

Recommendation No. 1

**Application of biosecurity in different production systems at
individual, country and regional levels**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Biosecurity represents a key measure contributing to the prevention and control of all diseases of livestock and animal welfare, with private sector benefits at both the individual and commercial farming level, as well as public sector benefits at individual and collective, national and regional levels;
2. The current edition of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* has provisions only for *Biosecurity procedures in poultry production* (Chapter 6.5) and the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* has no provision on biosecurity;
3. Although non-commercial farms may be a dead end in terms of disease spread, backyard units can contribute to spread of diseases.

And considering that, based on the response to the questionnaire provided to the Delegates of the Regional Commission for Europe in preparation of this technical item:

4. The vast majority of the responding countries have a legal basis for the implementation of livestock biosecurity and have biosecurity plans that are enforced;
5. Biosecurity plans in the region mainly cover commercial poultry and pig farms and these have been strengthened in response to the recent epidemics of avian influenza and African swine fever;
6. The priority diseases that biosecurity requirements and plans cover are avian influenza, African swine fever, salmonellosis, tuberculosis, and aquatic animal diseases, among others;
7. Biosecurity plans in aquaculture appear to be of a high level where they exist;
8. Disease control tools such as vaccination, minimising contact at the wildlife interface, disease surveillance in both wildlife and at-risk domestic populations, and culling of wild animals are means enabling prevention, early detection, and reduced spread of diseases between wild and domestic animals;
9. The level of control of biosecurity, as a means to reduce the use of antimicrobial agents, is variable in the Region;
10. Farmers and hunters are the stakeholders with whom collaboration has most frequently been established to implement or improve biosecurity;
11. Awareness campaigns and capacity building activities are relevant tools for promoting the implementation of biosecurity at individual and collective, country and regional levels; and

12. Insufficient budget, difficulty in maintaining biosecurity over time, lack of human resources, and limited expertise are the main factors adversely affecting the ability of Veterinary Services and industry working together to apply biosecurity.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Members' Veterinary Authorities advocate with their animal production industries, including small commercial farms, for increasing awareness for and investment in biosecurity;
2. Members' Veterinary Authorities consider establishing a unit or function to support the field implementation of biosecurity, when relevant;
3. Members' Veterinary Authorities encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Centre on biosecurity in the Region, which could provide support to and coordinate capacity-building activities on biosecurity to Members;
4. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with private sector, assess and share lessons learned and best practices on biosecurity, including activities targeting aquatic animals;
5. Members' Veterinary Authorities, in close collaboration with animal production industries, provide guidance to farmers regarding biosecurity and animal disease prevention and control, including in relation to good husbandry practices and vaccination, with a view to reduce the need for the use of antimicrobial agents, thus contributing to the prevention of antimicrobial resistance;
6. The Standing Group of Experts on ASF under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), supported by the OIE Sub-Regional Representation in Brussels, pursue the activities undertaken, especially in relation to biosecurity in commercial and non-commercial farms, and in hunting grounds; the guidelines developed be largely publicise through appropriate channels and use, as appropriate, as background for other diseases;
7. The OIE develop further guidance on biosecurity aligned with the relevant sections of both *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and consider the development of templates for biosecurity planning in collaboration with relevant partners;
8. The OIE include greater reference to biosecurity in the development of the 7th Edition of the PVS Tool (terrestrial and aquatic);
9. The OIE collect and publish on the regional website examples of best practices in biosecurity; and
10. The OIE and its Members, when developing communication materials and engaging dialogue with the industrial sector, consider the contribution of the relevant expertise needed to address the socio-cultural and socio-economical aspects of biosecurity.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2018
and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2019)