



# Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

## USDA ISO TS 34700 Animal Welfare Assessment Program

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## Why is this new ISO Technical Specification important?

- If widely implemented by the private sector, it could facilitate the adoption of the OIE animal welfare standards in developing countries and improve the living conditions of animals raised for food production around the world.
- Establishes a strong framework for ensuring that industry animal welfare standards and programs are rooted in science and enjoy international acceptance.
- Potentially minimizes the cost to small and large livestock producers and other market participants by not having to undergo multiple audits to ensure they are raising, transporting and harvesting their livestock humanely.



# AMS Overview

## **Mission:**

To facilitate the competitive and efficient marketing of agricultural products.



**Agricultural  
Marketing  
Service**

# Two Acronyms You Need To Know

- ISO
- OIE

# A Few Words About ISO

# ISO = the International Organization for Standardization

A network of 163 national institutes  
(one per country)

**163 members**

**Stakeholders**



Industry, government, academia,  
consumers ...  
> 100,000 experts

Geneva (Switzerland)

# Well Known ISO Standards

- ISO 9001 – Quality Management Systems (most used)
- ISO 26000 – Social Responsibility
- ISO 22000 – Food Safety Management
- ISO 17025 – Competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- ISO 17065 – Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying

# A Few Words About OIE



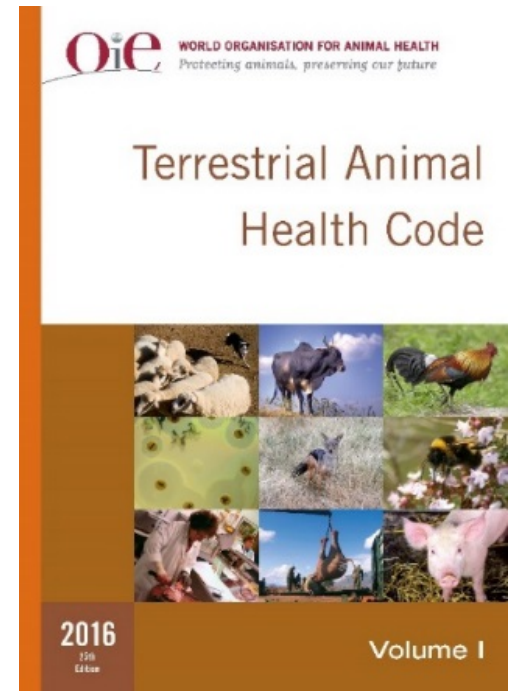
# The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)



- The OIE is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide.
- Has a total of 180 Member Countries.
- Promotes animal welfare through a science-based approach and develops standards that member countries are to both follow and use in their trade in animals and their products.

# OIE Animal Welfare Standards

- General Principles of Animal Welfare (7.1)
- Transport (Land, Sea and Air) (7.2 7.3 7.4)
- Slaughter (7.5)
- Beef Cattle (7.9)
- Broiler Chickens (7.10)
- Dairy cattle production systems (7.11)
- Swine and Egg layer systems to follow.



# Limitations of the OIE in Animal Welfare

- As an intergovernmental organization, OIE standards are dependent upon national governments to implement.
- Governmental regulation of animal welfare varies around the globe.
- Much of the international livestock production occurs under private sector animal welfare schemes that work to ensure welfare.



# AMS, ISO, OIE and Animal Welfare



Recognizing this reality, a five year journey was started to develop a tool that could be used by industry to further the international adoption of the OIE standards and ensure that any industry animal welfare schemes at least met the science-based standards set by the OIE.



TECHNICAL  
SPECIFICATION

ISO/TS  
34700

First edition  
2016-12-01

Animal welfare management —  
General requirements and guidance for  
organizations in the food supply chain

*Gestion du bien-être animal — Exigences générales et orientations  
pour les organisations des filières alimentaires*



Reference number  
ISO/TS 34700:2016(E)

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# Where are we today?

- TS 34700 Published December 1, 2016.
- To facilitate its implementation, AMS developed a “USDA ISO Technical Specification 34700 Animal Welfare Assessment Program.”
  - Announced December 27, 2016
  - Purpose is to allow existing animal welfare programs to be assessed by AMS to determine if they conform to TS 34700 and, by extension, the OIE animal welfare standards.
  - Approved programs will be posted on the USDA website.

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# Where are we today?

- There are multiple goals of this assessment program.
  - To aid in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards for animals raised for food around the world.
  - To ensure that any program purported to be an animal welfare program is science-based and meets the requirements set by the OIE.
  - To maintain the OIE's role as the authority on issues related to animal welfare.
  - To minimize the number of audits that livestock producers and other market participants endure as many existing programs can be assessed as meeting the requirements of ISO TS 34700.

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# Where are we today?

- There are multiple goals of this assessment program. (Continued)
  - To allow for the buyers of livestock and livestock products to require ISO TS 34700 compliance as meeting their animal welfare needs and not requiring them to establish their own programs or endure the cost associated with conducting their own audits.
  - Facilitates international trade as ISO TS 34700 compliance can be used to bring together different animal welfare systems in various markets and supply chains.
  - Accommodates animal welfare programs that exceed the requirements of the OIE standards.



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# Where are we today?

- There are multiple goals of this assessment program. (Continued)
  - Establishes a framework that can be used by other countries for how to assess existing animal welfare programs against ISO TS 34700.
  - Provides easy to use and understand checklists that can be used in developing countries to determine if minimum animal welfare requirements are being met.

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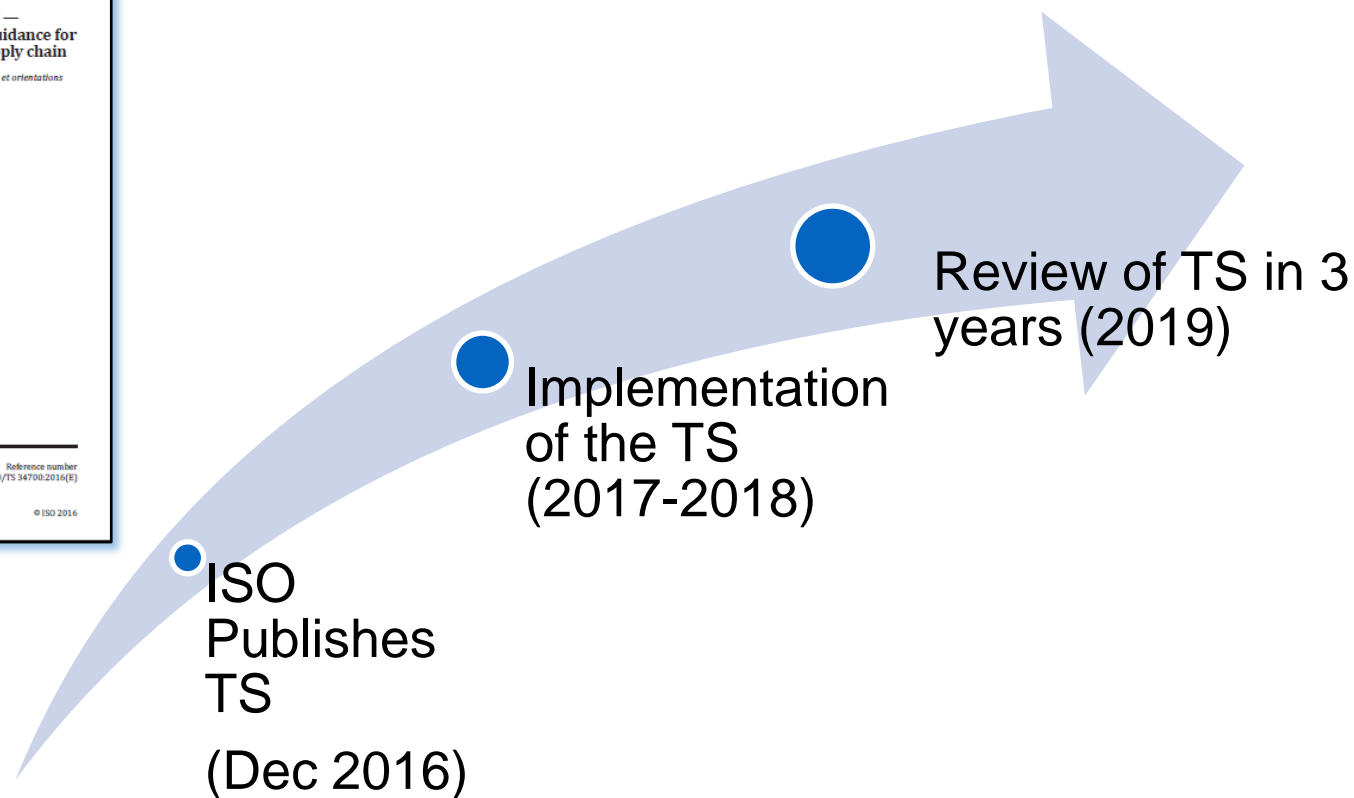
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# The Future



# Scope and Frequency

- Assessments will be of an organization's animal welfare program and standards to determine conformance to 1) ISO TS 34700, and 2) applicable World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Animal Welfare standards.
  - Organizations include associations, individual companies, third-party animal welfare certifiers, etc.
  - Phase 1 - work with industry to review and finalize the checklists
  - Phase 2 - assess companies as they submit their own programs
- Assessments will include the scope of the organization's program that include sites where key animal welfare management system activities occur such as the processing facility, farms, transportation, etc.
- Annual assessment frequency

# Assessment Process

Follows audit process highlighted in QAD 1000 Procedure

1. Application for Service
2. Desk Audit – review of the organization’s animal welfare programs and standards against the ISO TS 34700 Animal Welfare Management and all applicable OIE TAHCs.
3. Initial Assessment - includes the requested organization’s animal welfare programs and standards, including associated documents and records, and a review of files. Visits are made to premises of the organization from which one or more key activities are performed that are covered by the scope of assessment.
4. Official Listing of Accredited Animal Welfare Programs and Standards

# Questions and Discussion

