

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report

October 2007

USA Comments

CHAPTER 1.3.1.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

Article 1.3.1.4.

Responsibilities in case of an incident occurring after importation

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Equally, if a *disease* condition appears in imported *aquatic animals* within a time period after importation consistent with the recognised *incubation period* of the *disease*, the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* should be informed so as to enable an investigation to be made, because this may be the first available information on the occurrence of the *disease* in a previously free *aquatic animal* population. The *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should be informed of the result of the investigation because the source of infection may not be in the *exporting country*.

In case of suspicion, on reasonable grounds, that an ~~official~~ **international aquatic animal health certificate** may be fraudulent, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* and *exporting country* should conduct an investigation. Consideration should also be given to notifying any third country(ies) that may have been implicated. All associated consignments should be kept under official control, pending the outcome of the investigation. The *Competent Authorities* of all countries involved should fully cooperate with the investigation. If the **health** certificate is found to be fraudulent, every effort should be made to identify those responsible so that appropriate action can be taken according to the relevant legislation.

Comments/rationale: suggested wording added for clarity and consistency