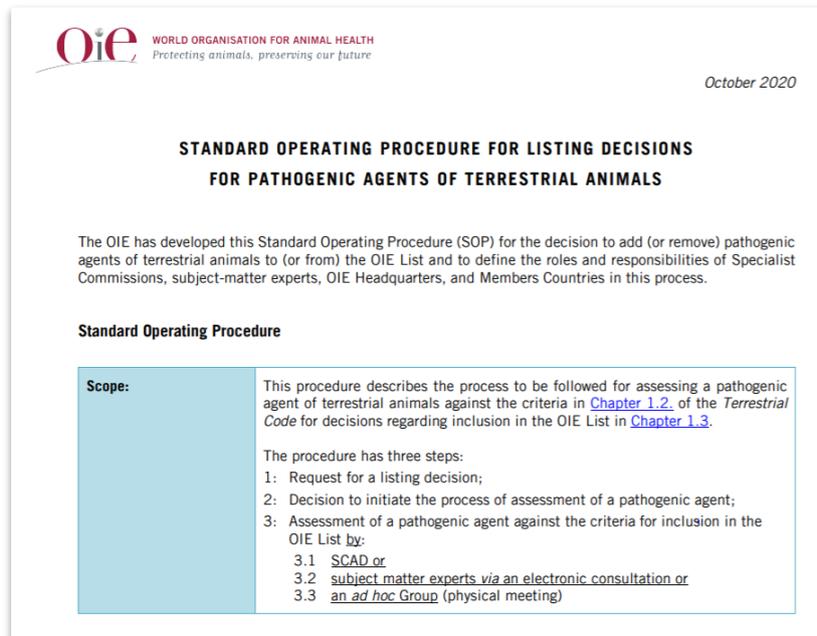


**The OIE publishes a standard operating procedure for
listing decisions for pathogenic agents of terrestrial animals**
Facilitating consistency in listing decisions and transparency in procedures



The OIE has developed a standard operating procedure (SOP) on the decision to add (or remove) pathogenic agents of terrestrial animals to (or from) the OIE List. The SOP defines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the process and can be accessed at www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2020.

The decision to add a pathogenic agent to the OIE List is the most important risk management decision that the OIE will make regarding any pathogenic agent. The objective of listing a pathogenic agent in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* is to support OIE Members by providing the information needed to take appropriate action to prevent the transboundary spread of important diseases of terrestrial animals through transparent, timely and consistent notification. This crucial step precedes almost all others and is necessary prior to the establishment of standards in the *Terrestrial Code*. These standards are then used by Members to set up measures for the early detection, notification, control and eradication of the pathogenic agent of concern, and to prevent its spread through international trade in animals and animal products.

In order to improve consistency in the steps involved and application of the listing criteria in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*, the OIE has developed an SOP to guide the decision to add or remove a pathogenic agent to/from the OIE List in Chapter 1.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The SOP has been developed by the OIE in consultation with relevant OIE Specialist Commissions, and is completed by a set of annexed documents which includes templates and a guidance document for experts tasked with performing the assessment itself. A template for requesting a listing decision has also been

developed, and can be used by OIE Delegates, international organisations and OIE Reference Centres to request the assessment of a pathogenic agent for inclusion in the OIE List (or conversely, for delisting one). The annexed documents also contain a guidance document intended for use by OIE selected experts when undertaking the assessment of a pathogenic agent for listing a terrestrial animal disease, infection or infestation, according to criteria set in Chapter 1.2. of the *Terrestrial Code*. The aim of this guidance document is to support consistency and objectivity in the interpretation of the criteria by selected experts.

The SOP and associated guidance documents and forms can be accessed online from the OIE website: www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/oie-listed-diseases-2020/

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