

WORK OF INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

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- International Egg Commission
 - International Poultry Council
 - International Dairy Federation
 - International Meat Secretariat
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There are currently 5 published Animal Welfare chapters of relevance to the livestock sector: transportation of animals by sea (7.2), by land (7.3), by air (7.4), slaughter of animals (7.5) and killing of animals for disease control purposes (7.6). Ever since the publication of the OIE guiding principles on Animal Welfare in 2004, industry organizations have played an important role in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards. The work conducted by industry organizations may be divided into 4 broad categories:

1. Capacity building
2. Setting of industry codes of practices
3. Development of internal (on-site/farm) evaluation and third-party verification systems and
4. Validation and feedback on currently approved standards.

Concrete examples illustrating each of the 4 types of activities conducted by the livestock sector will be reviewed. Capacity building activities are numerous around the world with industry organizations taking often the lead into developing training programmes for its constituency as well as for public veterinary services. In several countries, industry standards or codes of practice have been the direct and only links between the OIE animal welfare standards and their local implementation. Similarly, industry organizations have developed various internal evaluations and auditing schemes to ensure proper compliance with the OIE animal welfare standards. The livestock sector is also playing a key role in the validation under field conditions of the applicability of the OIE animal welfare standards. Industry organizations also contribute to the continuous improvement of published chapters by providing continuous feedback through their local veterinary services and industry representatives at the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group. Finally, industry organizations have a role extending beyond the implementation of currently approved OIE animal welfare standards with a proactive participation in the design of new OIE animal welfare chapters.

Keywords: OIE – animal welfare – industry organizations – implementation.