

Annex 16. Item 6.5. – Chapter 5.Y. ‘Introduction to recommendations for international aquatic animal health certification and export and import procedures’

SECTION 5

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION AND EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES

~~TRADE MEASURES, IMPORTATION/EXPORTATION PROCEDURES AND HEALTH CERTIFICATES~~

CHAPTER 5.Y.

INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATION AND EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES

Norway	<p>Category: General</p> <p>Proposed amended text: not relevant</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>Norway generally supports this new Chapter. However, two additions are suggested to Article 5.Y.2.</p> <p>Supporting evidence: not relevant</p>
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Article 5.Y.1.

Section 5 ‘Recommendations for international aquatic animal health certification and export and import procedures’ provides recommendations on how Member Countries’ *Veterinary Authorities* ensure safety of *international trade*, i.e. transboundary movements of *commodities*, through official operational assurance including through international *aquatic animal* health certification and border controls, applicable to exporting, transit and importing countries. As a pillar of WOA’s mandate to improve *aquatic animal* health worldwide, this is a core responsibility of *Aquatic Animal Health Services* of WOA Member Countries.

Section 5 covers obligations and procedures for international *aquatic animal* health certification; border operational measures including communication, roles and responsibilities (for *Veterinary Authorities* and other relevant *Competent Authorities*, as well as for operators), documentation, transportation, planning

for unexpected events, and inspections as applicable to exporting, transit and importing countries. Section 5 also covers recommendations for the operation of *frontier posts* and *quarantine* centres, as well as detailed recommendations and models for the import and *aquatic animal* health certification of a range of general and specific *commodities*.

Article 5.Y.2.

Export consignments of relevant *commodities* should be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country*. This certificate provides assurances to the *importing country* regarding disease status and the safety of the *commodities* imported and lists the *aquatic animal* health and veterinary public health requirements for the exported *commodity*. To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of *international trade*, *Competent Authorities* should base their import requirements on WOAHA standards and import *risk analysis* in accordance with Chapter 2.1. The agreed certificate with its importing requirements is the final result of sanitary negotiations between trading partners, whereby confidence in the exporting (or transit) country veterinary signature on the certificate attests to the performance or verification of the *sanitary measures* listed as required by the importing (or transit) country. Border checks that match imported *commodities* to the correct, signed *international aquatic animal health certificate* before release are a key operational assurance measure to facilitate safe trade.

<p>Norway</p>	<p>Category: addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text (or precise suggested deletion):</p> <p>Export consignments of relevant commodities should <u>where required based on risk assessment</u> be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The proposed wording may be understood as implying that export consignments should routinely be accompanied by an international aquatic animal health certificate. However, certification is typically required only where specified by the importing country as part of its import requirements, based on its risk assessment.</p> <p>To better reflect this, it may be appropriate to clarify that certification is applied when necessary rather than as a general rule. We have proposed a revised</p>
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	<p>wording.</p> <p>Supporting evidence, if relevant:</p> <p>Not relevant</p>
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Norway	<p>Category: addition</p> <p>Proposed amended text (or precise suggested deletion):</p> <p>The agreed certificate with its importing requirements is the final result of sanitary negotiations between trading partners, whereby confidence in the exporting (or transit) country veterinary <u>certifying official's</u> signature on the certificate attests to the performance or verification of the <i>sanitary measures</i> listed as required by the importing (or transit) country.</p> <p>Rationale:</p> <p>The WOAHA glossary contains the following definition: "Certifying official means a person authorised by the Competent Authority to sign health certificates for aquatic animals."</p> <p>Furthermore, Article 5.1.1 specifies that certificates should be issued and signed by a certifying official authorised by the Competent Authority.</p> <p>Based on this definition and its use in the Aquatic Code, it is our understanding that health certificates can be signed by certifying officials, which is not limited to veterinarians. The wording should be amended to "certifying official" to ensure consistency with the Code and to accurately reflect current certification practices.</p> <p>Supporting evidence, if relevant:</p> <p>Not relevant</p>
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Article 5.Y.3.

Effective implementation of the Section 5 standards for safe trade in *commodities* requires cooperation and communication between multiple actors including the *Veterinary Authorities*, other *Competent*

Authorities and private sector operators, and in each of the exporting, transit and importing countries. It is important that the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* collaborate closely with other border agencies such as customs or police to manage the risks from informal or illegal trade in *commodities*. For the purpose of Section 5, operators are defined as “any natural or legal entity or person responsible for the export, transit or import of *commodities* subject to the provisions of the respective chapters”.

Article 5.Y.4

The *Aquatic Code* provides standards that deliver essential sanitary information, recommendations and technical guidance to Member Countries for the determination and agreement of science-based import requirements, as reflected in certification. As per provisions of the different Sections of the *Aquatic Code*, this includes providing: transparency through WOAHA notification of *listed disease* and *aquatic animal health status*; guidance on science-based import *risk analysis* and *safe commodities*; recommendations on quality of *Aquatic Animal Health Services* including to give confidence in certification; guidance on welfare of farmed fish; and recommendations by *listed disease* for the safe trade of various *commodities*.
