Chapter 7.6. on Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

REFERENCES TO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION STANDARDS:

Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005).

Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004).

General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).

Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011).

Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

II-1. VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to effectively and efficiently use accurate <i>laboratory</i> diagnosis to support their animal health and veterinary public activities.</p> <p>A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to access <i>laboratory</i> diagnosis in order to identify and report pathogenic and other hazardous agents that can adversely affect <i>animals</i> and animal products, including those relevant to public health.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with no access to or little use of a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis. 2. For major animal <i>diseases</i> and <i>zoonoses</i> of national importance, and for the food safety of animal products, the VS have access to and use a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis. 3. For animal <i>diseases</i> and <i>zoonoses</i> present in the country, and for animal <i>feed</i> safety and veterinary AMR surveillance, the VS have access to and use a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis. 4. For animal <i>diseases</i> of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but that exist in the region and/or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a <i>laboratory</i> to obtain a correct diagnosis. 5. In the case of new and <i>emerging diseases</i> in the region or worldwide, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference <i>laboratories</i> (e.g. an OIE or FAO Reference <i>Laboratory</i>) to obtain a correct diagnosis.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.*

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on *Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.*
Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on *Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.*

TERRESTRIAL MANUAL REFERENCE:
Chapters 1.1.1. – 1.1.6.
Chapters 2.2.1. - 2.2.8.

II-1. VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Suitability of the national laboratory system</p> <p>The sustainability, effectiveness, safety⁷ and efficiency of the national (public and private) <i>laboratory</i> system (or network), including infrastructure, equipment, maintenance, consumables, personnel and sample throughput, to service the needs of the VS.</p>	<p>1. The national <i>laboratory</i> system does not meet the needs of the VS.</p>
	<p>2. The national <i>laboratory</i> system partially meets the needs of the VS, but it is not sustainable, as the management and maintenance of resources and infrastructure is ineffective and/or inefficient. <i>Laboratory</i> biosafety and <i>biosecurity</i> measures do not exist or are very limited.</p>
	<p>3. The national <i>laboratory</i> system generally meets the needs of the VS. Resources and organisation are managed effectively and efficiently, but funding is insufficient for a sustainable system, and limits throughput. Some <i>laboratory</i> biosafety and <i>biosecurity</i> measures are in place.</p>
	<p>4. The national <i>laboratory</i> system generally meets the needs of the VS, including for <i>laboratory</i> biosafety and <i>biosecurity</i>. There is sufficient sample throughput across the range of <i>laboratory</i> testing requirements. Occasionally, it is limited by delayed investment in certain aspects (e.g. personnel, maintenance or consumables).</p>
	<p>5. The national <i>laboratory</i> system meets all the needs of the VS, has appropriate levels of <i>laboratory</i> biosafety and <i>biosecurity</i>, and is efficient and sustainable with a good throughput of samples. The <i>laboratory</i> system is regularly reviewed, audited and updated as necessary.</p>

⁷ Recommended reading:
OIE Biological threats reduction strategy (2015).

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.*

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on *Evaluation criteria for quality systems.*

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on *Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.*

Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on *Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.*

TERRESTRIAL MANUAL REFERENCES:

Chapters 1.1.1 – 1.1.7.

Chapter 2.1.3. on *Managing biorisk: examples of aligning risk management strategies with assessed biorisks*

II-1. VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>C. Laboratory quality management systems (QMS)</p> <p>The quality and reliability of veterinary <i>laboratory</i> testing servicing the public sector VS as assessed by the use of formal QMS e.g. having a dedicated quality manager and a quality manual. This includes, but is not limited to, attainment of ISO 17025 accreditation⁸ and participation in proficiency testing programmes.</p>	<p>1. No <i>laboratories</i> servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS.</p>
	<p>2. One or more <i>laboratories</i> servicing the public sector VS, including the major national animal health reference <i>laboratory</i>, are using formal QMS.</p>
	<p>3. Most major <i>laboratories</i> servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS. There is occasional use of multi-laboratory proficiency testing programmes.</p>
	<p>4. Most of the <i>laboratories</i> servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS, with regular use of multi-laboratory proficiency testing programmes.</p>
	<p>5. All the <i>laboratories</i> servicing the public sector VS are using formal QMS which are regularly assessed via national, regional or international proficiency testing programmes.</p>

⁸ Recommended reading:

ISO 17025 specifications as at <https://www.iso.org/standard/39883.html>, <https://www.iso.org/standard/66912.html>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.*

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on *Evaluation criteria for quality systems.*

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on *Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.*

Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on *Laboratories engaged in diagnosis.*

TERRESTRIAL MANUAL REFERENCES:

Chapter 1.1.5. on *Quality management in veterinary testing laboratories*

Chapter 1.1.6 on *Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases*

Chapters 2.2.1-2.2.8 *Recommendations for validation of diagnostic tests*

II-2. RISK ANALYSIS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to base its <i>risk management</i> and <i>risk communication</i> measures on <i>risk assessment</i>, incorporating sound epidemiological principles.</p>	<p>1. <i>Risk management</i> and <i>risk communication</i> measures are not usually supported by <i>risk assessment</i>.</p>
	<p>2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to carry out <i>risk analysis</i>. Some <i>risk management</i> and <i>risk communication</i> measures are based on <i>risk assessment</i> and some epidemiological principles.</p>
	<p>3. The VS compile and maintain data and have the policy and capability to carry out <i>risk analysis</i>, incorporating epidemiological principles. The majority of <i>risk management</i> and <i>risk communication</i> measures are based on <i>risk assessment</i>.</p>
	<p>4. The VS conduct <i>risk analysis</i> in compliance with relevant OIE standards and sound epidemiological principles, and base their <i>risk management</i> and <i>risk communication</i> measures on the outcomes of <i>risk assessment</i>. There is a legislative basis that supports the use of <i>risk analysis</i>.</p>
	<p>5. The VS are consistent and transparent in basing animal health and <i>sanitary measures</i> on <i>risk assessment</i> and best practice epidemiology, and in communicating and/or publishing their scientific procedures and outcomes internationally.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Chapter 2.1. on *Import risk analysis*.

Chapter 6.11. on *Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals*

II-3. QUARANTINE AND BORDER SECURITY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to operate to prevent the entry of <i>diseases</i> and other <i>hazards of animals</i> and <i>animal</i> and veterinary products into their country.</p>	<p>1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for the entry of <i>animals</i>, animal products and veterinary products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.</p>
	<p>2. The VS can establish and apply minimal quarantine and border security procedures, or the VS only apply quarantine and border security procedures effectively at some official entry points via <i>border posts</i>.</p>
	<p>3. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures based on import protocols and international standards at all official entry points via <i>border posts</i>, but the procedures do not systematically address illegal activities⁹ relating to the import of <i>animals</i>, animal products and veterinary products.</p>
	<p>4. The VS can establish and apply effective quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address legal pathways and illegal activities (e.g. through effective partnerships with national customs and border police).</p>
	<p>5. The VS can establish, apply and audit quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address all risks identified, including through collaboration with their neighbouring countries and trading partners.</p>

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

⁹ Illegal activities include attempts to gain entry for animals or animal products other than through legal entry points and/or using certification and/or other procedures not meeting the country's requirements.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Procedures and standards.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.

Points 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls.

II-4. SURVEILLANCE ¹⁰ AND EARLY DETECTION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of their animal populations, including <i>wildlife</i>, in a timely manner.</p> <p>A. Passive surveillance¹¹, early detection and epidemiological outbreak investigation</p> <p>A <i>surveillance</i> system based on a field animal health network capable of reliably detecting (by clinical or post mortem signs), diagnosing, reporting and investigating legally <i>notifiable diseases</i> (and relevant <i>emerging diseases</i>) in a timely manner.</p>	<p>1. The VS have very limited passive <i>surveillance</i> capacity, with no formal disease list, little training/awareness and/or inadequate national coverage. Disease <i>outbreaks</i> are not reported or reporting is delayed.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have basic passive <i>surveillance</i> authority and capacity. There is a formal disease list with some training/awareness and some national coverage. The speed of detection and level of investigation is variable. Disease <i>outbreak</i> reports are available for some species and diseases.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have some passive <i>surveillance</i> capacity with some sample collection and <i>laboratory</i> testing. There is a list of <i>notifiable diseases</i> with trained field staff covering most areas. The speed of reporting and investigation is timely in most production systems. Disease <i>outbreak</i> investigation reports are available for most species and <i>diseases</i>.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have effective passive <i>surveillance</i> with routine <i>laboratory</i> confirmation and epidemiological disease investigation (including tracing and pathogen characterisation) in most animal sectors, and covering producers, markets and slaughterhouses. There are high levels of awareness and compliance with the need for prompt reporting from all animal owners/handlers and the field VS.</p>
	<p>5. The VS have comprehensive passive <i>surveillance</i> nationwide providing high confidence in the <i>notifiable disease</i> status in real time. The VS routinely report <i>surveillance</i> information to producers, industry and other stakeholders. Full epidemiological disease investigations are undertaken in all relevant cases with tracing and active follow up of at-risk establishments.</p>

¹⁰ Recommended reading:
OIE Guide to terrestrial animal health surveillance (2014).

¹¹ Other terms for passive surveillance include general surveillance.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services/Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to

Veterinary Services/Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including (...) or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

II-4. SURVEILLANCE AND EARLY DETECTION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Active surveillance¹² and monitoring</p> <p><i>Surveillance</i> targeting a specific <i>disease, infection</i> or <i>hazard</i> to determine its prevalence, measure progress in disease control or support the demonstration of disease freedom (with passive <i>surveillance</i>), most often in the form of pre-planned surveys with structured sampling and <i>laboratory</i> testing.</p>	1. The VS have no active <i>surveillance</i> programme.
	2. The VS conduct active <i>surveillance</i> for one or a few <i>diseases, infections</i> or <i>hazards</i> (of economic or zoonotic importance), but the <i>surveillance</i> is not representative of the population and the <i>surveillance</i> methodology is not revised regularly. The results are reported with limited analysis.
	3. The VS conduct active <i>surveillance</i> using scientific principles and OIE standards for some <i>diseases, infections</i> or <i>hazards</i> , but it is not representative of the susceptible populations and/or is not updated regularly. The results are analysed and reported to stakeholders.
	4. The VS conduct active <i>surveillance</i> in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some <i>diseases, infections</i> or <i>hazards</i> which is representative of all susceptible populations and is updated regularly. Results are routinely analysed, reported and used to guide further <i>surveillance</i> activities, disease control priorities, etc.
	5. The VS conduct ongoing active <i>surveillance</i> for most significant <i>diseases, infections</i> and <i>hazards</i> and apply it to all susceptible populations. The results are routinely analysed and used to guide disease control and other activities. The active <i>surveillance</i> programmes are regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they meet country needs and OIE reporting obligations.

¹² Other terms for active surveillance include targeted surveillance or specific surveillance.

Recommended reading:
OIE Guide to terrestrial animal health surveillance (2014).

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services/Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to

Veterinary Services/Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including: ... or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

II-5. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to be prepared and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency threat (such as a significant disease <i>outbreak</i> or food safety emergency).</p>	<p>1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency threat exists, but lack the legal and financial support to respond effectively. The VS may have basic emergency management planning, but this usually targets one or a few diseases and may not reflect national capacity to respond.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergency threats, but the response is not well coordinated through an effective chain of command. They have national emergency management plans for some exotic <i>diseases</i>, but they are not updated/tested.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through an effective chain of command (e.g. establishment of a <i>containment zone</i>). The VS have national emergency management plans for major exotic <i>diseases</i>, linked to broader national disaster management arrangements, and these are regularly updated/tested such as through simulation exercises.</p>
	<p>5. The VS have national emergency management plans for all diseases of concern (and possible emerging infectious diseases), incorporating coordination with national disaster agencies, relevant <i>Competent Authorities</i>, producers and other non-government stakeholders. Emergency management planning and response capacity is regularly tested, audited and updated, such as through simulation exercises that test response at all levels. Following emergency events, the VS have a formal 'After Action Review' process as part of continuous improvement.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point a) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.

II-6. DISEASE PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to control or eradicate nationally important diseases present in the country, such as through a combination of vaccination, domestic movement control, establishing <i>containment zones</i>, <i>biosecurity</i> measures (including farm <i>biosecurity</i>), isolation and/or culling/stamping out.</p>	<p>1. The VS have no capability to implement animal disease prevention, control or eradication programmes.</p>
	<p>2. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas or populations¹³, but with little or no epidemiological, risk-based planning or evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.</p>
	<p>3. The VS implement prevention, control or eradication programmes for some priority <i>diseases</i> in some areas or populations. There is variable epidemiological, risk-based planning and evaluation of efficacy and efficiency, with limited progress towards programme goals.</p>
	<p>4. The VS implement national prevention, control or eradication programmes for priority <i>diseases</i> with a high level of epidemiological, risk-based planning, and continual evaluation of efficacy and efficiency. They have or are progressing towards OIE official recognition of disease control programmes for relevant diseases. They can demonstrate some progress towards programme goals in reducing or eradicating disease.</p>
	<p>5. The VS implement national prevention, control or eradication programmes for all priority <i>diseases</i> with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency consistent with relevant OIE international standards. They can demonstrate clear progress towards programme goals in reducing or eradicating disease, including achieving or progressing towards official recognition of freedom from relevant diseases.</p>

¹³ One may need to cross-reference this CC with CCs on Zoning and Compartmentalisation as appropriate.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on *Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.*

Sub-point a) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on *Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls: Animal health. Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.*

II-7. ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to assure the safety of food of animal origin for domestic and export markets.</p> <p>A. Regulation, inspection (including audits), authorisation and supervision of establishments for production and processing of food of animal origin.</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and enforce sanitary and food hygiene standards for establishments that produce and process food of animal origin, including slaughter, rendering, dairy, egg, honey and other animal product processing establishments.</p> <p>Includes the regulation, initial authorisation of establishments, and the ongoing inspection of establishments and processes, including the identification of and response to non-compliance, based on HACCP¹⁴ principles. It includes external coordination between <i>Competent Authorities</i> as may be required.</p>	<p>1. Regulation, authorisation, and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.</p>
	<p>2. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards in some selected premises (e.g. export premises).</p>
	<p>3. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards in large premises supplying major cities and/or the national market.</p>
	<p>4. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards for premises supplying the national and local markets. There are some reports of dealing with non-compliance.</p>
	<p>5. Regulation, authorisation, inspection and audit of relevant establishments and processes are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises. There are documented cases of the identification and effective response to non-compliance.</p>

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

¹⁴ HACCP: Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.

Chapter 6.2 on The role of VS in food safety systems.

REFERENCES TO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION STANDARDS:

Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005).

Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004).

General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).

II-7. ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Ante- and post-mortem inspection at slaughter facilities and associated premises.</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to implement and manage the <i>ante-mortem</i> inspection of <i>animals</i> destined for slaughter and the post-mortem inspection of carcasses and <i>meat</i> products at slaughter facilities and associated premises, including to ensure meat hygiene and safety, and for the collection of information relevant to livestock diseases and <i>zoonoses</i>.</p> <p>This includes standards relating to <i>veterinary</i> and <i>veterinary para-professional</i> supervision and inspection, and protocols applied for ante- and post-mortem inspection findings, based on HACCP principles. It includes external coordination between <i>Competent Authorities</i> as may be required.</p>	<p>1. Ante- and post-mortem inspection is generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.</p>
	<p>2. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards only in selected premises (e.g. export premises).</p>
	<p>3. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and the major abattoirs in the larger cities and/or producing <i>meat</i> for distribution throughout the national market.</p>
	<p>4. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards for all slaughter facilities producing <i>meat</i> for export, national and local markets.</p>
	<p>5. Ante- and post-mortem inspection with collection of disease information is undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including municipal, community, and on-farm slaughtering and distribution) and are subject to periodic audits.</p>

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on *Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene/Zoonoses/Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines/Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.*

Points 2, 7 and 8 of Article 3.2.14. on *National information on human resources/Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls.*

Chapter 6.2 on *The role of Veterinary Services in food safety systems.*

Chapter 6.3. on *Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.*

II-8. VETERINARY MEDICINES AND BIOLOGICALS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines, and biologicals, in order to ensure their quality and safety, as well as their responsible and prudent use, including as medicated feed.</p> <p>This includes the marketing authorisation/registration, import, manufacture, quality control, export, labelling, advertising, distribution, sale (includes dispensing) and use (includes prescribing) of these products.</p>	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over the import, manufacture and market authorisation (registration) of veterinary medicines and biologicals to ensure their safety and quality, but cannot ensure their responsible and prudent use in the field.
	3. The VS exercise effective regulatory and administrative control for the market authorisation of veterinary medicines and biologicals and have some capacity to regulate to ensure their responsible and prudent use in the field, including reducing the risk from illegal imports ¹⁵ .
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of all aspects of veterinary medicines and biologicals, including market authorisation, responsible and prudent use in the field, and reducing the risks of illegal distribution and use.
	5. The control systems for veterinary medicines and biologicals are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary, including via an effective pharmacovigilance programme.

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

¹⁵ Illegal veterinary medicines and biologicals importation and use covers risks from online drug sales and the import and/or sale of counterfeit or sub-standard drugs.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Procedures and standards.

Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines.

Sub-point a) ii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities: Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation.

II-9. ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) AND ANTIMICROBIAL USE (AMU)	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to manage AMR and AMU, and to undertake surveillance and control of the development and spread of AMR pathogens in animal production and animal origin food products, via a One Health approach¹⁶.</p>	<p>1. The VS cannot regulate or control AMR and AMU, and have not developed or contributed to an AMR action plan covering the veterinary domain.</p>
	<p>2. The VS are contributing or have contributed to a national AMR action plan. The action plan has initiated some activities to collect AMU/AMR data or control AMR e.g. awareness campaigns targeting <i>veterinarians</i> or farmers on the prudent use of <i>antimicrobial agents</i> (antimicrobials). The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion is discouraged.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have defined a national AMR action plan in coordination with the Public Health authorities and other stakeholders, and are implementing some AMU/AMR surveillance and regulations. The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion is prohibited.</p>
	<p>4. The VS are implementing a comprehensive AMR action plan based on risk, including AMR surveillance of the most important pathogens for animal health or food-borne diseases, the <i>monitoring</i> of AMU, and the prudent use of antimicrobials in <i>animals</i> (especially the use of critically important antimicrobials). The use of antimicrobials for growth promotion does not occur.</p>
	<p>5. An effective national AMR action plan covering the veterinary domain is regularly audited, reviewed and updated by the VS with the Public Health authorities and other stakeholders, using the results of AMU/AMR surveillance. The scale and type of antimicrobial usage in <i>animals</i> poses minimal risk of AMR and alternative solutions for the control of diseases in <i>animals</i> are being implemented.</p>

¹⁶ Recommended reading:

WHO Global Action Plan (2015) at: <http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/en/> and OIE Strategy on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials (2016) at: http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/PortailAMR/EN_OIE-AMRstrategy.pdf

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Chapter 6.7. on Introduction to the recommendations for controlling antimicrobial resistance.

Chapter 6.8. on Harmonisation of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes.

Chapter 6.9. on Monitoring of the quantities and usage patterns of antimicrobial agents used in food-producing animals.

Chapter 6.10. on Responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine.

Chapter 6.11. on Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in animals.

REFERENCES TO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION STANDARDS:

Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011).

Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

II-10. RESIDUE TESTING, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to undertake residue testing and <i>monitoring</i> programmes for veterinary medicines (e.g. antimicrobials and hormones), chemicals, pesticides, radionuclides, heavy metals, etc. and respond appropriately to adverse findings.</p>	<p>1. No residue testing for animal products is being undertaken.</p>
	<p>2. Some residue testing is being undertaken, such as for research or pilot purposes and/or it is conducted only on specific animal products for export.</p>
	<p>3. A comprehensive residue <i>monitoring</i> programme is conducted for all animal products for export and some for domestic consumption based on limited <i>risk analysis</i>. Documented protocols exist for preventing residue risks (e.g. withholding periods for veterinary drugs) and for responding to breaches of Maximum Residue Limits.</p>
	<p>4. A comprehensive residue <i>monitoring</i> programme is conducted for all animal products for export and domestic consumption based on <i>risk analysis</i>. Effective protocols both reduce residue risks and respond to breaches of Maximum Residue Limits, including traceback and follow up.</p>
	<p>5. The residue <i>monitoring</i> and <i>risk management</i> programme is subject to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation/audit.</p>

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines.

Sub-points c) iii) and iv) of Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines.

Chapter 2.2 on Criteria applied by the OIE for assessing the safety of commodities.

REFERENCES TO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION STANDARDS:

Guidelines for the Design and Implementation of National Regulatory Food Safety Assurance Programmes Associated with the Use of Veterinary Drugs in Food Producing Animals (CAC/GL 71-2009).

Glossary of Terms and Definitions (Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods) (CAC/MISC 5-1993).

Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and Risk Management Recommendations (RMRs) for Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CAC/MRL 2).

Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

General Standard for Contaminants and Toxins in Food and Feed (CODEX STAN 193-1995).

Code of Practice Concerning Source Directed Measures to Reduce Contamination of Foods with Chemicals (CAC/RCP 49-2001).

Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/GL 77-2011).

Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance (CAC/RCP 61-2005).

II-11. ANIMAL FEED SAFETY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate animal <i>feed</i> safety e.g. processing, handling, storage, distribution and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal <i>feed</i> and <i>feed</i> ingredients.</p> <p>This includes <i>feed</i> safety risks such as swill feeding, feeding by-products, ruminant <i>feed</i> bans, the use of antimicrobials in <i>feed</i>, as well as managing risks of microbial, physical and toxin contamination of <i>feed</i>.</p>	1. The VS cannot regulate animal <i>feed</i> safety.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over animal <i>feed</i> safety.
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of animal <i>feed</i> safety.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of animal <i>feed</i> safety.
	5. The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Chapter 6.4. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Article 6.10.8 on Responsibilities of animal feed manufacturers.

II-12. IDENTIFICATION, TRACEABILITY AND MOVEMENT CONTROL	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>A. Premises, herd, batch and animal identification, tracing and movement control</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS, in coordination with producers and other stakeholders, to regulate the identification of <i>animals</i>, to trace their history and location(s), and to control domestic movements for the purpose of animal disease control, food safety, trade or other legal requirements under the VS mandate.</p>	<p>1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to regulate the identification of <i>animals</i>, either individually, by batch, or by premises, or to trace and control their movements.</p>
	<p>2. The VS can identify some <i>animals</i> by premises or location and control some movements, using traditional methods, and can demonstrate the ability to deal with a specific problem (e.g. to trace sampled or vaccinated <i>animals</i> for follow up, or to prevent theft).</p>
	<p>3. The VS implement a system for <i>animal identification, traceability and movement control</i> for specific animal sub-populations (e.g. for export, at borders, specified <i>zones</i> or markets) as required for traceability and/or disease control, in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p>4. The VS implement appropriate and effective <i>animal identification, traceability and movement control</i> procedures for some animal species at national level, in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p>5. The VS carry out periodic audits of the effectiveness of their identification, traceability and movement control systems. They have been demonstrated as effective in dealing with a problem (e.g. tracing a disease <i>outbreak</i>, residue or other food safety incident).</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

II-12 . IDENTIFICATION, TRACEABILITY AND MOVEMENT CONTROL	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Identification, traceability and control of products of animal origin</p> <p>The capability of the <i>Veterinary Authority</i>, in coordination with <i>Competent Authorities</i> (such as food safety authorities) and other stakeholders as appropriate, to achieve whole-of-chain traceability, including the identification, tracing and control of products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.</p>	<p>1. The VS do not have the capability or access to information to identify or trace products of animal origin.</p>
	<p>2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin, by coordination between <i>Competent Authorities</i>, to deal with a specific problem (e.g. high risk products traced back to premises of origin).</p>
	<p>3. The VS have implemented procedures to identify and trace some products of animal origin, in coordination with <i>Competent Authorities</i>, for food safety, animal health and trade purposes, in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have implemented national programmes enabling them to identify and trace all products of animal origin, and respond to threats, in coordination with <i>Competent Authorities</i>, in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p>5. The VS periodically audit the effectiveness of their identification and traceability procedures, in coordination with <i>Competent Authorities</i>. The procedures have been demonstrated as being effective for traceback and response to a relevant food safety incident (e.g. foodborne zoonoses or residue incident).</p>

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the Veterinary Authority.]

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

II-13. ANIMAL WELFARE	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to legislate and implement the <i>animal welfare</i> standards of the OIE as published in the <i>Terrestrial Code</i>.</p> <p>This requires consultation and coordination with <i>Competent Authorities</i>, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders, as appropriate.</p>	<p>1. There is no national legislation or regulations on <i>animal welfare</i>.</p>
	<p>2. There is limited national legislation or regulations on <i>animal welfare</i> covering some of the OIE standards, with limited stakeholder or public awareness.</p>
	<p>3. The national <i>veterinary legislation</i> (including laws and regulations) on <i>animal welfare</i> cover most OIE standards, with some awareness programmes and implementation, but are in conformity with international standards in only some sectors (e.g. for the export sector).</p>
	<p>4. <i>Animal welfare</i> programmes, supported by suitable <i>veterinary legislation</i>, are being implemented in conformity with relevant international standards and are applied to most sectors and species with stakeholders and public awareness¹⁷. Documented compliance programmes, including consequences of non-compliance are available.</p>
	<p>5. <i>Animal welfare</i> programmes, supported by suitable <i>veterinary legislation</i>, are being implemented in conformity with relevant international standards. Comprehensive national programmes are applied to all sectors and species with the active involvement of stakeholders. The <i>animal welfare</i> programmes, including non-compliance issues, are subject to regular audit and review, with documented cases of responding effectively to non-compliance.</p>

¹⁷ Recommended reading:

ISO Technical specification TS/34700 (2016).

OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy (2017).

OIE Guidelines on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health: http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Animal_Welfare/docs/pdf/Others/Disastermanagement-ANG.pdf

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Section 7 on *Animal welfare*.

Chapters 7.2., 7.3., 7.4. 7.5., 7.6., 7.9., 7.10., 7.11 and 7.13. on *farm animal welfare* (including humane on farm, transport and slaughter conditions).

Chapter 7.8. on *Use of animals in research and education*.

Chapter 7.7. on *Stray dog population control*.

Chapter 7.12. on *Welfare of working equids*.

CHAPTER III

INTERACTION WITH

STAKEHOLDERS

The capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve non-government stakeholders including the private sector, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (including consumer organisations) in the implementation of programmes and activities. This also includes relevant state-owned enterprises, research institutions, universities and other training establishments.

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES:

III-1	COMMUNICATION.....	36
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TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7, 9 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards/Communication.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 4, 8 and Sub-point g) of Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details/Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls/Sources of independent scientific expertise.

Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on General principles: Consultation.

Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.

Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

III-1. COMMUNICATION ¹⁸	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to keep non-government stakeholders¹⁹ aware and informed, in a transparent, effective and timely manner, of VS activities and programmes, and of developments in animal health, <i>animal welfare</i> and veterinary public health.</p> <p>This competency includes communication with all non-government stakeholders, including industry groups/associations (such as livestock farmer, meat sector, dairy sector and trading groups), as well as relevant NGOs and the general public, such as via communication campaigns and the media, including social media.</p>	1. The VS do not inform stakeholders of VS activities and programmes.
	2. The VS have informal communication mechanisms with some stakeholders (e.g. with the larger commercial livestock or related companies).
	3. The VS maintain a dedicated and specialist communications function which communicates with stakeholders occasionally, but it is not always up-to-date or pro-active in providing information.
	4. The VS contact point or unit for communication provides up-to-date information to most relevant stakeholders. This information is aligned with a well-developed communications plan, and accessible via the Internet and other appropriate channels targeted to the audience, and covers relevant events, activities and programmes, including during crises.
	5. The VS have a well-developed communications plan, and regularly circulate information to all relevant stakeholders, well targeted to the audience via the full range of communications media, including social media. The VS regularly evaluate and revise their communications plan.

¹⁸ Recommended reading:

OIE Communication Handbook Veterinary Services (2015) at: www.oie.int/fileadmin/home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/EN_Guide_de_Communication_FINAL.pdf

¹⁹ Communication and consultation with government stakeholders should be captured under CCI-6 on Coordination Capability of the Veterinary Services, and particularly CCI-6B on External Coordination.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.
Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.

Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

III-2. CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to consult effectively with non-government stakeholders²⁰ on VS policies and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety.</p> <p>This competency includes consultation with all non-government stakeholders, including industry groups/associations (such as livestock farmer, meat sector, dairy sector and trading groups), as well as interested NGOs and members of the public.</p> <p>Unlike communication (CCIII-1), consultation is two way and should involve mechanisms that not only inform, but actively seek views of consulted parties, for consideration and response.</p>	<p>1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with non-government stakeholders.</p>
	<p>2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with some non-government stakeholders (e.g. only the larger commercial livestock or related companies).</p>
	<p>3. The VS hold formal consultations with non-government stakeholders, usually represented by industry groups or associations.</p>
	<p>4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with non-government stakeholders, who are organised to have broad representation, such as through elected, self-financed industry groups or associations. Consultation outcomes are documented and the views of stakeholders considered and occasionally incorporated.</p>
	<p>5. The VS actively consult with all non-government stakeholders, including representatives of smaller producers, regarding current and proposed policies and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, and proposed interventions at the OIE, Codex Alimentarius Commission, WTO SPS Committee, etc. The consultation results in improved, better adapted activities and greater stakeholder support.</p>

²⁰ Communication and consultation with government stakeholders should be captured under CCI-6 on Coordination Capability of the Veterinary Services, and particularly CCI-6B on External Coordination.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 4 and Sub-point g) of Point 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details/ Sources of independent scientific expertise.
Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

III-3. OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate, coordinate and provide follow-up on relevant meetings and activities of regional and international organisations including the OIE, Codex Alimentarius Commission, WTO SPS Committee, WHO, FAO and Regional Economic Communities.</p>	<p>1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings or activities of regional or international organisations.</p>
	<p>2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings or activities and/or make a limited contribution.</p>
	<p>3. The VS actively participate²¹ in the majority of relevant meetings and activities, and provide some feedback to national colleagues.</p>
	<p>4. The VS consult with non-government stakeholders and take into consideration their opinions in developing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings and in following up on meeting outcomes at national or regional level.</p>
	<p>5. The VS consult with non-government stakeholders to provide leadership, to ensure that strategic issues are identified, and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings, and follow up on meeting outcomes at national and/or regional levels. The VS collaborate internationally by sharing information and assisting to build capacity where appropriate.</p>

²¹ Active participation refers to preparation in advance of, and contributing during the meetings in question, including exploring common solutions and generating proposals and compromises for possible adoption.

III-4. ACCREDITATION/AUTHORISATION/ DELEGATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit/authorise/ delegate to private sector or NGO expertise (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories, animal welfare NGOs), to carry out official tasks on their behalf, usually via a formal agreement (i.e. public-private partnership)²².</p>	<p>1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit/authorise/delegate to the private sector or NGOs official tasks.</p>
	<p>2. The public sector of the VS has the authority or capability to accredit/authorise/delegate official tasks to the private sector or NGOs, but there are currently no accreditation/authorisation/ delegation activities.</p>
	<p>3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation/ authorisation/delegation programmes for certain tasks using formal agreements, but these activities are not routinely reviewed.</p>
	<p>4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation/authorisation/delegation programmes using formal agreements, and these activities are routinely reviewed to maintain standards and manage performance.</p>
	<p>5 The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation/ authorisation/delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and other stakeholders.</p>

²² Recommended reading:

'The OIE PPP Handbook: guidelines for Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary domain' at: www.oie.int/publicprivatepartnerships (available as of May 2019).

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Point 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.

III-5. REGULATION OF THE PROFESSION BY THE VETERINARY STATUTORY BODY (VSB)²³

DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capacity of the VSB to effectively and independently maintain educational and professional standards for <i>veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals</i>.</p> <p>Regulation includes licensing or registration of those <i>veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals</i> that meet educational standards, and the ongoing oversight of their professional competence and conduct.</p>	1. There is no VSB.
	2. The VSB regulates <i>veterinarians</i> only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or does not systematically apply educational standards or disciplinary measures.
	3. The VSB regulates <i>veterinarians</i> in all sectors of the veterinary profession setting educational standards and applying disciplinary measures.
	4. The VSB regulates <i>veterinarians</i> in all sectors and some <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i> in a transparent manner. It has defined one or more specific categories of <i>veterinary paraprofessional</i> and their qualifications for initial and ongoing registration.
	5. The VSB regulates and applies disciplinary measures to <i>veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals</i> in all sectors throughout the country. <i>Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals</i> are required to undertake continuing education to maintain their professional registration.

²³ Recommended reading:

Focus on Veterinary Statutory Bodies, Dec 2014 at: <http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/vademecum/pdf/Veterinary%20statutory%20bodies.pdf>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals.

III-6. PARTICIPATION OF PRODUCERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN JOINT PROGRAMMES

DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The capability of the VS to develop joint programmes (public-private partnerships)²⁴ with producers and non-government stakeholders to deliver animal health, veterinary public health, food safety and/or <i>animal welfare</i> outcomes.</p>	<p>1. Producers and other non-government stakeholders do not participate in joint programmes.</p>
	<p>2. Producers and other non-government stakeholders are informed of programmes by the VS and informally assist the VS in programme delivery in the field (e.g. industry groups helping to communicate the programme with their membership).</p>
	<p>3. Producers and other non-government stakeholders formally participate with the VS in the delivery of joint programmes and advise of needed changes and improvements.</p>
	<p>4. Representatives of producers and other non-government stakeholders actively partner with the VS to plan, manage and implement joint programmes.</p>
	<p>5. Producers and other non-government stakeholders contribute resources and may lead the development and delivery of effective joint programmes with the VS. They also actively participate in their regular review, audit and revision.</p>

²⁴ Recommended reading:

'The OIE PPP Handbook: guidelines for Public-Private Partnerships in the veterinary domain' at: www.oie.int/publicprivatepartnerships (available as of May 2019).

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Communication.*

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on *Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.*

Point 8 of Article 3.2.14. on *Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls.*

Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on *General principles: Consultation.*

III-7. VETERINARY CLINICAL SERVICES	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The availability and quality of veterinary clinical services to meet the needs of animal owners, including their access to animal disease or injury diagnosis and treatment.</p>	<p>1. There are no/few clinical services provided from either the public or private sector.</p>
	<p>2. Clinical services are available to animal owners in some areas but the quality and coverage (i.e. access to qualified <i>veterinarians</i> and/or <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i>) is highly variable.</p>
	<p>3. Clinical services are available to most animal owners via the public and/or private sector. In rural areas this is delivered mostly by <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i> with some formal training and some veterinary supervision – but providing only basic clinical diagnosis and treatment.</p>
	<p>4. Clinical services are available to all animal owners via an efficient network of veterinary clinics, including in rural areas, serviced by qualified <i>veterinarians</i> assisted by <i>veterinary paraprofessionals</i>. Diagnoses are generally made prior to treatment, including with supporting <i>laboratory</i> tests where appropriate and professional standards are maintained by a well-functioning VSB.</p>
	<p>5. Clinical services are available to all animal owners through qualified <i>veterinarians</i>, with appropriate facilities, diagnostic equipment and treatments, and the opportunity for specialist referral if required.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Points 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Veterinary medicines.

CHAPTER IV

ACCESS TO MARKETS

The authority and capability of the VS to support access, expansion and retention of regional and international markets for *animals* and animal products, by demonstrating the overall integrity of its animal health and veterinary public health system.

CRITICAL COMPETENCIES:

IV-1	VETERINARY LEGISLATION	44
IV-2	INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION	46
IV-3	INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION	47
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TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/ Export/import inspection.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities.

Points 7 and 11 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Membership of the OIE.

Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. on Model international veterinary certificates.

IV-I. VETERINARY LEGISLATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The effectiveness of <i>veterinary legislation</i> (including laws and regulations).</p> <p>A. Legal quality and coverage</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to develop and update <i>veterinary legislation</i>, to ensure its quality and coverage of the veterinary domain.</p> <p>This competency covers the quality of legislation considering the principles of legal drafting, its impact, and suitability for implementation.</p> <p>This competency includes formal collaboration with expert legal drafters and lawyers, other relevant ministries and <i>Competent Authorities</i>, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas of the veterinary domain. It also includes consultation with stakeholders that may affect or be affected by the <i>veterinary legislation</i>.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> is lacking, out-dated or of poor quality. The VS do not have the authority or capability to develop and update <i>veterinary legislation</i>. 2. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> covers some fields of the veterinary domain. The VS, working occasionally with expert legal drafters and lawyers, have some authority and capability to develop and update <i>veterinary legislation</i>. 3. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> covers most fields of the veterinary domain, including those fields under other Competent Authorities. The VS, working in formal partnership with expert legal drafters and lawyers, have the authority and capability to develop and update national <i>veterinary legislation</i>, including via consultation with stakeholders, to ensure its legal quality and applicability. 4. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> covers the entire veterinary domain. The VS have the authority and the capability to develop and update <i>veterinary legislation</i> at national (and sub-national where relevant) level – using a formal methodology which considers international standards, consultation with stakeholders, legal quality and applicability, and regulatory impact. 5. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> comprehensively covers the entire veterinary domain. The VS regularly evaluate and update <i>veterinary legislation</i> at national (and sub-national where relevant) level, with reference to ongoing effectiveness and changing international standards and science.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on *Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/Export/import inspection.*

Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on *Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.*

Chapter 3.4. on *Veterinary legislation, specifically articles 3.4.3 and 3.4.4.*

IV-I. VETERINARY LEGISLATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>B. Implementation and compliance</p> <p>The authority and capability of the VS to ensure implementation of and compliance with <i>veterinary legislation</i> across the veterinary domain through communication, compliance and inspection activities.</p> <p>This competency includes formal collaboration with other relevant ministries and <i>Competent Authorities</i>, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share responsibility for implementation or have mutual interest in relevant areas.</p>	<p>1. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> is not implemented or poorly implemented, and it is not supported by communication, compliance and inspection activities.</p>
	<p>2. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> is implemented through some activities of communication and awareness raising on stakeholder legal obligations, but few compliance and inspection activities are conducted.</p>
	<p>3. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> is implemented through a programme of communication and awareness raising, and through formal, documented compliance and inspection activities. The VS undertake some legal action (e.g. administrative fines or prosecution) in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.</p>
	<p>4. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> is implemented across the entire veterinary domain and is consistently applied. The VS work to minimise instances of non-compliance through multiple means, including through targeted communications, incentives and appropriate legal processes. They have documented reports of responding to non-compliance.</p>
	<p>5. <i>Veterinary legislation</i> compliance programmes are regularly subjected to audit and review by the VS or external agencies.</p>

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on *Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health/Export/import inspection.*

Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on *Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.*

IV-2. INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to be active in the harmonisation of national <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i> to ensure they take into account international standards, and/or related regional directives or guidelines.</p>	<p>1. National <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i> under the mandate of the VS do not take into account international standards.</p>
	<p>2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i> as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.</p>
	<p>3. The VS monitor the establishment of new and revised international standards, and periodically review national <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i> in response.</p>
	<p>4. The VS harmonise <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i>, and can demonstrate a level of alignment with changing international standards. The VS also review and comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations, and work through regional organisations, where available, to ensure better harmonisation with international standards.</p>
	<p>5. The VS actively and regularly participate at the international level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards²⁵, and use the standards to regularly harmonise national <i>veterinary legislation</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i>.</p>

²⁵ Recommended reading:
the WTO SPS Agreement: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsagr_e.htm

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: *Veterinary legislation*.

Article 3.2.11. on *Participation in OIE activities*.

Points 7 and 11 of Article 3.2.14. on *Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Membership of the OIE*.

IV-3 . INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION ²⁶	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to reliably certify <i>animals</i> and animal products, and related services and processes under their mandate, for export, in accordance with national <i>veterinary legislation</i>, international standards and importing country requirements.</p> <p>This refers to the country's veterinary export certification processes. Issues such as: the legislative basis, format and content of veterinary certificates; who signs certificates and the confidence they have in what they are certifying; and the outcome in terms of meeting international standards and/or importing country requirements to facilitate exportation should all be considered.</p>	<p>1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify <i>animals</i> and animal products for export.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have the authority to certify certain <i>animals</i> and animal products for export, but are not always in compliance with national <i>veterinary legislation</i>, and international standards.</p>
	<p>3. The VS develop and carry out certification for certain <i>animals</i>, animal products, services and processes for export under their mandate in compliance with international standards.</p>
	<p>4. The VS develop and carry out all relevant certification programmes for all <i>animals</i>, animal products, services and processes for export under their mandate in compliance with international standards.</p>
	<p>5. <i>The VS carry out audits of their certification programmes, in order to maintain national and international confidence in their system.</i></p>

²⁶ Certification procedures should be based on relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards and the WTO SPS Agreement.

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on *Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.*

Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on *Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.*

Sub-point b) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on *Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Export/import inspection.*

Chapter 5.2. on *Certification procedures.*
Chapters 5.10. to 5.13. on *Model international veterinary certificates.*

IV-4. EQUIVALENCE AND OTHER TYPES OF SANITARY AGREEMENTS	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to apply flexibility in negotiating, implementing and maintaining equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.</p> <p>As a reference, Article 4 of the WTO SPS Agreement²⁷ states: Member Countries shall accept the sanitary or phytosanitary measures of other Member Countries as equivalent, even if these measures differ from their own or from those used by other Member Countries trading in the same product, if the exporting Member Country objectively demonstrates to the importing Member Country that its measures achieve the importing Member Country's appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection. For this purpose, reasonable access shall be given, upon request, to the importing Member Country for inspection, testing and other relevant procedures.</p>	<p>1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to negotiate or approve equivalence or other types of sanitary agreements with other countries.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.</p>
	<p>3. The VS have implemented equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on selected <i>animals</i>, animal products and processes.</p>
	<p>4. The VS actively pursue the development, implementation and maintenance of equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on matters relevant to <i>animals</i>, animal products and processes under their mandate. They publish their existing sanitary agreements in the public domain.</p>
	<p>5. The VS actively work with stakeholders and take into account developments in international standards, in pursuing equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.</p>

²⁷ Recommended Reading:

WTO SPS Agreement - https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsagr_e.htm

SPS Information Management System - https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsims_e.htm

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:
Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

IV-5. TRANSPARENCY	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to notify²⁸ the OIE, WTO, trading partners and other relevant organisations of its disease status, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> and systems, in accordance with established procedures, as applicable to international trade.</p>	1. The VS do not notify.
	2. The VS occasionally notify.
	3. The VS notify in compliance with the procedures established by these organisations.
	4. The VS regularly and actively inform stakeholders of changes in disease status, regulations and <i>sanitary measures</i> and systems, as applicable to international trade.
	5. The VS, in cooperation with their stakeholders, carry out reviews or audits of their notification procedures.

²⁸ Recommended reading:

WAHIS user interface/database at: http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Wahidhome/Home

SPS Information Management System at: https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsims_e.htm

TERRESTRIAL CODE REFERENCES:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/ National animal disease reporting systems.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

IV-6. ZONING ²⁹	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free zones, as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p> <p>Where a country has no need for or interest in developing disease free zones and has not initiated such a process, this critical competency should be assessed as 'Non-Applicable' (N/A).</p>	<p>1. The VS do not have the authority or capability to initiate the establishment of disease free zones.</p>
	<p>2. The VS have identified a geographical animal sub-population or sub-populations as candidates to target a specific health status suitable for zoning.</p>
	<p>3. The VS are implementing <i>biosecurity</i> and <i>sanitary measures</i> with the intention of establishing a disease free zone for selected <i>animals</i> and animal products.</p>
	<p>4. The VS have established at least one disease free zone of selected <i>animals</i> and animal products with collaboration from producers and other stakeholders in alignment with OIE standards.</p>
	<p>5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free zone and have gained recognition by OIE and/or trading partners that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>

²⁹ One may need to cross-reference this CC with CCs on Disease prevention, control and eradication and Compartmentalisation as appropriate.

IV-7. COMPARTMENTALISATION ³⁰	
DEFINITION	LEVELS OF ADVANCEMENT
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free <i>compartments</i> in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE.</p> <p>Where a country or its relevant animal industries have no need for or interest in developing disease free <i>compartments</i> and neither party has initiated or considered such a process or partnership, this critical competency should be assessed as 'Non-Applicable' (N/A)</p>	<p>1. The VS do not have the authority or capability to initiate the establishment of disease free <i>compartments</i>.</p>
	<p>2. The VS can identify animal sub-populations as candidate establishments with a specific health status suitable for compartmentalisation, in partnership with interested stakeholders.</p>
	<p>3. The VS, working in close partnership with interested stakeholders, ensure that planned <i>biosecurity</i> measures to be implemented will enable the establishment and maintenance of disease free <i>compartments</i> for selected <i>animals</i> and animal products.</p>
	<p>4. The VS collaborate with producers and other stakeholders to define responsibilities and undertake actions that enable the establishment and maintenance of disease free <i>compartments</i> for selected <i>animals</i> and animal products, including a national government certification and accreditation system.</p>
	<p>5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for disease free <i>compartments</i> and have gained recognition by other countries that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</p>

³⁰ One may need to cross-reference this CC with CCs on Disease prevention, control and eradication and Zoning as appropriate.



I HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- I-1** Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services
- I-2** Competency and education of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals
- I-3** Continuing education
- I-4** Technical independence
- I-5** Planning, sustainability and management of policies and programmes
- I-6** Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services
- I-7** Physical resources and capital investment
- I-8** Operational funding
- I-9** Emergency funding

II TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY

- II-1** Veterinary laboratory diagnosis
- II-2** Risk analysis and epidemiology
- II-3** Quarantine and border security
- II-4** Surveillance and early detection
- II-5** Emergency preparedness and response
- II-6** Disease prevention, control and eradication
- II-7** Animal production food safety
- II-8** Veterinary medicines and biologicals
- II-9** Antimicrobial resistance and antimicrobial use
- II-10** Residue testing, monitoring and management
- II-11** Animal feed safety
- II-12** Identification, traceability and movement control
- II-13** Animal welfare

III INTERACTION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

- III-1** Communication
- III-2** Consultation with stakeholders
- III-3** Official representation and international collaboration
- III-4** Accreditation/authorisation/delegation
- III-5** Regulation of the profession by the Veterinary Statutory Body
- III-6** Participation of producers and other stakeholders in joint programmes
- III-7** Veterinary clinical services

IV ACCESS TO MARKETS

- IV-1** Veterinary legislation
- IV-2** International harmonisation
- IV-3** International certification
- IV-4** Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements
- IV-5** Transparency
- IV-6** Zoning
- IV-7** Compartmentalisation



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