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Book review — Boekresensie

Manual of standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines (3rd edn)

1996. Office International des Épidémiologies, 723 pp. Price: FrF 800, US\$ 160. ISBN 92 9044 423 1.

The second edition of this manual, which appeared in 1992, has now been updated and its size and scope have increased considerably. The manual gives guidelines for diagnostic tests and vaccine production for diseases of livestock, birds, lagomorphs and bees that appear on the Office International des Épidémiologies, Animal Health Code List A (highly infectious diseases with high economic impact) and B (less infectious diseases but of economic and zoonotic importance). Some unlisted diseases of emerging importance in international trade (e.g. malignant catarrh, scrapie, leishmaniasis) have been included in the new edition.

The chapters on specific diseases have been written by experts designated by OIE as leaders in their field. Each of these chapters is preceded by a short summary of the chapter contents, and followed by details of diagnostic tests, requirements for diagnostic reagents and vaccines for the causative infectious agent. Diagnostic tests prescribed for international trade by the OIE Animal Health Code are given as well as alternative tests. The methods, advantages and disadvantages of the various tests, and cut-off values, are given. The 1996 edition includes an important introductory chapter on the validation of diagnostic tests.

For those diseases for which vaccines are available, the production process is outlined from the master seed handling to potency testing of the finished product. Introductory chapters on sterility testing, good manufacturing practice, quality control and the general principles of veterinary vaccine production are useful adjuncts to the information on specific vaccines.

It is worth noting that in some cases standards laid down by the OIE committee have been revised since the 1992 issue was published. For example, the OIE's requirement for the safety testing of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine is now in line with the stringent standards of the European Pharmacopoeia. However, the chapter on trichomonosis (*Trichomonas foetus* infection), which states incorrectly that no vaccines are yet available commercially, is slightly out of date.

Diagnostic laboratories, regulatory authorities, vaccine producers or distributors, and possibly veterinarians involved with import or export of animals will find the 1996 issue of this OIE manual a useful reference document.

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