

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission March 2009 Report

CHAPTER X . X . X .

CRITERIA TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF  
AQUATIC ANIMAL COMMODITIES

Article X.X.X.1.

**Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal commodities irrespective of country disease status**

In all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.X.3. lists *commodities* that can be traded irrespective of country disease status. The criteria for inclusion of *commodities* in point 1 of Article X.X.X.3. are based on the absence of the *disease agent* in the traded *commodity* or inactivation of the *disease agent* by treatment or *processing*.

The assessment of the safety of the *commodity* using the criteria relating to treatment or *processing* can only be undertaken where treatments or *processing* are well defined. It may not be necessary to provide details of the entire treatment or process undertaken. However, the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the *disease agent* of concern should be detailed.

It is assumed that treatment or *processing* (i) uses standardised protocols, which include the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the *disease agent* of concern; (ii) is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices; and (iii) that any other steps in the treatment, *processing* and subsequent handling of the *commodity* do not jeopardise the safety of the traded *commodity*.

For a *commodity* to be considered safe for *international trade* under the provisions of Article X.X.X.3. it should comply with the following criteria:

1. Absence of *disease agent* in the traded *commodity*:
  - 1a. There is strong evidence that the *disease agent* ~~is~~ ~~does not occur~~ is not present in the tissues from which the *commodity* is derived;

AND

- 1b. The water (including ice) used to ~~rear or~~ process or transport the *commodity* is not contaminated with the *disease agent* and the processing prevents cross contamination of the *commodity* to be traded final product.

OR

2. Even if the *disease agent* is present in, does occur or contaminates ~~in~~ the tissues from which the *commodity* ~~was~~ is derived, the treatment or processing to produce the *final commodity to be traded* involves processes known to inactivate the *disease agent*:
  - 2a. Physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);

AND/OR

2b. Chemical (e.g. iodine, pH, salt~~ing~~, smoke~~ng~~);

AND/OR

2c. Biological (e.g. fermentation).

Article X.X.X.2.

**Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animal products destined for human consumption irrespective of country disease status**

In all disease chapters, point 1 of Article X.X.X.12. (fish disease chapters); Article X.X.X.11. (mollusc and crustacean disease chapters) lists *aquatic animal* products destined for human consumption. The criteria for inclusion of *aquatic animal* products in point 1 of Article X.X.X.12. include consideration of the form and presentation of the product, the expected volume of waste tissues generated by the consumer and the likely quantity of viable *disease agent* in the waste.

For the purpose of this criterion retail means the selling or provision of *aquatic animal products* directly to the consumer with the intended purpose of human consumption. The retail pathway may also include wholesale distribution of the products provided they are not further processed by the wholesale distributor or the retailer, i.e. are not subjected to actions such as gutting, cleaning, filleting, freezing, thawing, cooking, unpacking, packing or repackaging.

It is assumed that the *aquatic animal* product is used for human consumption. It is assumed that treatment or *processing* prior to importation (i) uses standardised protocols, which include the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the *disease agent* of concern; and (ii) is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices; and (iii) that any other steps in the treatment, *processing* and subsequent handling of the *aquatic animal products* do not jeopardise the safety of the traded *aquatic animal products*.

For *aquatic animal products* to be considered safe for *international trade* under the provisions of point 1 of Article X.X.X.12. (fish disease chapters); Article X.X.X.11. (mollusc and crustacean disease chapters) it should comply with the following criteria:

1. The *aquatic animal* product is prepared and packaged for ~~direct~~ retail trade for human consumption; AND

EITHER:

2. Includes only a small amount of waste tissues;

OR AND

3a. Viable ~~The~~ *disease agent* is unlikely to be present in the waste tissues, because:

a) the *disease agent* is not normally found in the waste tissues;

OR

3b) ~~The *disease agent* may be present does occur~~ in the waste tissues but the processing prior to importation (i.e. ~~post importation such as cooking~~) to produce the final consumable ~~product~~ involves processes known to inactivate and/or reduce the load of *disease agent*:

i) Physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);

AND/OR

ii) Chemical (e.g. pH, ~~salting, smoking~~);

AND/OR

iii) Biological (e.g. fermentation).

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