

# HANDBOOK

FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE OIE  
PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY  
SERVICES RESULTS INTO THE JOINT  
EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS



World Health  
Organization

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WORLD ORGANISATION  
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



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PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY  
SERVICES RESULTS INTO THE JOINT  
EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS



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Handbook for the integration of the World Organisation for Animal Health Performance of Veterinary Services results into the Joint External Evaluation process  
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	6
CONTEXT .....	7
OBJECTIVE OF THE HANDBOOK .....	8
CONTENT OF THE HANDBOOK.....	8
TABLE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE TECHNICAL AREAS IN THE JEET AND THE CRITICAL CAPACITIES CARDS IN THE OIE PATHWAY TOOLS.....	10
INDICATORS IN THE JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION TOOL AND ASSOCIATED CRITICAL COMPETENCIES IN THE PVS REPORTS	
 PREVENT 1: NATIONAL LEGISLATION, POLICY AND FINANCING .....	12
PREVENT 2: IHR COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY .....	14
PREVENT 3: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR) .....	16
PREVENT 4: ZOO NOTIC DISEASES.....	18
PREVENT 5: FOOD SAVETY .....	22
PREVENT 6: BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY.....	26
PREVENT 7: IMMUNIZATION .....	27
DETECT 1: NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEM.....	28
DETECT 2: REAL TIME SURVEILLANCE.....	30
DETECT 3: REPORTING .....	32
DETECT 4: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT .....	34
RESPONSE 1: PREPAREDNESS .....	36
RESPONSE 2: EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS.....	38
RESPONSE 3: LINKING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SECURITY AUTHORITIES.....	40
RESPONSE 4: MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND PERSONNEL DEPLOYMENT .....	41
RESPONSE 5: RISK COMMUNICATION .....	42
POINT OF ENTRY .....	44
CHEMICAL EVENTS.....	44
RADIATION EMERGENCIES .....	44
 ANNEX 1. LIST OF PVS CRITICAL COMPETENCIES OF INTEREST FOR THE JOINT EXTERNAL EVALUATION .....	45
ANNEX 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE OIE PVS PATHWAY .....	46

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## CONTEXT

With the coming into force of the revised International Health Regulations (IHR (2005)), all States Parties are required to assess the ability of their national structure and resources to meet minimum national core capacities for surveillance and response, and to develop a plan of action to ensure that these capacities be present and functioning throughout their territories.

Annex 1 of the IHR (2005) provides a list of core capacities – the capacity to detect, report, assess and respond to Public Health Events of International Concern (PHEIC) - expected at the three levels of implementation in countries – central, intermediate and community levels. All States Parties have committed to report their level of compliance with IHR Annex 1 to the World Health Assembly (WHA) on a yearly basis.

In order to assist States Parties in their assessment, WHO and partners have developed an external evaluation (Joint External Evaluation, JEE) process and a tool (the JEET<sup>1</sup>). The first stage of the evaluation is a survey completed by the country using self-reported data for the various indicators on the JEET. A joint external evaluation team comprised of national and international subject matter experts then visit the country for facilitated in-depth discussions. As a result, a draft report identifies status levels for a set of indicators, as well as an analysis of the country's capabilities, gaps, opportunities and challenges.

When it comes to the specific contribution from Veterinary Authorities in reaching the objectives of the IHR (2005), the OIE's Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway assesses the performance of the national Veterinary Services and their compliance with OIE international standards on the quality of Veterinary Services. All aspects relevant to the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the quality of Veterinary Services, as per OIE definition<sup>2</sup>, are reviewed using the OIE PVS Tool during an initial OIE PVS Evaluation. The PVS Expert Team collects and analyses baseline information against 47 Critical Competencies. More details on OIE PVS Pathway and corresponding capacity-building activities can be found in Annex 2 of this handbook.

*« Each State Party shall develop, strengthen and maintain, as soon as possible but no later than five years from the entry into force of these Regulations (...), the capacity to detect, assess, notify and report events in accordance with these Regulations... and... the capacity to respond promptly and effectively...»*

*IHR (2005), Articles 5 and 13*

1 - [http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO\\_HSE\\_GCR\\_2018\\_2/en/](http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO_HSE_GCR_2018_2/en/)

2 - In this manual, the terms "Veterinary Authorities" and "Veterinary Services" refer to the definitions in the OIE Code

- "Veterinary Authority" means the governmental authority, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and paraprofessionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

- "Veterinary Services" means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Code in the territory. The veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE HANDBOOK

The objective of the Handbook is to facilitate the assessment of core capacities by taking into consideration the Veterinary Services' contribution to a country's compliance to the IHR (2005).

OIE PVS Pathway reports can greatly facilitate the work of the JEE, both for the self-review and for the evaluation by the JEE external team, by providing concrete information regarding the national Veterinary Services' contribution for each technical area. This input may be obvious for some specific components (zoonoses, food safety, antimicrobial resistance). However, there are other key areas that should also be considered for a more thorough and holistic review of strengths and gaps. This Handbook has been developed to facilitate this exercise; it highlights the linkages and complementarities between the JEE and the OIE PVS Pathway and explains how to use the data contained in an OIE PVS Evaluation report to assist in the implementation of the JEE.

This handbook is related to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the JEE tool and sixth edition (2013) of the OIE PVS Tool.

## CONTENT OF THE HANDBOOK

This Handbook identifies the several areas in which the indicators in the JEET match, overlap and synergize with the Critical Competencies used in the OIE PVS Pathway Evaluation missions. The JEET is organised through 19 technical areas, classified around 4 thematic areas (Table 1).

Every technical area is informed by one or several indicator(s) with attributes that reflect various levels of capacity with scores of 1-5 (1 indicates that implementation has not occurred; 5 indicates that implementation has occurred, is tested/reviewed/exercised and that the country has a high level of capability for the indicator). Technical Questions are proposed to facilitate the determination of the appropriate score.

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