CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

[...]

Article 7.1.X

Guiding principles for the use of measures to assess animal welfare

1) For the OIE animal welfare standards to be applicable globally, they should put more emphasis on favourable good outcomes for the animals, although, in some circumstances, it may be necessary to recommend than on specific conditions of the animals' environment and management. Outcomes are generally measured by assessing animals' enjoyment of the "five freedoms" described in Article 7.1.2.

2) For each principle listed in Article 7.1.4., the most relevant criteria (or measurables), ideally comprising animal-based measures, should be included in the standard. Any given animal-based measure may be linked to more than one principle.

3) Users of the standard should select the most appropriate animal-based measures for their farming system or conditions, from among those listed in the standard. Outcomes can be measured by an assessment of individuals or animal groups, or a representative sample of those, using data from establishments, transport or slaughterhouses/abattoirs.

4) Standards should, whenever possible, define explicit targets or thresholds that should be met for animal-based measures. Such target values should be based on relevant science and experience of experts. To guide users, Competent Authorities and other relevant bodies should collect data that can be used to set relevant target values.

5) In addition to animal-based measures, resource-based measures and management-based measures should be defined on the basis of science and expert experience showing that a welfare outcome is clearly linked to a resource or to a management procedure.

6) Users of the standard should select the most appropriate animal-based measures for their farming system or conditions, from among those listed in the standard. Outcomes can be measured by an assessment of individuals or animal groups, or a representative sample of those, using data from establishments, transport or slaughterhouses/abattoirs.

6) Whatever the basis of the measure, if outcomes are unsatisfactory, users should consider what changes to resources or management are necessary to improve outcomes.