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## Book review — Boekresensie

### OIE manual for standards of diagnostic tests and vaccines (4th edition)

2000. Office International des Épidémiologies, Paris, ~800 pp., hard cover. Price €120. ISBN 92 9044 510 6.

This is the 4th edition of the Manual, which was first produced in 1989, by the Office International des Épidémiologies (OIE). It contains recommendations on the use of diagnostic tests and production of vaccines for List A and B diseases of mammals, birds, and bees, as well as some additional diseases that may affect international trade. The stated aims of the OIE Commission are to 'provide guidelines and standards for health regulation applicable to international trade in animals'.

The Manual contains general introductory chapters on sampling procedures, quality management in laboratories, sterility testing, laboratory safety, principles of veterinary vaccine production, validation of laboratory tests, and biotechnology for diagnosis and vaccine development. A chapter on the international regulation of veterinary biologicals has been added to this edition.

Separate chapters are dedicated to each of the list A and B diseases: each chapter is prefaced by a

brief synopsis of the disease, including aetiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and control, followed by 2 sub-sections on various diagnostic tests for the agent and requirements for vaccine and diagnostic biological production. In the current edition, the prescribed diagnostic test for international trade appears in blue text to distinguish it from other tests that may be used within countries or economic trade regions.

As a reference document for veterinary laboratories involved in diagnostics or vaccine production as well as regulatory authorities, the manual is extremely valuable: it provides good guidelines for general practices and detailed methods of diagnostic tests. Most of the chapters are well-written by experts in the particular fields.

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