

WOAH Standards for Border Inspection and Quarantine

REGIONAL WORKSHOP Animal Movement and Border Control in Asia and the Pacific

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(WOAH)

July 2025



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



World Organisation
for Animal Health

中华人民共和国农业农村部

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China





Topics covered in this presentation

1. About WOAHA
2. Impacts of unsafe and unfair trade
3. WOAHA Standards and safe trade
4. Updates to Section 5 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code



WOAH and international trade

(animals and animal
products)

The mandate granted to WOAH by its 183 Member
Countries:

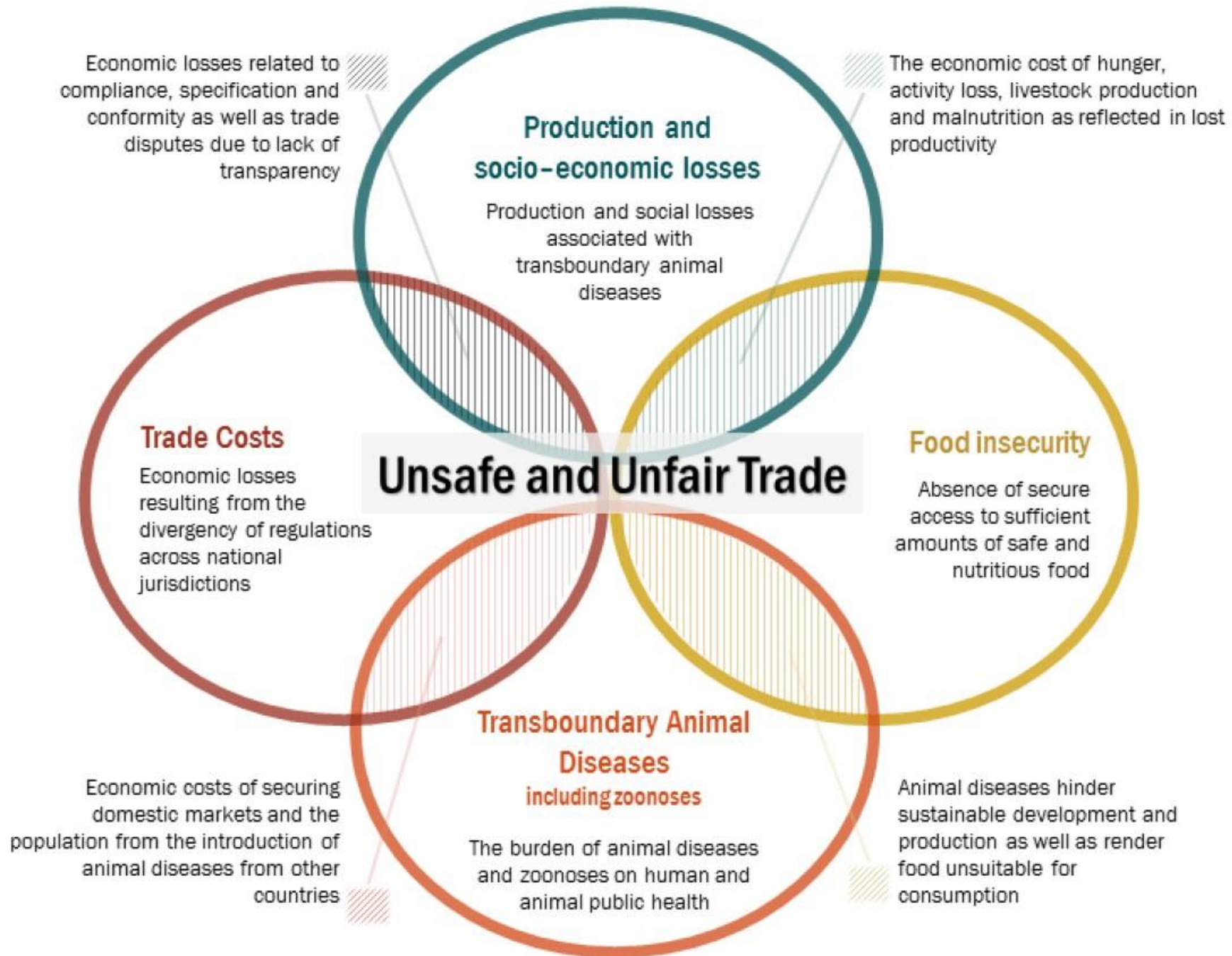
- Ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation
- Develop and publish science-based standards
- Produce guidelines for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses
- Recognition/acknowledgement of disease status
- Support for quality of Veterinary Services



WOAH and safe trade


WOAH fosters a global trade system based on the principles of transparency, collaboration and safety.





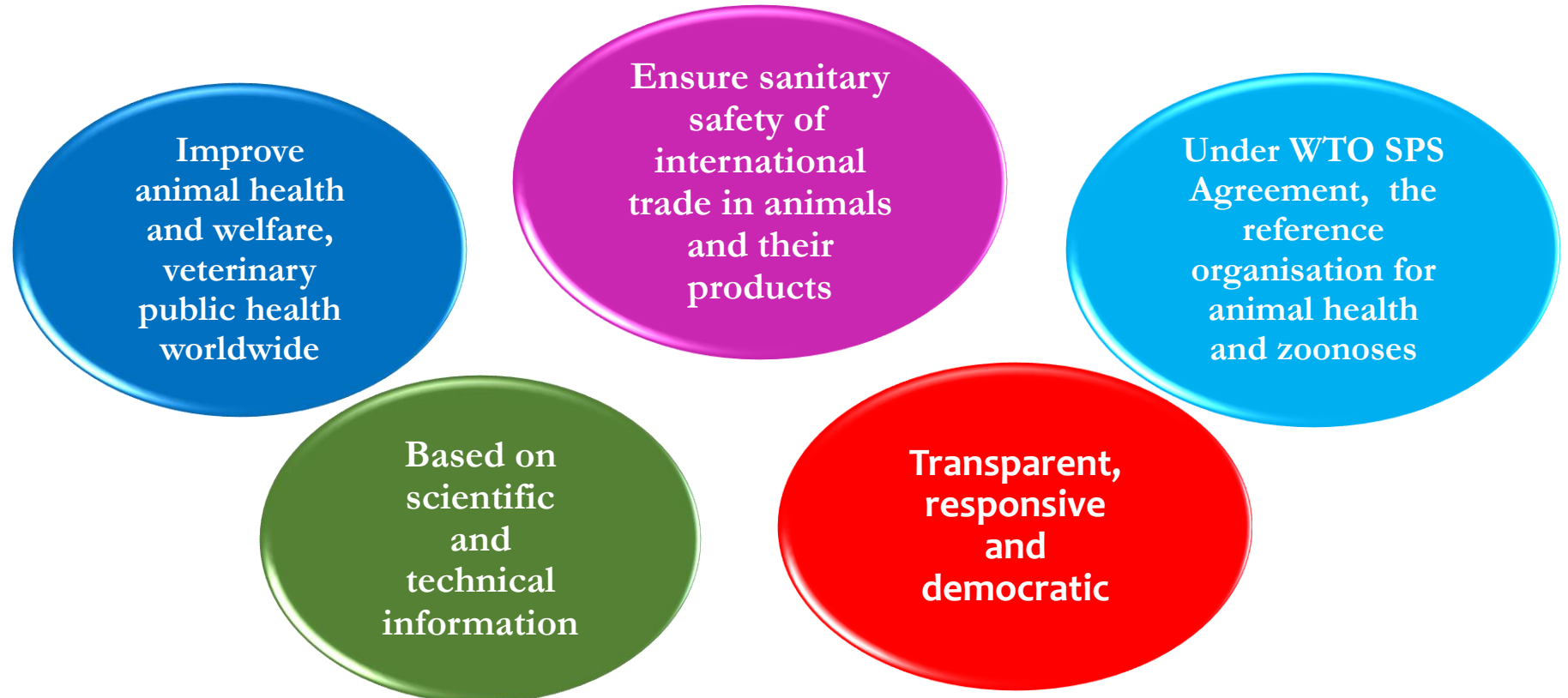
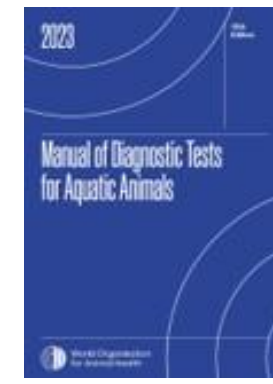
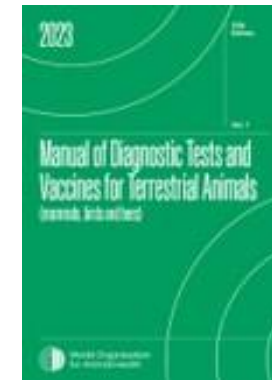
Source: WOAH Safe Trade for Sustainable Development

WOAH International Standards

- 
- WTO basis for trade in animals and animal products;
 - aim to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents (incl zoonoses);
 - avoid unjustified restrictions;
 - guidance for official controls.

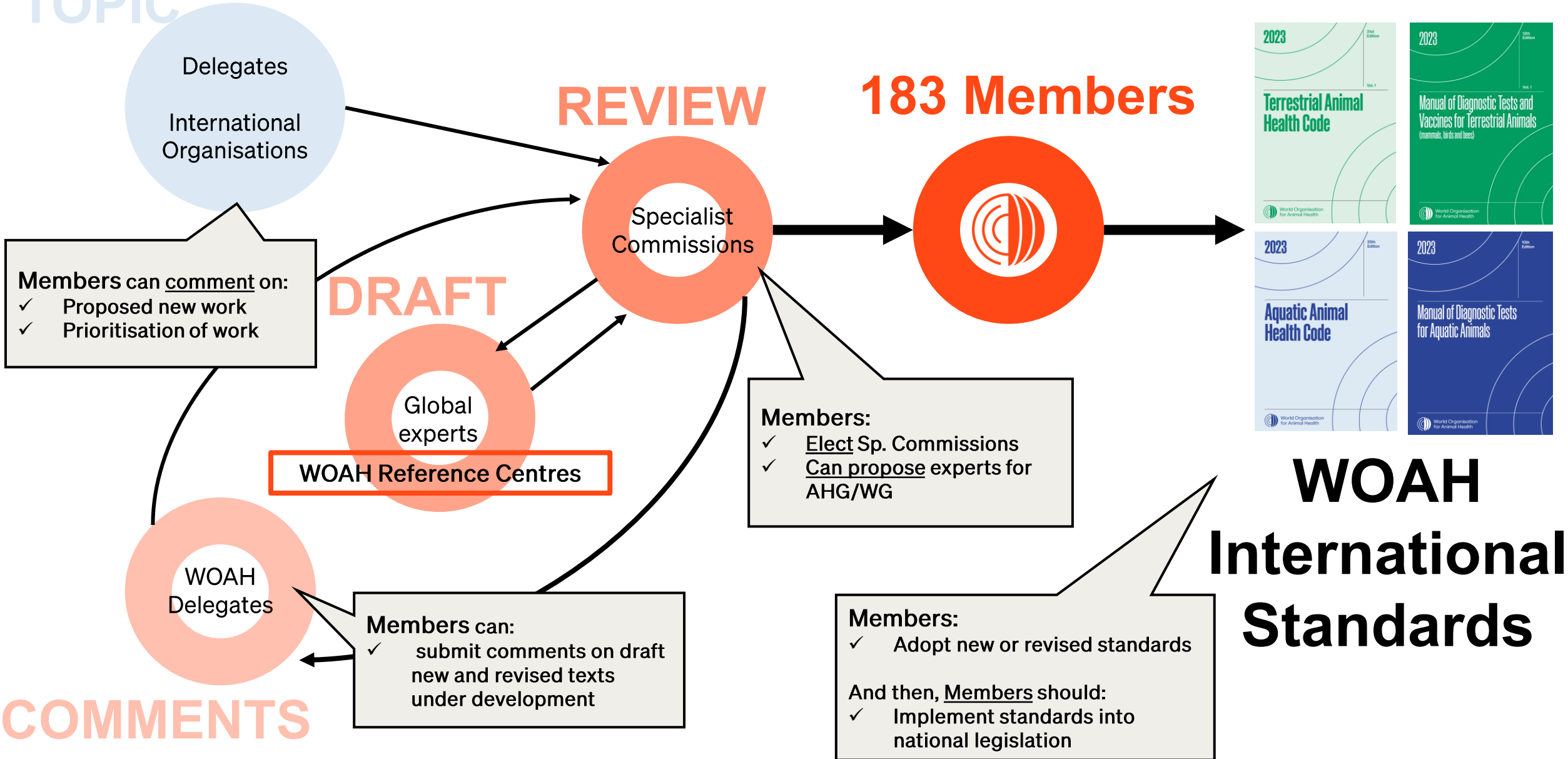


WOAH International Standards





TOPIC





WOAH Observatory

Monitoring use of WOAH Standards by Members

including success stories, gaps and barriers to implementation

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/>

Trade and sanitary measures

The international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) aim to support the safe and transparent trade of animals and animal products, as well as ensuring control of animal diseases including zoonoses. The World Trade Organization (WTO) primarily aims to facilitate trade and operates a global system of trade rules which its members are obliged to comply with. WTO's agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS Agreement) defines the basic rules to ensure international trade, while safeguarding animal and plant health, as well as food safety. WTO recognises WOAH as the reference organisation for international standards concerning animal health and zoonoses, requiring WTO members to base their sanitary measures on WOAH standards, guidelines and recommendations. The Observatory assessed the uptake of the most important WOAH standards related to trade aspects by its Members.

Mutual membership of WOAH and WTO

As of 2023

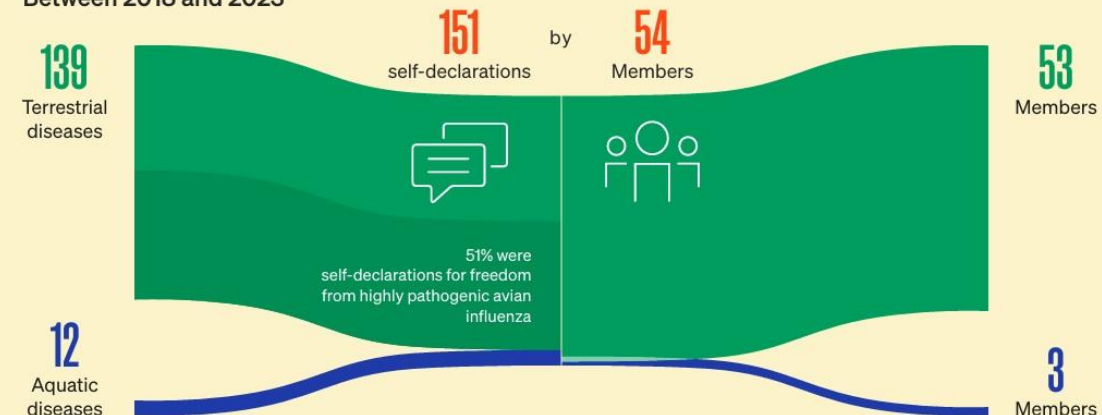


Self-declarations and official status

Since 1998, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has the mandate from the World Trade Organization (WTO) to officially recognise disease-free areas of countries for trade purposes. The procedure for the official recognition of animal health status by WOAH is based on voluntary application and currently applies to six diseases. WOAH Members can also self-declare freedom of their country, zones or compartments from any WOAH-listed aquatic or terrestrial animal disease, infection or infestation, except for the ones for which WOAH grants official status recognition. The Observatory assessed the uptake of these relevant standards by WOAH Members.

Self-declaration of freedom from terrestrial and aquatic diseases

Between 2018 and 2023



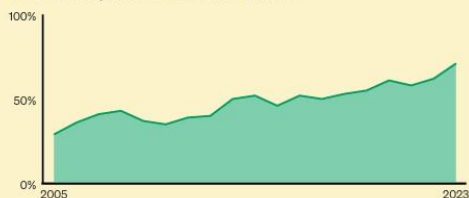


Movement control inside countries/territories and precautions at borders

Managing the movement of animals and animal products is supported by animal identification and traceability systems at national level, as defined by international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), which has also developed standards for quarantine and border security measures. These subsets of standards are crucial to control the spread of diseases within a territory and across borders, while facilitating production and trade. The Observatory assessed the uptake of these standards by WOAH Members.

Movement control reported to WOAH for terrestrial and aquatic diseases

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)



For most of the **terrestrial** diseases, the percentage of affected Members reporting movement control for the given disease was stable or tended to slightly increase over time.

White spot disease



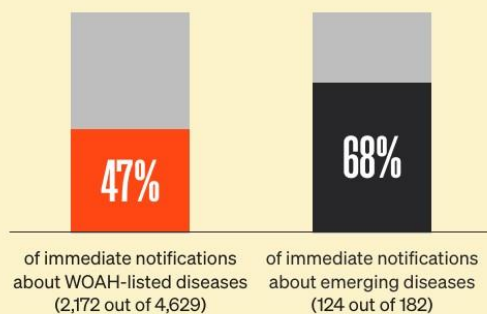
For most of the **aquatic** diseases, the percentage of affected Members reporting movement control for the given disease fluctuated over time.

Implementation of the One Health approach

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) promotes the implementation of the One Health approach and pursues strong collaborative initiatives with other international organisations. It also establishes and updates international standards relevant to One Health. The Observatory assessed the uptake of these standards, resolutions, and other guidelines by WOAH Members.

Half of the diseases reported to WOAH may have zoonotic potential

Between 2005 and 2023,



were considered to have **zoonotic potential** according to the scientific information reviewed in 2024.

Majority of Members affected by high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) publicly shared genetic data of the virus using One Health approach

Between 24 September 2021 and 25 September 2023:

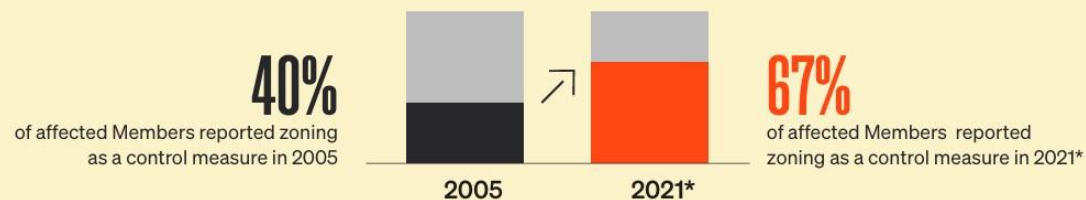


Zoning and compartmentalisation

Zoning and compartmentalisation can help reduce the impact of animal diseases and enable disease control. Further, these measures can enable international trade or limit its disruption if a disease is identified in a given population. Zoning and compartmentalisation should be implemented by the national competent authorities and may be recognised through bilateral agreements between trading partners for the purpose of international trade, leveraging international standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The Observatory assessed the adoption of these standards by WOAH Members.

POSITIVE OUTCOME ✓

An increasing number of affected Members reported zoning



ONGOING CHALLENGE ⚠

Reporting by the Members affected by a disease limited to zones, is still partial

Antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance

Inappropriate antimicrobial use (AMU) can lead to the development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) establishes international standards for the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials in animals. The Observatory assessed the uptake of these standards by WOAH Members.

POSITIVE OUTCOME ✓

Quantitative data submission increased

Number of Members reporting AMU

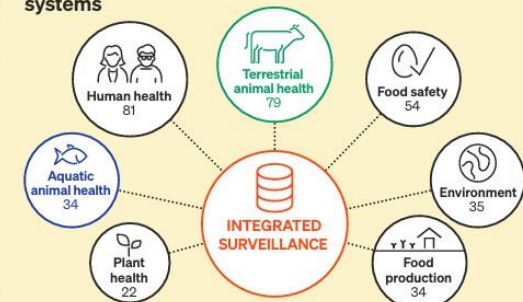


Members using most advanced quantitative reporting options
Members using other reporting options

POSITIVE OUTCOME ✓

Integrated surveillance by WOAH Members

85 Members declared they had integrated surveillance systems



Among those, human health and terrestrial animal health sectors were the most frequently incorporated in their surveillance systems. A minority of Members had also integrated the aquatic animal health sector.



WOAH Standards for International Trade

Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) [Aquatic Animal Health Code]

Section 5 Trade Measures, Import/Export Procedures and Veterinary Certification

Chapt 5.1 General obligations related to certification

Chapt 5.2 Certification procedures

Chapt 5.3 WOAHA procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of SPS Measures of the WTO

**Chapt 5.4 Animal health measures applicable before and at departure*

**Chapt 5.5 Animal health measures applicable during transit*

**Chapt 5.6 Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country*

**Chapt 5.7 Animal health measures applicable on arrival*

to Chapt 5.13

Section 7 Animal Welfare



ad hoc Group:

CHAPTER 5.4[#]

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE
TO THE EXPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

Revisions to
CHAPTERS
5.4 to 5.7

CHAPTER 5.5[^]

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE
TO THE TRANSIT OF COMMODITIES

CHAPTER 5.6[#]

MEASURES AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE
TO THE IMPORTATION OF COMMODITIES

CHAPTER 5.7[^]

BORDER INSPECTION POSTS AND
QUARANTINE CENTRES

circulated for Members' comments 3x

^ circulated for Members' comments 2x

(latest Feb 2025)

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission reports:

https://www.woah.org/en/document/terrestrial-animal-health-standards-commission-report_february-2025/



Revisions to CHAPTERS 5.4 to 5.7

Key points in common:

Purpose

- measures applicable ... to prevent the spread of pathogenic agents through international trade of commodities, without creating unjustified restrictions;
- provides guidance to ensure the quality and performance of official controls;

Responsibilities of Competent Authority as well as private sector stakeholders

Animal Welfare

Illegal movements

- Collaboration (within and between countries) to control the risk posed by the illegal cross-border movement of commodities

Contingency Plan



REVISIONS

CHAPT 5.4 [exportation]

Article 5.4.1	Purpose and Scope
Article 5.4.2	General Considerations Responsibilities; coordination with other agencies and industry; resourcing; basis for certification; premise approvals; traceability; animal welfare; illegal movements.
Article 5.4.3	General Principles applicable to procedures for official control <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preparation for exportation Notification; standards for preparation; evidence; coordination; isolation; testing, treatment and vaccination; disinfection/disinsection; transport.2. Procedures of exportation<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Verification and certification Compliance; evidence; journey travel plan (animals); issuing official Veterinary Certificate.b) Domestic transportation of commodities Maintain compliance with ICR & animal welfare; activities at point of exit.
Article 5.4.4	Specific recommendations depending on commodities <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Animals2. Germinal products3. Animal products
Article 5.4.5	Contingency Plan Actions and responsibilities for unexpected events.



REVISIONS

CHAPT 5.5 [transit]

Article 5.5.1	Purpose and Scope Guidance to ensure the quality and performance of official controls for transit
Article 5.5.2	General Considerations Responsibilities; animal welfare.
Article 5.5.3	General Principles applicable to procedures for official control Risk-based; maintenance of integrity
Article 5.5.4	Contingency Plan
Article 5.5.5	General recommendations on measures to address identified illegal movement of commodities at border inspection posts



REVISIONS

CHAPT 5.6 [importation]

Article 5.6.1 Purpose and Scope

Article 5.6.2 General Considerations

Responsibilities; notification; biosecurity; animal welfare; illegal movements.

Article 5.6.3 General Principles applicable to procedures for official control

Official inspection (documentary check, identity check, physical inspection); sampling and testing (risk-based); sanitary controls; release of consignment.

Article 5.6.4 Further action for non-compliant commodities

Notification; disposition.

Article 5.6.5 Contingency Plan

Unexpected events; responsibilities and actions.

Article 5.6.6 General recommendations applicable to vehicles/vessels and containers that transported infected animals

Treatment/disposal; disinfection; disinsection.

Articles 5.6.7 – 5.6.9



REVISIONS

CHAPT 5.6

[importation, cont'd]

Article 5.6.7 **General principles applicable to disposal of international catering waste**

Article 5.6.8 **General recommendations on measures to address identified illegal movement of commodities at border inspection posts**
collaboration and coordination with Customs.

Article 5.6.9 **General recommendations on measures to address identified illegal movement of commodities outside of border inspection posts**
working with other agencies





REVISIONS

CHAPT 5.7 [facilities]

Article 5.7.1	Purpose and Scope Use of Quarantine Centres for isolation (biosecurity differs with use): Pre-export (as described in disease specific chapters of TAHC) OR After arrival (defined by risk analysis)
Article 5.7.2	General Considerations Legislation; resourcing; administration; staff (qualifications and training); notifications; SOP; access to laboratories and other services.
Article 5.7.3	Cooperation with other agencies streamlined processes.
Article 5.7.4	Requirements for a border inspection post based on risk analysis and biosecurity
Article 5.7.5	Additional requirements for a border inspection post for animals
Article 5.7.6	Facilities involved in official inspection other than border inspection post
Article 5.7.7	Requirements for a quarantine centre considerations for design and operation
Article 5.7.8	Contingency Plan address foreseeable but uncommon events



REVISIONS proposed by ad hoc Group:

Border Inspection Post (currently Border Post; revised wording)

Point of Exit (new entry)

Point of Entry (new entry)

GLOSSARY ENTRIES

Quarantine Centre (currently Quarantine Station; revised wording)

Transit Country (revised wording)

Container (revised wording)

Means of Transport (currently Vehicle/Vessel; revised wording)

Also provided comment on new Glossary Term:

Isolation



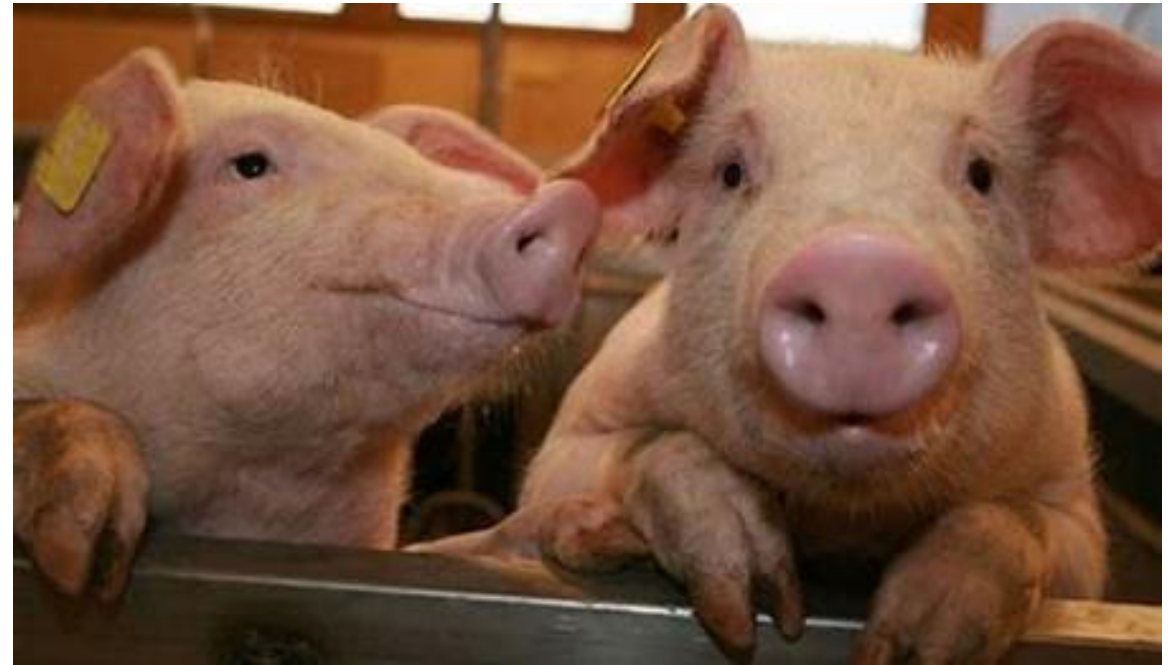
Summary & Conclusions

Informal/illegal (unregulated) trade:

- Food insecurity
- Dissemination of disease (including zoonoses)
- Production and socio-economic losses
- Trade costs

Application of WOAH Standards:

- Recognised by WTO
- Harmonise trade
- Minimise trade restrictions
- Reduce trade disputes
- Minimise risk of dissemination of transboundary animal diseases



Thank you for your attention

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