

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission Report

New

October 2007

**USA Comments**

CHAPTER 2.4.1.

**INFECTION WITH  
BATRACHOCHYTRIUM DENDROBATIDIS**

...

Article 2.4.1.3.

**Commodities**

1. When authorising the importation or transit of the following *commodities*, the *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* related conditions, regardless of the *Batrachochytrium 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 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.

**Comment/rationale:** *B.dendrobatidis* can occur in any keratinized tissues, including mouthparts.

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 *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 2.4.1.5.

#### ***Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone or compartment* within the *territory* of one or more countries not declared free from *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 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 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.

OR

4. A *zone* **or compartment** previously declared free from *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* but in which the *disease* is subsequently detected may be declared free from *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* again when the following conditions have been met:

**Comment/rationale:** include ***compartment*** for consistency with other sections

- a) on detection of the *disease*, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* **or compartment**, and **(for zones)** a *buffer zone* was established; and

**Comment/rationale:** include ***compartment*** for consistency with other sections

- b) *infected* populations have been destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* **or compartment** by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the *disease*, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and

**Comment/rationale:** include ***compartment*** for consistency with other sections

- c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 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 *Batrachochytrium 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 2.4.1.8.

#### **Importation of live aquatic animals for farming from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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

**Comment/rationale:** above text added for clarity and precision

- 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;~~

**Comment/rationale:** there is no evidence that eggs can vertically or otherwise transmit *B.dendrobatidis*, and there are no validated, safe protocols for disinfecting amphibian eggs.

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 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.

...

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 *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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*; 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;~~

**Comment/rationale:** there is no evidence that eggs can vertically or otherwise transmit *B.dendrobatidis*, and there are no validated, safe protocols for disinfecting amphibian eggs.

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 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.

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 *Batrachochytrium 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 *Batrachochytrium 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:

**Comment/rationale:** above text added for clarity and precision

- 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 *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*.

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