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## **Adopting WOAH Standards on LITS for International Trade**

**Presented at a Livestock Identification and Traceability  
System Webinar, held on the 28th February 2024**

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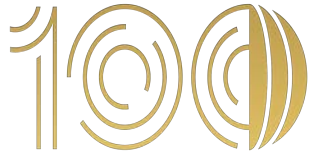
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## World Organisation for Animal health (WOAH) - Introduction

- An International Standard setting body for **Animal health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health (Zoonosis)**
- Formed in 1924 (25<sup>th</sup> January)
- Currently 183 member countries
- Headquarters in Paris, France.
- 13 Regional and Sub-Regional offices



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## World Organisation for Animal health (WOAH) - Introduction

### International Standard-Setting Organizations





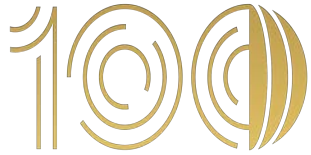
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## Animal Identification and Traceability - Introduction

- In Africa, animal ID for *ownership* (stock theft control) is an ancient practice – naming of animals and marks such skin marks/colours, ear notching and iron branding etc.
- Commercialization of livestock production brought more complex modes of animal identification like ear tagging, tattooing, freeze-branding, etc. primarily for *management* purposes.
- Nowadays animal identification and traceability are crucial in *animal health* and *food safety*, id devices are complex - microchips, digital ear tags and boluses, etc.
- Animal identification redefined to include *registration* of an animal individually or as a group.
- *Registration* refers to collection, recording, securely storing and making information accessible and useable by Competent Authorities, (DVS
- Animals can be followed individually or as a group during all stages of their life - animal traceability.



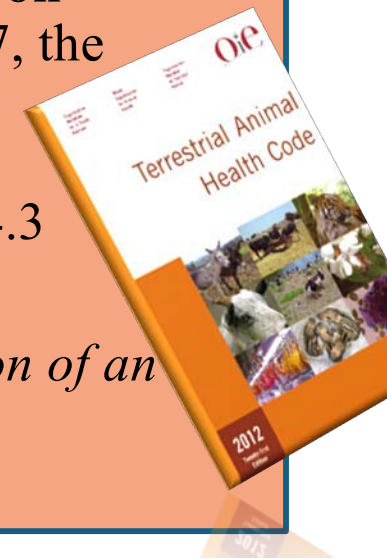
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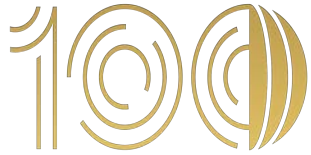
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## Animal Identification and Traceability - Introduction

- traceability of domestic animals and their products has become a **legal requirement, crucial for international trade** - provides assurance to consumers of safe and high-quality animal products.
- It all started with **MC request** for WOAHA to develop standards on animal traceability in 1999 (perhaps pushed by BSE);
- In May 2006 the World Assembly of WOAHA adopted **General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals** and subsequently, in 2007, the **Guidelines for the design and implementation** of animal traceability
- These are the basis for the current Chapters 4.2 (*General Principles*) and 4.3 (*Guidelines for the Design*) of the TAHC.
- *These are basic elements to be considered in the design and implementation of an animal identification system to achieve animal traceability.*





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## General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals (Chapter 4.2)

- **Animal identification** means the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.
- **Animal identification system** means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments/owners, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with animal identification.
- **Registration** is the action by which information on animals (such as identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilised by the Competent Authority.
- **Animal traceability** means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.



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## General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals (Chapter 4.2)

- **objective of these Standards/Guidelines** - to outline the basic requirements for the design and implementation of an animal identification system (“The System”) to achieve traceability, without being too prescriptive.

1- Animal identification and animal traceability is a **tool for addressing animal health and food safety (i.e. zoonoses) issues**

**- this could be in;**

- the management of disease outbreaks and food safety incidents
- vaccination programmes,
- herd/flock husbandry,
- zoning/compartmentalisation,
- surveillance, early response and notification systems,
- animal movement controls,
- inspection, certification, fair practices in trade
- utilisation of veterinary drugs, feed and pesticides.





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## General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals (Chapter 4.2)

- 2- Animal traceability and traceability should have the capability to be linked to achieve traceability throughout the animal production and food chain taking into account relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards
- 3- The objectives of the System for a country, zone or compartment and the approach used should be **clearly defined following an assessment of the risks to be addressed, and** a consideration of factors such as types of production, animal movement patterns, trade in animals and animal products, cost/benefit analysis considerations, cultural aspects, etc.
- 4- The system should be defined in **consultation between the Veterinary Authority and relevant sectors/stakeholders** and periodically reviewed.





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## **General Principles on Identification and Traceability of Live Animals (Chapter 4.2)**

5- Animal identification and animal traceability should be **under the responsibility of the Veterinary Authority.**

*Other Authorities may have jurisdiction over other aspects of the food chain, including food traceability.*

6- The Veterinary Authority, should have a **legal framework (aligned to relevant international standards)** for the implementation and enforcement of animal identification and animal traceability in the country.

7- **Equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria rather than identical systems based on design criteria** should be the basis for comparison of animal identification systems and animal traceability.



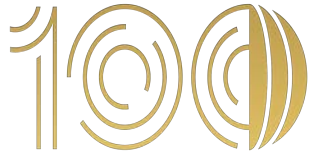
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## Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability (Chapter 4.3)

- A country should design a System that works for it, considering the general principles covered already
- All stages should be designed and implemented in consultation with stakeholders
- Consider the desired outcomes, such as animal & public health, management of emergencies, trade and animal husbandry, etc.
- Determine the Scope – e.g. farming systems, species, abattoirs, markets and sector in general..
- Consider the desired performance criteria – in terms of outcomes and scope
- Preliminary studies to guide system design –pilot project to test the system and the implementation of the programme (Action Plan, resource needs, verifications, etc.
- actual design of the system – type of animal identification, registration, documentation, reporting, information system, laboratories, etc
- Legal framework – for implementation and enforcement of the system



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## Conclusion

### Animal identification and traceability;

- is important tool for the control of animal diseases and assuring consumers of the safety of animal products.
- provides consumers with accurate information on the source and quality of the products and their link to a specific location of origin;
- should be custom made to suit individual MC, given their unique situation, and
- Should be designed by the veterinary authority in collaboration with all stakeholders – for sustainability and success