

USA Comments

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission September 2009 Report

CHAPTER 3.1.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Article 3.1.1.

The quality of the *Veterinary Services* depends on a set of factors, which include fundamental principles of an ethical, organisational, legislative, regulatory and technical nature. The *Veterinary Services* shall conform to these fundamental principles, regardless of the political, economic or social situation of their country.

Compliance with these fundamental principles by the *Veterinary Services* of a Member is important to the establishment and maintenance of confidence in its *international veterinary certificates* by the *Veterinary Services* of other Members.

The same fundamental principles should apply in countries where the responsibility for establishing or applying certain animal health measures, or issuing some *international veterinary certificates* is exercised by an organisation other than the *Veterinary Services*, or by an authority or agency on behalf of the *Veterinary Services*. In all cases, the *Veterinary Services* retain ultimate responsibility for the application of these principles.

These fundamental principles are presented in Article 3.1.2. Other factors affecting quality are described in Volume 1 of the *Terrestrial Code* (notification, principles of certification, etc.).

The quality of *Veterinary Services*, including veterinary legislation and regulations, can be measured through an evaluation, whose general principles are described in Article 3.1.3. and in Article 3.1.4.

Recommendations on the evaluation of *Veterinary Services*, including legislation and regulations are described in Chapter 3.2.

A procedure for evaluating *Veterinary Services* by OIE experts, on a voluntary basis, is described in Article 3.1.5.

Rationale: We recognize that some countries mandate industry action through governmental legislation and others do this through legislation and regulation. Therefore, we suggest that throughout the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code, all mention of “legislative” or “legislation” be replaced with “legislation and regulations,” or “legislative and regulatory” as appropriate.

Article 3.1.2.

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