

## Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission - March 2008 Report

### CHAPTER 2.4.1.

## INFECTION WITH *BATRACHOCHYTRIUM DENDROBATIDIS*

#### Article 2.4.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* means *infection* with the freshwater fungus *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Fungi, Chytridiomycota, Rhizophydiales).

Methods for conducting surveillance and diagnosis of infection with *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* are provided in the *Aquatic Manual* (under development).

#### Article 2.4.1.2.

### Scope

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to: all species of Anura (frogs and toads), Caudata (salamanders, newts and sirens) and Gymnophiona (caecilians). The recommendations also apply to any other *susceptible species* referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

#### Article 2.4.1.3.

### Commodities

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* related conditions, regardless of the *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
  - a) For the species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. intended for any purpose:
    - i) *commodities* treated in a manner that *inactivates kills* the *disease agent* e.g. canned products; leather made from amphibian skin; dried amphibian products (including air dried, flame dried and sun dried);
    - ii) biological samples preserved for diagnostic applications in such a manner as to inactivate the *disease agent*.
  - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. which have been prepared and packaged for direct retail trade:
    - i) skinned frog legs with feet removed;
    - ii) skinned amphibian ~~carcasses or~~ meat or carcasses, with heads, hands and feet removed.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1b), Members may wish to consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising the importation or transit of *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2., other than those referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3., the *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 2.4.1.7. to 2.4.1.12. relevant to the *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*.
3. When considering the importation/transit from an *exporting country, zone or compartment* not declared free of *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* of any live *commodity* of a species not covered in Article 2.4.1.2. but which could reasonably be expected to be a potential *mechanical vector for B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis vector*, the *Competent Authorities* should conduct a *risk analysis* in accordance with the recommendations in the *Aquatic Code*. The *exporting country* should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

#### Article 2.4.1.4.

#### *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* free country

A country may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* if it meets the conditions in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a country shares a *zone* with one or more other countries, it can only make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* if all the areas covered by the *zone* are declared *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* free (see Article 2.4.1.5.).

1. A country where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. is present may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A country where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. are present but there has been no observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past **25 10** years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the country for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A country where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past **25 10** years, or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*), may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis* when:
  - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
  - b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters **X.X.X of the Aquatic Code 1.1.4.** and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *B. atrachoetryrium dendrobatidis*.

OR

4. A country that has previously made a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may make a *self-declaration of freedom* from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* again when the following conditions have been met:
  - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) *infected* populations have been destroyed or removed from the infected zone by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters X.X.X of the *Aquatic Code* 4.1.4 and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis*; and
  - d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

In the meantime, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free *zone* provided that such part meets the conditions in point 3 of Article 2.4.1.5.

Article 2.4.1.5.

#### ***B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* may be declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1, 2, 3 or 4 below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* free *zone* or *compartment* if all the *Competent Authorities* confirm that the conditions have been met.

1. A *zone* or *compartment* where none of the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. is present may be declared free from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 2 years.

OR

2. A *zone* or *compartment* where the *susceptible species* referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 25 10 years despite conditions that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), may be declared free from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 10 years.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last observed occurrence of the *disease* was within the past 25 10 years, or where the *infection* status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown (e.g. because of the absence of conditions conducive to its clinical expression as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, under development), may be declared free from *B. atrachobytrium dendrobatidis*

when:

- a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met for at least the past 2 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters X.X.X of the *Aquatic Code* 1.1.4, and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* (under development), has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may be declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* again when the following conditions have been met:
  - a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) *infected* populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters X.X.X of the *Aquatic Code* 1.1.4, and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the last 2 years without detection of *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*; and
  - d) previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions* have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place for at least the past 2 years.

Article 2.4.1.6.

### Maintenance of free status

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* following the provisions of points 1 or 2 of Articles 2.4.1.4. or 2.4.1.5. (as relevant) may maintain its status as *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* following the provisions of point 3 of Articles 2.4.1.4. or 2.4.1.5. (as relevant) may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist, and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartments* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of *infection*.

Article 2.4.1.7.

### Importation of live aquatic animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *B. atrachoelytrium dendrobatidis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing*

country should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.4.1.4. or 2.4.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the aquatic animal commodity is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. atrachocytrium dendrobatidis*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate (under study) in Annex 4.X.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

#### Article 2.4.1.8.

### Importation of live aquatic animals for farming from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. atrachocytrium dendrobatidis*

1. When importing live aquatic animals of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. atrachocytrium dendrobatidis*, the Competent Authority of the importing country should:
  - a) require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that:
    - i) the *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2 have been appropriately treated to eradicate infection and have been subsequently tested to confirm absence of the disease according to specifications provided in the relevant chapter in the *Aquatic Manual* (under development); ~~and~~
    - ii) ~~no other live aquatic animals of the species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. have been introduced during that period;~~

~~OR~~

    - iii) ~~in the case of eggs, the eggs have been disinfected;~~

OR
  - b) assess the *risk* and apply risk mitigation measures such as:
    - i) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;
    - ii) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills *B. atrachocytrium dendrobatidis*.
2. If the intention of the introduction is the establishment of a new stock, the Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms of the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) should be followed.
23. For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, the ICES Code (full version see: <http://www.ices.dk/indexfla.asp>) may be summarised to the following main points:

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* the following steps should be taken if the importation is for the establishment of a new stock:

- a) identify stock of interest (cultured or wild) in its current location;
- b) evaluate stock's health/disease history;
- c) take and test samples for *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, pests and general health/disease status;
- d) import and quarantine in a secure facility a founder (F-0) population;
- e) produce F-1 generation from the F-0 stock in *quarantine*;
- f) culture F-1 stock and at critical times in its development (life cycle) sample and test for *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and perform general examinations for pests and general health/disease status;
- g) if *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* is not detected, pests are not present, and the general health/disease status of the stock is considered to meet the *basic biosecurity conditions* of the *importing country*, *zone* or *compartment*, the F-1 stock may be defined as *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis* free or specific pathogen free (SPF) for *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis*;
- h) release SPF F-1 stock from *quarantine* for *aquaculture* or stocking purposes in the country, *zone* or *compartment*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

#### Article 2.4.1.9.

### **Importation of live aquatic animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

When importing, for processing for human consumption, live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities for slaughter and processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*, and all effluent and waste materials be treated in a manner that *ensure inactivation of kills* *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

#### Article 2.4.1.10.

### **Importation of live aquatic animals intended for use in animal feed, or for agricultural, laboratory, zoo, pet trade, industrial or pharmaceutical use, from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. atrachochytrium dendrobatidis***

When importing live *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *B. atracheochoytrium dendrobatidis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should:

1. require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* attesting that:
  - a) the *aquatic animals* have been appropriately treated to eradicate infection and have been subsequently tested to confirm absence of the diseases according to specifications provided in the relevant chapter in the *Aquatic Manual* (under development); and
  - ~~b) no other live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. have been introduced during that period;~~

OR

  - e) in the case of eggs, the eggs have been disinfected;

OR

2. assess the *risk* and apply risk mitigation measures such as:
  - a) the direct delivery to and lifelong holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for continuous isolation from the local environment;
  - b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills *B. atracheochoytrium dendrobatidis*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

#### Article 2.4.1.11.

#### **Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *B. atracheochoytrium dendrobatidis***

When importing *aquatic animal products* of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *B. atracheochoytrium dendrobatidis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country* attesting that, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 2.4.1.4. or 2.4.1.5. (as applicable), the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *B. atracheochoytrium dendrobatidis*.

The *certificate* should be in accordance with the Model Certificate (under study) in Annex 4.X.X.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

## Article 2.4.1.12.

**Importation of aquatic animal products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *B. atrachomytrium dendrobatidis***

1. When importing *aquatic animal* products of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2. from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *B. atrachomytrium dendrobatidis*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the *risk* and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures.
2. In the case of dead *aquatic animals* of species referred to in Article 2.4.1.2., whether *eviscerated* or *uneviscerated*, such risk mitigation measures may include:
  - a) the direct delivery into and holding of the consignment in biosecure facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*;
  - b) the treatment of all effluent and waste materials in a manner that kills *B. atrachomytrium dendrobatidis*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1 of Article 2.4.1.3.

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