

Comments of Thailand on report of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission, 1-10 September 2020

Issue	Comment
General comment on the use of terms “competent vectors” and “competent tick vectors” in the Terrestrial Code	
<p>Reference is made to the following chapters of the Terrestrial Code where either the term “competent vectors” or “competent tick vectors” is used:</p> <p>Chapter 8.Y Infection with animal trypanosomes of African origin</p> <p>The term “competent vectors” is mentioned in Article 8.Y.3 point 3(c) and the word “tsetse flies” is proposed to be replaced with “competent vectors” in Article 8.Y.9 point 6.</p> <p>Chapter 11.10 Infection with <i>Theileria annulata</i>, <i>T. orientalis</i> and <i>T. parva</i></p> <p>The term “competent tick vectors” is mentioned in Article 11.10.3 point 1(c) and point 2 without a clear identification on genera/species of vectors that are considered as “competent tick vectors”</p> <p>Chapter 12.7 Infection with <i>Theileria equi</i> and <i>Babesia caballi</i> (Equine piroplasmiasis)</p> <p>The term “competent tick vectors” is mentioned in Article 12.7.1 with the information on genera of vectors considered as “competent tick vectors”</p>	<p>Thailand would like to seek clarification on the use of terms “competent vectors” and “competent tick vectors” in the Terrestrial Code. These terms are currently used in many vector-borne disease specific chapters in the Terrestrial Code (i.e., Chapter 8.Y, Chapter 11.10 and Chapter 12.7), but a clear identification on genera or species of competent vectors was lacking in some chapters.</p> <p>We are of the opinion that more information on the relationship between the presence of “competent vectors” and the disease status of a country/zone should be clarified in the Terrestrial Code. If the absence of vector species defined as “competent vectors” from the surveillance program will deliberately be used as an evidence to support the declaration of disease freedom, a clear description of the term “competent vectors” should be available for member countries to prevent misinterpretation. Besides, the list of “competent vectors” for each vector-borne disease should be established.</p>
Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (Chapter 10.4)	
<p>Article 10.4.1</p> <p>4) A notification of infection of birds other than <i>poultry</i>, including <i>wild</i> birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, or of infection of <i>poultry</i> <i>domestic</i> or <i>captive wild</i> birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses does not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or <i>zone</i>.</p>	<p>We would like to amend point 4 of Article 10.4.1 to be read “4) A notification of infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, or of infection of <u>all</u> domestic <u>birds including poultry</u> or captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses does not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone.”.</p> <p>We realise that rationale for the initial amendment made to point 4 of Article 10.4.1 by the Code Commission is to be in line with the text in Article 10.4.1 point 3 and to reflect disease names listed</p>

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	in the revised Article 1.3.6 of Chapter 1.3. However, we consider that more emphasising on the inclusion of “poultry” under this context will facilitate and encourage member countries to report the infection of low pathogenicity avian influenza in all domestic birds including poultry.
Infection with foot and mouth disease virus (Chapter 8.8)	
Article 8.8.4bis (Compartment free from FMD where vaccination is practised)	Thailand would like to thank the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Scientific Commission for taking members’ concern on the necessity of establishing compartment free from FMD where vaccination is practised into consideration. We appreciate the continuously improvement made to the draft Article 8.8.4bis (Compartment free from FMD where vaccination is practised) by the Code Commission. We strongly support the concept of allowing vaccination in the compartment where the biosecurity measures and surveillance program are in place. We realise that the implementation of those measures in an appropriate level together with vaccination could enable the early detection of FMD and facilitate the control and prevention of disease.
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (Chapter 11.4)	
New proposed definition “protein meal”	<p>Thailand would like to reiterate our reservation on the new definition “protein meal”, particularly the replacement of two familiar and widely adopted terms “meat-and-bone meal” and “greaves”.</p> <p>Despite the Code Commission clarification that the use of terms “meat-and-bone meal” and “greaves” throughout the Terrestrial Code will be further reviewed to decide whether they should be replaced with the new term “protein meal” or not, we consider that meaning of the new term itself is still ambiguous. This new definition “protein meal” has rarely been used nor clearly defined in other international standards. Besides, it has a high chance to be misinterpreted as a protein meal from other sources (not just the animal-derived protein meal).</p> <p>The replacing of “meat-and-bone meal” and “greaves” with “protein meal” will cause unnecessary complication to the implementation of law and regulations by member countries, especially the relevant measures for import control of BSE risk commodities. The replacing of those terms will subsequently impact the international trade.</p>