

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



The Observatory: Monitoring the implementation of OIE standards



PERSPECTIVES

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AROUND THE WORLD

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) international standards set out in the generic ('horizontal') chapters of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) and [Aquatic Animal Health Code](#) describe a continuum of measures aimed at preventing and controlling diseases and ensuring safe international trade. These standards serve as a basis for national Veterinary Services to develop appropriate national legislation that enables them to carry out their responsibilities effectively and well.

Countries' Competent Authorities use the OIE standards as a framework to define and develop their core policies and programmes for animal health surveillance, disease notification, and disease prevention and control, as well as import risk analysis and trade measures.

The newly revised Animal Epidemic Prevention Law of the People's Republic of China [1], which came into force on 1 May 2021, using the OIE standards as its reference, specifies the measures to be taken for the risk assessment of animal diseases, establishment of disease-free zones and compartments, development of animal disease elimination plans and reporting of animal diseases, and describes the responsibilities of official veterinarians.

In addition to this legislation, procedures and technical requirements for the risk analysis of import and export animals and animal products were also issued, to further standardise risk assessment of imported and exported animals and animal products [2].

The New Zealand Biosecurity Act of 1993 [3] provides the legal framework to enable the detection, exclusion, eradication or effective management of pests and unwanted organisms. It covers:

- pre-border risk management and standard setting
- border management
- surveillance, readiness and response
- long-term pest management.

The Act requires that import health standards comply with [Sanitary and Phytosanitary \(SPS\) Agreement](#) principles and, by extension, OIE standards for trade in animals and animal products.

According to this Act, the Governor-General may, by Order in Council, declare any organism to be a notifiable organism for the purpose of surveillance and prevention. This places a duty on all New Zealanders to report the presence or suspected presence of notifiable organisms. The list of organisms in this Order is based on the [OIE List of notifiable diseases](#).

The European Union (EU) Animal Health Law and its accompanying delegated and implementing Acts [4] became applicable on 21 April 2021. This new legal framework represents a comprehensive overhaul and modernisation of EU animal health legislation. The goals of the Animal Health Law include:

- simplifying and clarifying rules;
- categorising and prioritising animal diseases for EU intervention;
- better prevention, early detection and more effective control of animal diseases;
- safe and efficient trade, both within the EU single market and for the entry of goods from third countries.

Over all, the EU's objective was to increase the convergence of EU animal health measures with the international standards of the OIE. Finally, the [EU Animal Diseases Information System \(ADIS\)](#) and [OIE World Animal Health Information System \(OIE-WAHIS\)](#) have also been interlinked.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2021.2.3293>

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ SUCCESS STORIES

The OIE international standards, a harmonised framework used when formulating or modernising national legislation

Lessons learnt from practices of OIE Members for the implementation of OIE standards

KEYWORDS

#animal health, #Aquatic Animal Health Code, #China (People's Rep. of), #European Union, #international standard, #legislation, #New Zealand, #Terrestrial Animal Health Code, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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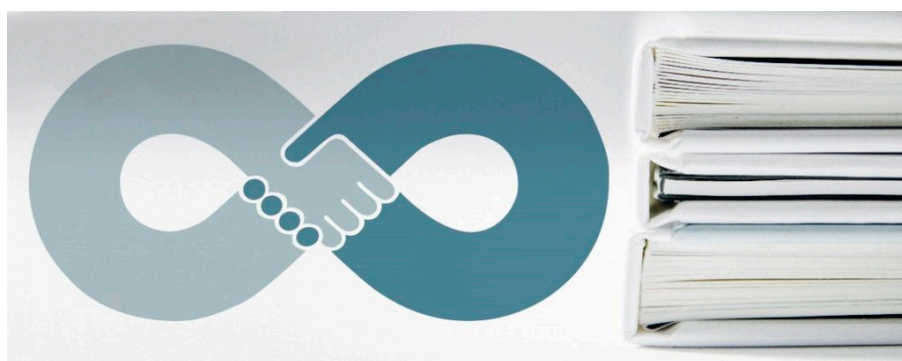


Photo by [Beatriz Pérez Moya](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Members to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 329 centres of scientific expertise and 13 regional offices with a presence on every continent.



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