

SECTION 5

~~TRADE MEASURES, IMPORT/EXPORT PROCEDURES
AND VETERINARY CERTIFICATION~~RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
VETERINARY CERTIFICATION AND EXPORT AND
IMPORT PROCEDURES

CHAPTER 5.X.

INTRODUCTION TO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATION AND
EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES

Article 5.X.1.

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

United States	Comment category: Addition Proposed amended text: Section 5 ‘Recommendations for international veterinary certification and export and import procedures’ provides recommendations on how Members’ <u>Countries</u>’ <i>Veterinary Authorities</i> ensure the safety of <i>international trade</i>, i.e. transboundary movements of <i>commodities</i>, through official operational assurances including through international veterinary certification and border controls, applicable to exporting, transit and importing countries. As a pillar of WOA’s mandate to improve animal health worldwide, this is a core responsibility of <i>Veterinary Services</i> of WOA Member Countries. Rationale: Edit to provide consistency with language used throughout the chapter. Supporting evidence: N/A
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Section 5 covers obligations and procedures for international veterinary 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 border inspection posts and *quarantine centres*, as well as detailed recommendations and models for the import and veterinary certification of a range of both general and specific *commodities*.

Article 5.X.2.

Export consignments of relevant *commodities* should be accompanied by an *international veterinary certificate* issued by the *Veterinary 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 animal health and veterinary public health requirements for the exported *commodity*. To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of international trade, *Veterinary 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 veterinary certificate* before release are a key operational assurance measure to facilitate safe trade.

Article 5.X.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 the private sector operators, and in each of the exporting, transit and importing countries. It is important that the *Veterinary 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.X.4.

The *Terrestrial 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 *Terrestrial Code*, this includes providing: transparency through WOAHA notification of *listed disease* and *animal health status*; guidance on science-based import *risk analysis* and *safe commodities*; recommendations on quality of *Veterinary Services* including to give confidence in certification; guidance on *animal welfare* including for trade

in live animals; and recommendations by listed disease for the safe trade of various *commodities*.
