

Annex 9. Item 6.4. – Proposed approach to revision of Section 5 ‘Trade measures, importation/exportation procedures and health certification’

SECTION 5

TRADE MEASURES, IMPORTATION/EXPORTATION PROCEDURES AND HEALTH CERTIFICATION

Norway	<p>Category: general</p> <p>Proposed amended text: Not relevant</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Norway wishes to express its support for the revision of Section 5 in the Aquatic Code. We have a few comments for the Commission to consider when revising the section:</p> <p><u>Certificates:</u></p> <p>Norway considers this an important opportunity to promote a common direction for safe, efficient, and paperless exchange of certificates. We regard the digitalisation of certificate exchange as a necessity, both for reasons of security, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability.</p> <p>At the same time, it is important that WOAHA encourages secure electronic exchange without specifying any particular technological format. Technological developments are moving quickly, and it is essential that the standards are forward-looking and technology-neutral, so they do not bind Member Countries to solutions that may become outdated.</p> <p>Norway wishes to highlight that many countries are already in a position to implement e-cert solutions, where certificates are exchanged directly between national systems. This represents the most secure and cost-effective model. At the same time, we recognise that many countries, for various reasons, need a gradual transition. It is therefore important that the standards also accommodate temporary, yet secure and user-friendly digital solutions that enable the phase-out of paper in the short term.</p> <p>In this regard, Norway considers electronically signed and encrypted original certificates in PDF format to be a practical and secure step for countries that are not yet ready for full e-cert integration. This approach ensures security, control, and accessibility, while also supporting further digital maturity and harmonisation over time.</p> <p>Norway therefore recommends that WOAHA's revised standards enable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Technology neutrality, allowing solutions to evolve in line with technological progress.2. Secure and verifiable digital exchange as an overarching principle.3. Flexible implementation pathways, enabling Member Countries to adopt digital solutions at a level suited to their technological maturity – for example electronically signed PDF certificates as an interim step –
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	<p>and gradually move toward full electronic certificate exchange when ready.</p> <p><u>Additional comments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to ensure alignment with the SPS Agreement. • Traceability systems covering tracking of a product back from the end user to the seller of the same product (business-to-consumer transaction) is to be decided and implemented by the national importing authorities and not the competent authority and operators of the exporting country. • Should countries be able to impose possibly unreasonable trade restrictions, e.g. impose restrictions based on disease presence in the exporting country while not having susceptible species for the disease in question on their territory? <p>Supporting evidence, if relevant: not relevant</p>
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Objectives of Section 5 revision:

- Revise older standards and improve quality as necessary
- Address any gaps in standards for trade
- Improve useability for developing trade measures
- Address aquatic specific trade issues while also maintaining alignment with *Terrestrial Code*
- Improve alignment of chapters within Section 5 and between Section 5 and other sections of the *Aquatic Code*

<i>Aquatic Code</i> Section 5 structure	<i>Terrestrial Code</i> Section 5 structure (for comparison only)	<i>Aquatic Code</i> Proposed approach
N/A	N/A	New chapter. Development of a new introductory chapter to Section 5 in cooperation with the Code Commission (see item 7.1.2 in this report)
5.1. General obligations related to certification	5.1. General obligations related to certification	Review. Consider the need for revision in collaboration with the Code Commission. Proposed certification <i>ad hoc</i> Group to review chapter in both Codes and provide recommendations (see item 8.1.2. Feb 2025 report).
5.2. Certification procedures	5.2. Certification procedures	Review. Consider need for revision in collaboration with the Code Commission. Proposed certification <i>ad hoc</i> Group to review chapter in both

		Codes and provide recommendations (see item 8.1.2. Feb 2025 report).
5.3. WOA procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization	5.3. WOA procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization	Revise. Consider need for revision in collaboration with the Code Commission
5.4. Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities	N/A	Relocate. Move to section 2, risk analysis (as for TC)
5.5. Control of aquatic animal health risks associated with transport of aquatic animals	N/A	Revise. Last adopted in 2010. Consider whether more appropriate in Section 4 or 5. If remains in Section 5 consider renumbering.
5.6. Aquatic animal health measures applicable before and at departure	5.4. Animal health measures applicable before and at departure	Revise. Consider revisions proposed to equivalent <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapter.
5.7. Aquatic animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country	5.5. Animal health measures applicable during transit from the place of departure in the exporting country to the place of arrival in the importing country	Revise. Consider revisions proposed to equivalent <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapter.
5.8. Frontier posts in the importing country	5.6. Border posts and quarantine stations in the importing country	Revise. Consider revisions proposed to equivalent <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapter.
5.9. Aquatic animal health measures applicable on arrival	5.7. Animal health measures applicable on arrival	Revise. Consider revisions proposed to equivalent <i>Terrestrial Code</i> chapter.
5.10. Measures concerning international transport of aquatic animal pathogens and pathological material	5.8. International transfer and laboratory containment of animal pathogenic agents	Revise. Last adopted 2010.
N/A	5.9. Quarantine measures applicable to non-human primates	Not relevant to Aquatic Code
5.11. Model health certificates for international trade in live aquatic animals and products of aquatic animal origin	5.10. Model veterinary certificates for international trade in live animals, hatching eggs and products of animal origin	Review. Consider alignment between the three model certificates and with other provisions of the <i>Aquatic Code</i> . Proposed certification <i>ad hoc</i> Group to review chapter in both Codes and provide recommendations (see item 8.1.2. Feb 2025 report)
5.12. Movement of ornamental aquatic animals	N/A	No action. Adopted 2025.
N/A	5.11. Model veterinary certificate for international movement of dogs, cats and ferrets originating from countries considered infected with rabies	Not relevant to Aquatic Code

NA	5.12. Model passport for international movement of competition horses	Not relevant to Aquatic Code
N/A	5.13. Model veterinary certificate for international trade in laboratory animals	Consider need for a model certificate in <i>Aquatic Code</i> or whether Ch 5.11 of <i>Aquatic Code</i> is sufficient.

Other trade relevant considerations:

- Revision of trade articles in disease specific chapters (X.X.9 to X.X14; 10.4.13. to 10.4.20.); including reordering of articles and revision of commodity and pathway (end-use) combination; including addressing commodity gaps (e.g. ornamental aquatic animals)
- Consider diagrammatic guidance on appropriate application of provisions of disease-specific chapters, possibly in the User's Guide
- Consider general guidance on trade in live aquatic animal for aquaculture similar in approach to new ornamentals chapter
- Define "official control" considering approach in terrestrial code, and IPCC definition