



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE

Practical implementation of WOAH Standards for International trade

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**Workshop to Strengthen Capacities of Veterinary Services to Facilitate Safer International Trade
12 to 14 December 2023 Bangkok, Thailand**



Presentation covers

- **Introduction**
- **Key concept: Animal health status**
- **Using WOAAH Standards for Import Risk analysis**



Introduction

Why do we need standards for international trade?

Need for a technical reference

Diversity of production systems

Diversity in regulations

Many possible measures

Many diseases

Diversity of trading partners

Diversity of international animal health situations

Safe, fair, predictable and sustainable international trade

Basis for trust and common understanding



Diversity in approaches to disease control

Diversity of national measures

Diversity of interests

Diversity of commodities

Politics

Diversity of priorities

Impact of WOHAI Standards Internationally

Improved prevention and control of animal diseases and zoonosis at the source

Science-based risk mitigation measures for international trade

Reduced risk of international spread of diseases

Facilitates understanding between countries, simplify processes, and reduces costs

Harmonization of national regulations and programs across countries

Increases predictability and fairness of trade

Harmonization of sanitary measures for international trade

Safe, fair, predictable and sustainable international trade



WOAH Standards are the basis for common understanding and trust

Before the negotiation

During the negotiation

Implementation

Exporting country



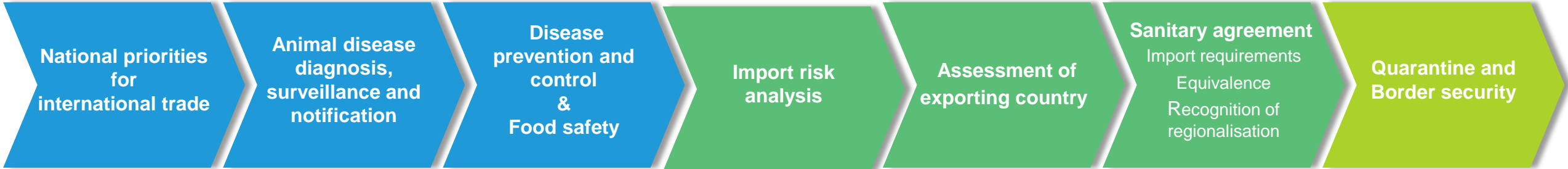
Section 1 & Disease-specific chapters

Section 4 Section 6 & Disease-specific chapters

Section 3 & Chapter 5.1
Section 2
Chapter 5.1 & Disease-specific chapters
Chapter 5.1 & Section 3

Chapter 5.1 Chapter 5.3 & Article 4.4.8.

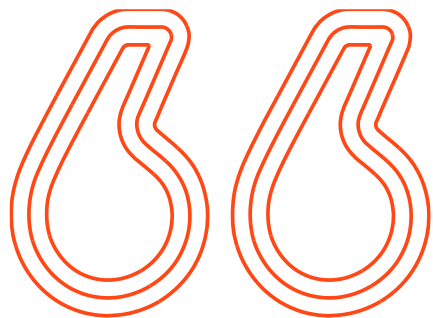
Section 5



Importing country



Key concept: Animal health status



Key concept

Animal health status

means the status of a **country, zone or compartment** with respect to an animal disease in accordance with the criteria listed in the relevant disease-specific chapter or Chapter 1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

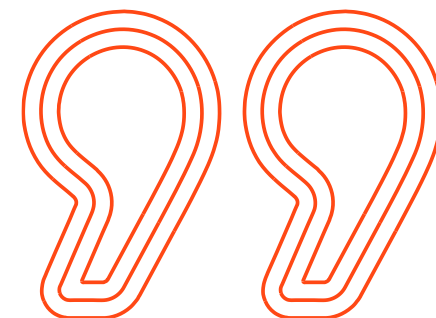
Country



Zone



Compartment





Zone

means a **part of a country** defined by the Veterinary Authority, **containing animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status**

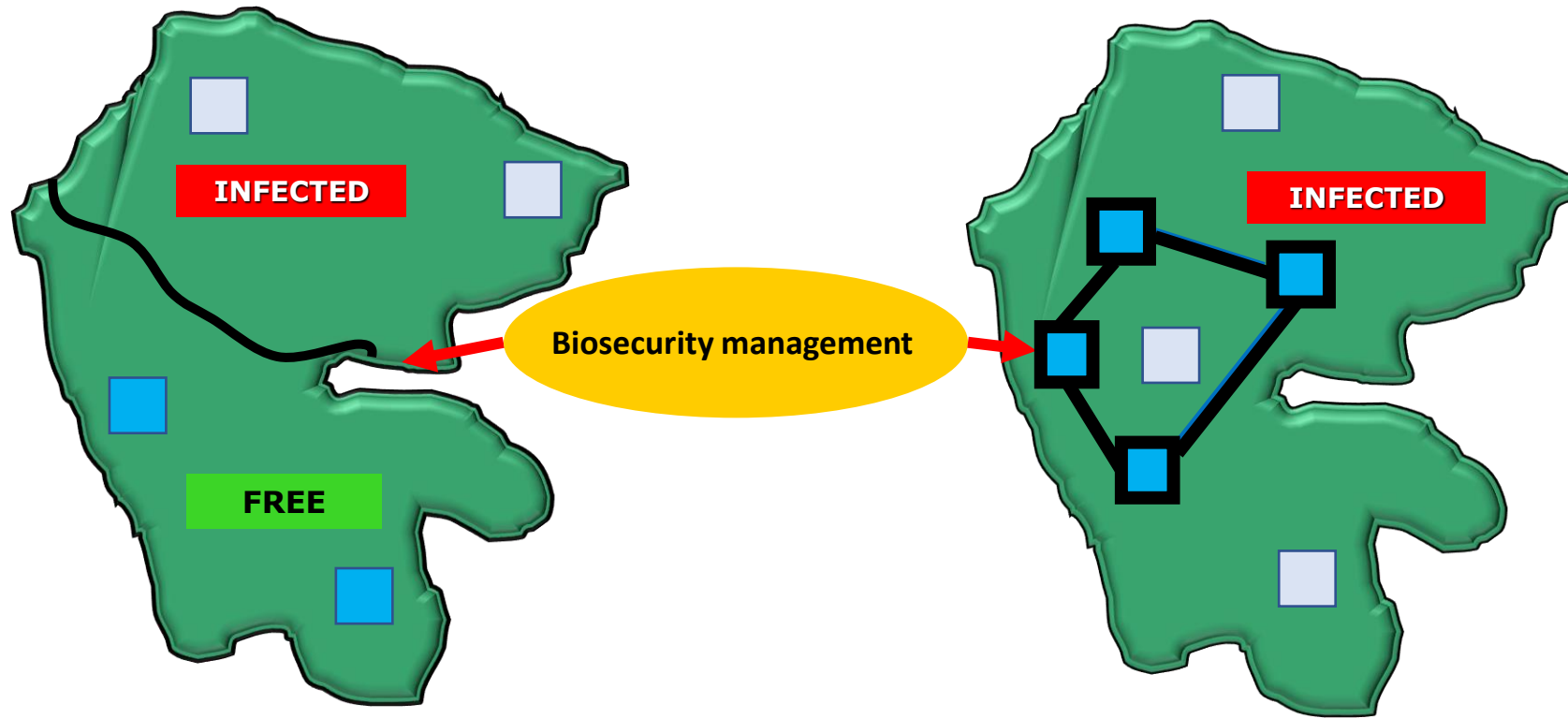
Compartment

means an **animal subpopulation** contained in one or more establishments, separated from other susceptible populations by a **common biosecurity management system**, and with **a specific animal health status**



Zoning and compartmentalisation in practice

Modified from USDA-APHIS



Zoning

Compartmentalisation

SECTION 1. ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE AND NOTIFICATION

Disease Situation	Chapter 1.1.	Notification of diseases and provision of epidemiological information	
	Chapter 1.2.	Criteria for the inclusion in the WOAHA list	Which diseases
	Chapter 1.3.	Diseases, infections and infestations listed by WOAHA	
Demonstrate presence or absence	Chapter 1.4.	Animal health surveillance	
	Chapter 1.5.	Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases	
	Chapter 1.6.	Procedures for official recognition of AH status, by WOAHA	
	Chapter 1.7.-1.12.	Application for official recognition by WOAHA of free status for ...	Official recognition by WOAHA

SECTION 4. DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Specific regionalization provisions

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter 4.2. | Identification and traceability of live animals |
| Chapter 4.4. | Zoning and compartmentalisation |
| Chapter 4.5. | Application of compartmentalisation |
| Chapter 4.17. | High health status horse subpopulation |
| Chapter 4.18. | Official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases |

SECTION 8 & +: DISEASE-SPECIFIC CHAPTERS

1. Definition of infection/ infestation, its occurrence and specific epidemiological considerations
2. Determination of the animal health status of a country, zone or compartment
3. Recommendations on safe trade for live animals, genetic material, other products of animal origin (meat, milk, eggs, skins, etc.)
4. Recommendations on surveillance



WTO SPS Agreement Regionalisation principle

Members shall recognise the concept of **disease-free areas**, whether **all of a country, part of a country**, or all or parts of several countries (Article 6)

Members shall ensure **sanitary measures take into account** (Article 6):

- **Disease prevalence**
- The existence of **eradication or control programmes**
- The **criteria or guidelines developed by the relevant international organizations**



Implementation of the Regionalisation principle in international trade

Exporting country

- Implement disease prevention and control
- Surveillance and demonstration of freedom
- Setting up regionalisation programmes



Importing country

- Assessing exporting country programmes
- Defining import requirements

Specific WOAH Standards
regionalization provisions

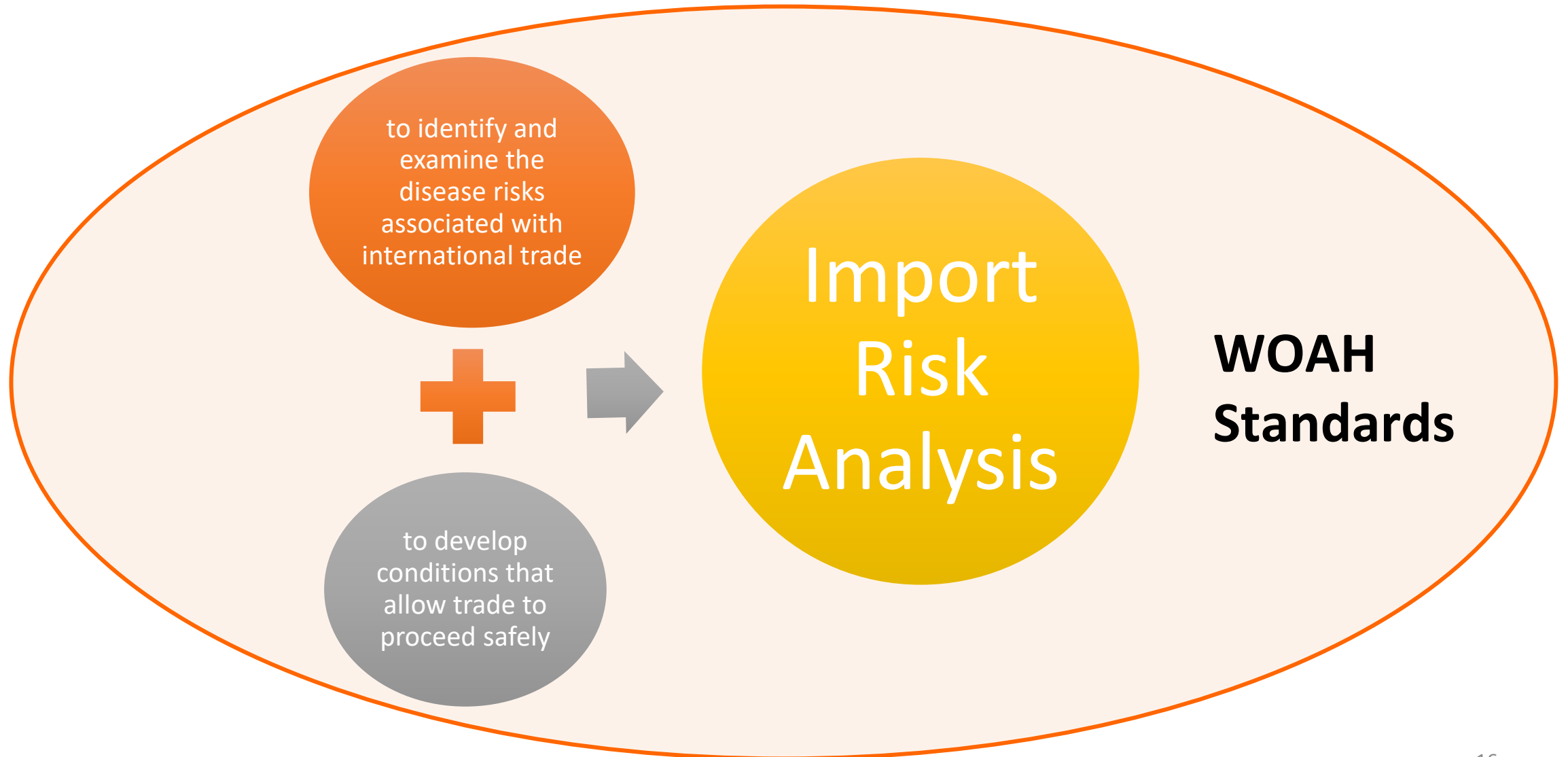
Zoning and
Compartmentalisation



Using WOAH Standards for import risk analysis

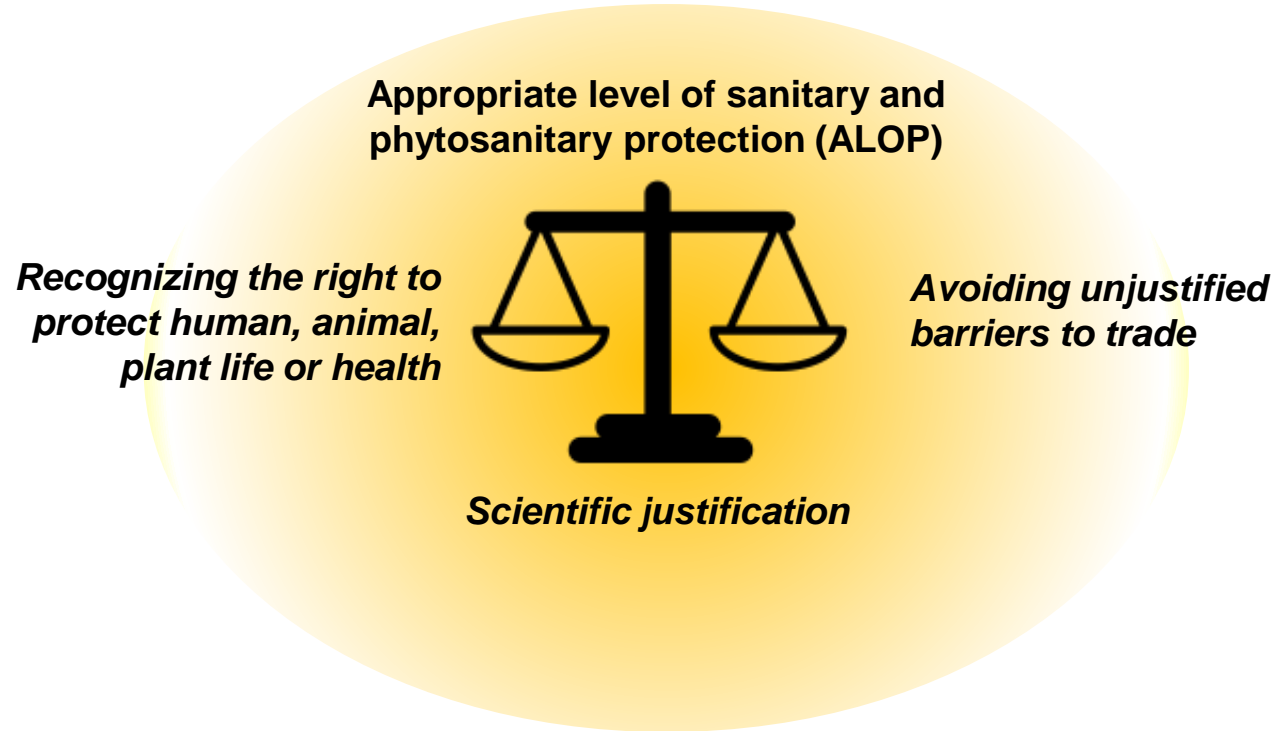


The WOAAH import risk analysis framework





Principles of the WTO SPS Agreement



1. Harmonisation
2. Scientific risk assessment
3. Equivalence
4. Regionalisation
5. No discrimination
6. Least trade restrictive
7. Transparency

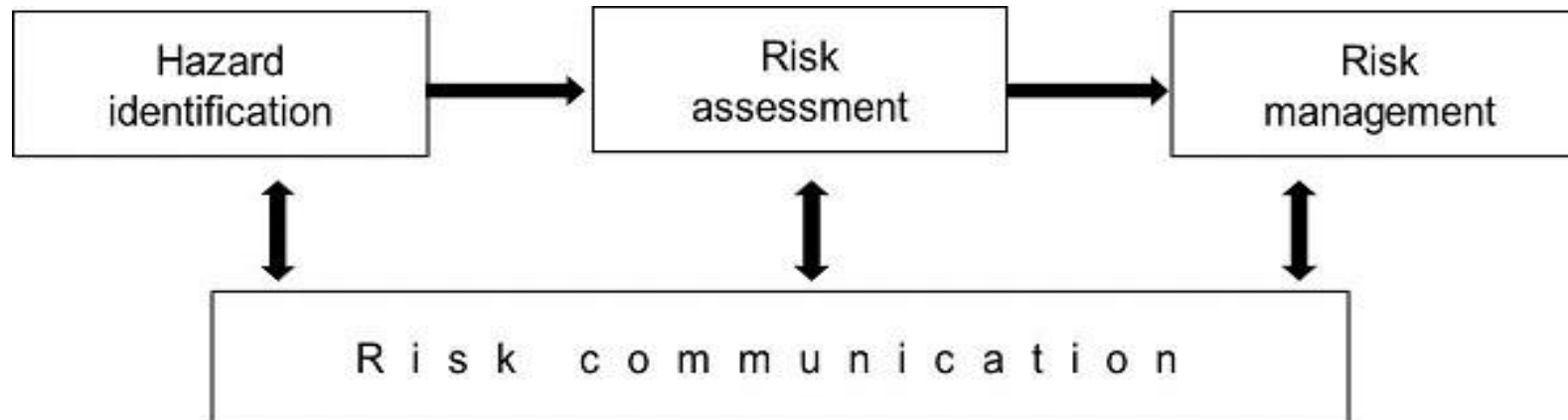
The **WTO SPS Agreement** recognizes the **WOAH** as the international standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses.



Import Risk Analysis and WOAH Standards

Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Aquatic Animal Health Code

CHAPTER 2.1. IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS



WOAH Standards do not only provide a specific standard on IRA, but a structured approach to enable scientifically valid and transparent risk analysis and risk management decision making.



Hazard identification

- The FIRST step in an import risk analysis
- **Define the commodity to be traded** (animals, animal products, germinal products...)
- **Identify the pathogenic agents:**
 - that could produce significantly adverse consequences associated with the importation of the commodity and
 - therefore are concerned by control measures in the importing country

In practice....



Hazard identification

- Which pathogenic agent?

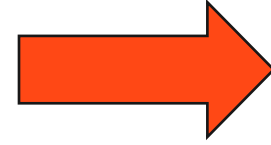
... if yes, then



WOAH List
(listed diseases /
Host species)

- Is it **in any way** considered in a prevention or control programme (in IC) ?

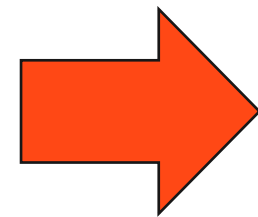
... if yes, then



Country animal
health strategy

- Consider the possible absence of the pathogenic agent in the commodity, due to

- *its absence in the tissues from which the commodity is derived, or*
- *its inactivation by the general processing or treatment it undergoes.*



List of “safe
commodities”
per disease
specific
chapter

... if not the case, then

... the [pathogenic agent ; commodity] can be considered as a hazard

Standards

Ch 1.2, 1.3

Ch 1.6

Disease chapters

Ch 2.2

Disease chapters
(Sections 8 - flw)



Risk assessment

- *The risk assessment is the component of the analysis which estimates the risks associated with a hazard.*

Only for **identified hazards** consider whether:

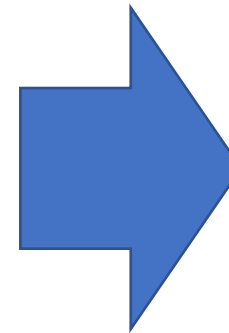
- the pathogenic agent is likely to be **present** in the **exporting country, zone or compartment**

AND

- the **commodity** is likely to be **infected or contaminated** with the pathogenic agent

If not, then **no measure should be applied**

If yes, then...



Disease situation

Animal Health status

Regionalisation

Official control programmes

Identification & traceability

Disinfection and disinfection

Veterinary public health

Quality of VS

Standards

Ch 1.4, 1.5

Ch 1.6

Disease chapters

Section 4

Section 6

Section 3

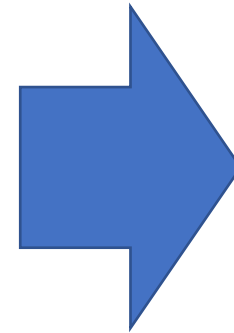


Risk assessment

- *If the entry assessment demonstrates no significant risk, the risk assessment does not need to continue.*

Only if **there is an entry risk**, consider the **potential spread and consequences**, e.g.:

- the pathogenic agent **is exotic**, or there are **free zones or compartments to protect**
- there is an ongoing **control or eradication programme**
- the pathogenic agent is a **zoonotic priority**
- the species at risk are **strategic resources**
- etc.



Country animal health strategy

Then and only then...

Standards

Ch 1.1,
Ch 1.4, 1.5

Ch 1.6

Disease chapters

Section 3

Section 4

Section 6



Risk Management

- *If the risk assessment demonstrates no significant risk, the risk assessment does not need to continue.*

If significant risk exist, then:

- identify, select and implement **sanitary measures to** effectively **mitigate** the **risks** posed by the hazard(s) associated with the commodity under consideration
- technically, operationally and economically feasible
- implemented to the extent that is reasonably necessary to protect human or animal health
- applied consistently across a range of commodities likely to contain the same or similar hazards to avoid situations where different levels of protection arise

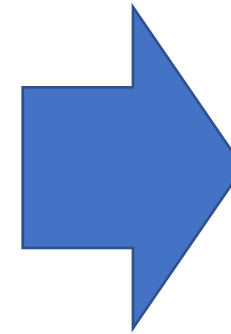
All this is in the WOAH Codes and Manuals...



WOAH Standard Risk management measures

The **WOAH Terrestrial Code and Manuals** provide

- Sanitary measures to be applied for the safe trade of certain commodities
- Measures adapted to animal health status at origin (country, zone, herds,...)
- Different equivalent alternatives
- Inactivation measures
- Developed by experts and **discussed and adopted by ALL WOAHA Members**



Standards

TAHSC - Volume II

Disease chapters

+

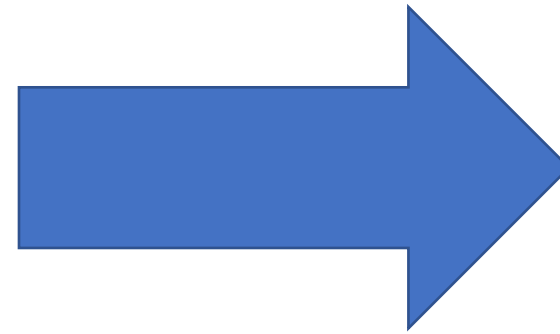
Terrestrial Manual
prescribed tests



WOAH Standard Risk management measures

The **WOAH Codes Section 5** defines the principles for:

- Certification
- Application of SPS Agreement, equivalence and regionalisation
- Procedures at borders, before and after
- Draft an international veterinary certificate



Standards

TC:

Chapters 5.1.
& 5.2.

Chapter 5.3.

Chapters 5.4.
to 5.9.

Chapters 5.10.
to 5.13.



In summary

- There might be as many ways to organise the process of defining the conditions for trade between countries as there are country-country interactions.
- Regardless of the differences, these processes should respect the principles in the WTO SPS Agreement and be based on the WOAHA international standards.
- The WOAHA Codes and Manuals provide for sound science-based risk management measures allowing safe trade.



Import requirements

- should be restricted to those necessary to achieve the national appropriate level of protection; if these are stricter than the WOAHA standards, they should be justified by an import risk analysis;
- should not include measures against pathogenic agents or diseases which are not WOAHA listed diseases, unless justified by an import risk analysis;
- should not be imposed for the exclusion of pathogenic agents or animal diseases that occur in the importing country and are not the subject of an official control programme;
- if imposed to manage risks posed by a specific pathogenic agent or disease, should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by official measures applied in a domestic control programme.

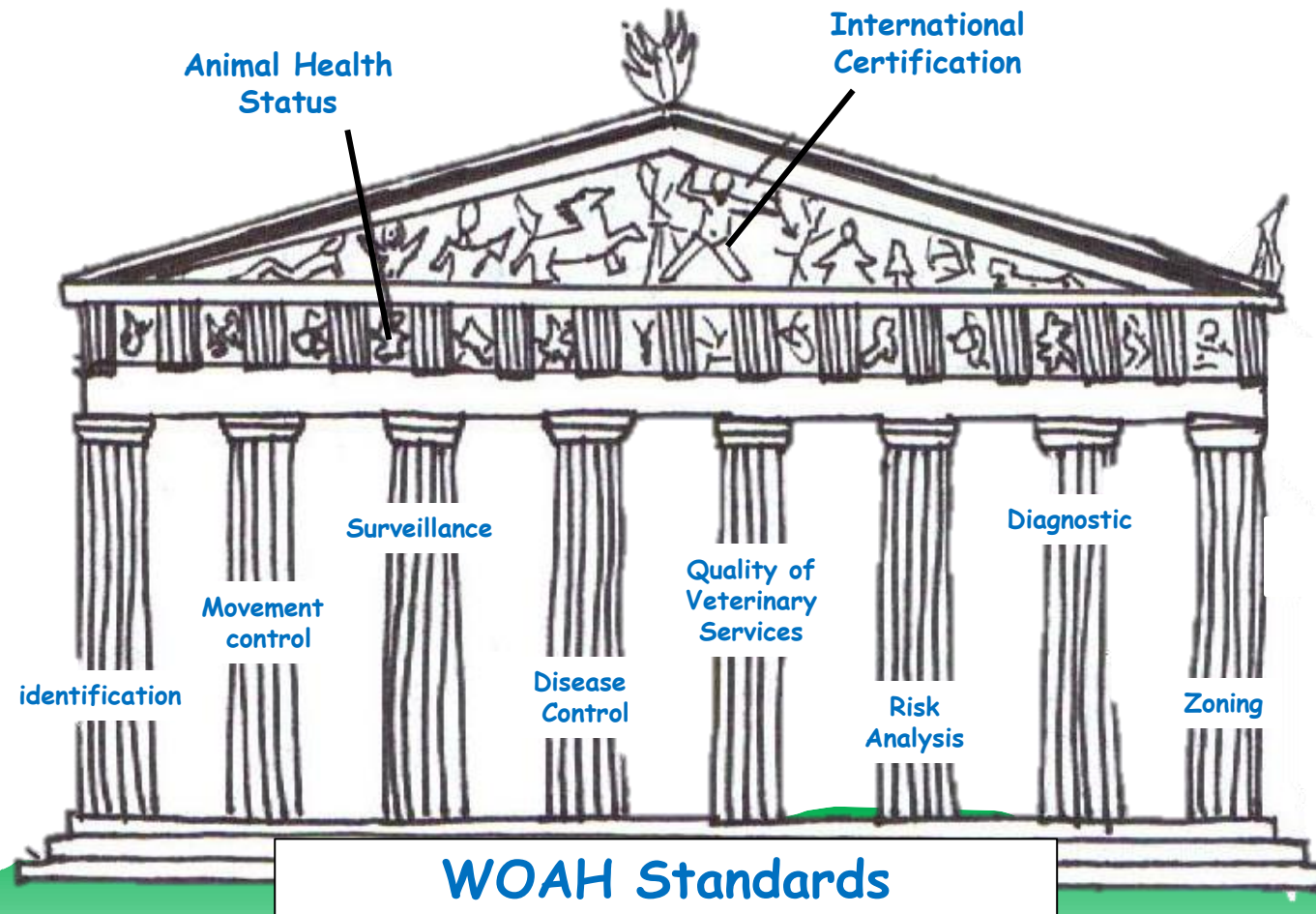


Takeaway messages



One goal, many ways, a common basis

Safe, fair, predictable and sustainable trade of animals and animal products





Thank you

**Safe,
Fair,
Predictable,
Sustainable...**



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