

General Comment: Overall, this draft document is clear, complete and easy to follow. The standards are designed for strategic planning and execution for successful control/eradication of animal diseases at local and international levels. Below are a few suggestions recommended by our experts for consideration by the Code Commission.

CHAPTER 4.X.

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR
ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL**

USA COMMENTS – shown in blue font

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Article 4.X.3.

Control programme goal and objectives

Some of the factors to define the goal of *disease* control programmes are listed (Table 1). An assessment of these factors should guide in the strategic planning and programme implementation.

Table 1 – Factors to consider in setting achievable goals for disease control programmes

Biological factors	Availability of technical tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Species affected- Genetic stability and diversity of the agent- Density of susceptible species- Wildlife reservoir- Vector transmission- Transmissibility- Current extent of disease- Survival in the environment- Carrier state- Ease of clinical recognition- Zoonotic importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Diagnostic tests- Vaccines- Treatment- Disinfectants and insecticides- Disposal facilities- Trained personnel

Control measures	Socioeconomic considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Movement control - Stamping-out, slaughter or pre-emptive slaughter - Import or export restrictions - Zoning or compartmentalisation - Herd accreditation - Isolation and quarantine - Cleaning and disinfection - Vector and reservoir control - Treatment of products and by-products - Vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost and benefits of intervention - Availability of resources - Structure of livestock production systems - Public health implications - Logistics and ease of implementation, - Stakeholder engagement - Environmental impact - Political will - Incentives and compensation - Acceptance of the public (e.g. animal welfare implications, culling of animals, destruction of food) - Safe commodities for trade - Institutional arrangements - Budget and financial resources planning

Rationale: The additional factors in Table 1 are essential for planning a successful and satisfactory control/eradication of animal diseases in any country or zone.

Article 4.X.4.

Programme planning

The *Veterinary Authority*, in collaboration with stakeholders, should develop a plan based on the goal of the programme. Intervention options should be based on biological effectiveness, ease and cost of implementation, as well as the expected benefits. Tools such as value chain analysis may be used to help understand the role of different players within the production system, identify critical control points to target measures and provide an indication on the incentives for and feasibility of implementation of the programme.

The decision on the most appropriate intervention options should take into account cost-benefit considerations **as well as zoonotic importance**, in conjunction with the likelihood of success of a particular set of *disease* control measures.

Rationale: Most often, public health consideration is equally important and should be included as part of program planning.

Article 4.X.5.

Implementation plan

A *disease* control programme should be based on an efficient and effective *Veterinary Services*, **networking capacities with stakeholders**, and holder or producer participation. Countries are encouraged to follow the provisions of Chapter 3.1., as well as to undergo a Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation and address the gaps that may be identified. In addition, the programme should have political support, and sustainable sources of funding, including government and private stakeholder contributions.

The implementation plan should address the following:

1. Regulatory framework

The *disease* control programme should be supported by effective legislation at the primary and secondary levels. Countries are encouraged to follow **applicable** the OIE standards on Veterinary Legislation (Chapter 3.4.). The *disease* should be notifiable throughout the country. The regulatory framework for the *disease* control programme should be adapted to evolving programme needs.

Rationale: The suggested changes to Article 4.X.5. provide improved clarity.

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5. Diagnostic capability

The testing method/procedure must be simple, fast and amendable/adaptable to local/regional situations and available resources. Verification of test procedures and test results must be simple and incorporated in established testing guidelines.

The programme should be supported by diagnostic facilities with adequate capability and capacity. Samples for diagnosis should be collected and shipped in accordance with Chapter 1.1.1. of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The choice of diagnostic tests should ensure detection and confirmation of the *disease*. The tests should follow the specific requirements in Chapter 1.1.5. and the *disease* specific recommendations in the *Terrestrial Manual*. Diagnostic facilities, either official or accredited, should be under a quality assurance scheme coordinated by the designated national reference laboratory. The latter should establish communication with an OIE Reference Laboratory for the particular *disease*. National and sub-national laboratories need to ensure that diagnostic results are communicated to the *Veterinary Authority* as appropriate to the situation. National laboratories are also needed to provide independent and impartial quality control of vaccines. When appropriate, national laboratories are encouraged to submit samples to OIE Reference Laboratories for confirmation of findings and more detailed analysis.

Rationale: The suggested text is essential for a cost-effective and successful control/eradication of animal diseases.

6. Vaccination and other control measures

Vaccination is one of the essential tools in the control of many *diseases*, if an effective vaccine is available, **and conforms to the country's effective disease control programme**. However, *vaccination* on its own will not usually achieve the desired results unless the *vaccination* programme is part of an integrated control strategy utilising a combination of control measures as outlined in Table 1. If *vaccination* is applied the following points

should be considered:

Rationale: Even if an effective vaccine is available, its use might not conform to a given country's overall (and effective) disease control program. This should be noted to prevent the assumption that all effective disease control programs must include vaccination when an effective vaccine is available.