

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – COMMENTS

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

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.

United States	Category: editorial Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion): Please see the proposed change in blue – “As a pillar of WOA’s mandate to improve <i>aquatic animal</i> health worldwide, this is a core responsibility of the <i>Aquatic Animal Health Services</i> of WOA Member Countries.” Rationale: We recommend the above editorial change to improve grammar and clarity.
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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 WOAAH 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.

United States	Category: change Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion): Please see the proposed change in blue – “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 by the Veterinary Authority or Competent Authority on the certificate attests to the performance or verification of the <i>sanitary measures</i> listed as required by the importing (or transit) country.” Rationale: We recommend this change because the competent authority in some Member countries may not employ veterinarians who can certify the health of aquatic animals intended for export. While we agree that certification by an appropriate official of the veterinary or competent authority should be required, we propose revising the language as suggested above to provide greater flexibility for Members that do not employ or have access to veterinarians for this purpose.
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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”.

United States	Category: editorial Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion): Please see the proposed change in blue – “...other <i>Competent Authorities</i> and private sector operators, and in each of the exporting, transit and importing countries.” Rationale: We recommend the above editorial change to improve grammar and clarity.
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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 WOAHP 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*.

United States	Category: deletion Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion): We propose deleting all of Article 5.Y.4. “Article 5.Y.4 The <i>Aquatic Code</i> 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
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	certification. As per provisions of the different Sections of the Aquatic Code, this includes providing: transparency through WOAHP notification of <i>listed disease</i> and <i>aquatic animal health status</i>; guidance on science-based import <i>risk analysis</i> and <i>safe commodities</i>; recommendations on quality of <i>Aquatic Animal Health Services</i> including to give confidence in certification; guidance on <i>welfare of farmed fish</i>; and recommendations by <i>listed disease</i> for the safe trade of various <i>commodities</i>.” Rationale: We recommend removing all of Article 5.Y.4. because this overview of the Aquatic Code is not necessary, similar to information provided in the User Guide, and not specific to trade.
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