

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION REPORT

USA COMMENTS

OCTOBER 2008

CRITERIA TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF AQUATIC ANIMAL COMMODITIES IRRESPECTIVE OF COUNTRY DISEASE STATUS

General Comment: *there needs to be an introductory paragraph to provide the context of developing these criteria—mentioning the relevance to importing countries, the application of science- or risk-based approaches, how the disease status of receiving country may impact risk tolerance, and some cross-reference to various OIE Code or Manual chapters dealing with similar issues.*

...

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

AND

- 1b. The water used to rear or process the commodity commodity is not contaminated with the disease disease agent and the processing prevents cross contamination of the final product.

OR

2. Even if the disease disease agent does occur in the tissues from which the commodity commodity was derived, or the water used to rear or process the commodity is contaminated with the disease agent, the processing to produce the final commodity commodity involves processes known to inactivate the disease disease agent:

- 2a. Physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);

AND/OR

- 2b. Chemical (e.g. pH, salting, smoking);

AND/OR

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

Rationale: *Since commodity and disease are defined terms within the Code, their use should be italicized.*

Since a provision was made in Point1b allowing for water potentially contaminated with a disease agent to be present, but not to affect the health status of the final commodity, a similar provision is recommended under Point 2.