

SECTION 6.

ANTIMICROBIAL USE IN AQUATIC ANIMALS

CHAPTER 6.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROLLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Article 6.1.1.

Objectives

The purpose of this section is to provide guidance for Member Countries to appropriately address the selection and dissemination of resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance determinants from the use of *antimicrobial agents* in *aquatic animals*.

Antimicrobial agents are essential for human and animal health and welfare. The OIE recognises the need for access to *antimicrobial agents* in veterinary medicine: *antimicrobial agents* are essential for treating and controlling infectious diseases in *aquatic animals*. The OIE therefore considers that ensuring continued access to effective *antimicrobial agents* is important.

The OIE recognises that antimicrobial resistance is a global public and animal health concern that is influenced by the usage of *antimicrobial agents* in humans, animals and elsewhere. Those working in the human, animal and plant sectors have a shared responsibility to address the risk factors for the selection and dissemination of antimicrobial resistance. Arising from its mandate for the protection of animal health and food safety, the OIE developed these chapters to provide guidance to Member Countries in regard to risks in the animal sector.

The application of *risk assessment* and *risk management* measures should be based on relevant international standards on *risk analysis* and supported by sound data and information when available. The guidance provided in these chapters should be consulted as part of the standard approach to reduce the risk associated with the selection and dissemination of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance determinants.

NB: FIRST ADOPTED IN 2010; MOST RECENT UPDATE ADOPTED IN 2011.

