

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION REPORT

OCTOBER 2008

USA COMMENTS

CHAPTER 1.1.1.

DEFINITIONS

Article 1.1.1.1.

For the purpose of the *Aquatic Code*:

Acceptable risk

means a *risk* level judged by Members to be compatible with the protection of public health, *aquatic animal* health and terrestrial animal health within their countries.

Approved laboratory

means a *laboratory* in a Member that is approved by the *Competent Authority* to carry out diagnostic work on *diseases listed by the OIE* and is responsible for health control work.

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

means the OIE Commission responsible for up dating the *Aquatic Code* in the intervals between General Sessions of the OIE International Committee. The *Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission* is concerned with *diseases* of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and amphibians.

Aquatic animal carcass

means the entire body or parts ~~body/trunk~~ of an *aquatic animal* subsequent to killing or death.

Aquatic animal import unit

means a live *aquatic animal* or its *eggs* or *gametes*, or a specified weight of a product of *aquatic animal* origin.

Breeding station

means an *aquaculture establishment* working to improve the genetic standard and production of *aquatic animals*.

Broodstock

means sexually mature fish, molluscs or crustaceans.

Communication

means the discipline of informing, influencing, and motivating individual, institutional and public audiences, preferably on the basis of interactive exchanges, about any issue falling under the mandate of the OIE and the *Competent Authority*.

Composting

means decomposition of infected material by micro-organisms under aerobic conditions.

Crisis

means a time of great danger, difficulty or uncertainty when problems related to any issue falling under the mandate of the OIE and the *Competent Authority* requires immediate action.

Crisis Communication

means the process of providing information of a potentially incomplete nature within time constraints that allows an individual, affected and/or interested parties, an entire community or the general public to make best possible decisions and/or accept policy decisions during a crisis.

Compartmentalisation

means identifying *compartments* for the purpose of *disease control* or *international trade*.

Crustacean products

means *fresh crustaceans*, processed whole crustaceans or edible products of crustaceans that have been subjected to treatment such as cooking, drying, salting, brining, smoking or freezing.

Discharge

means blood or water from the *slaughtering* or *processing* of *aquatic animals*.

Disposal

means reduction of *aquatic animal carcasses* to its constituent components and inactivation of the pathogens of concern (e.g. by means of *burial*, chemical or thermal treatment.)

Disposal plant

means a plant approved by the *Competent Authority* for the *disposal* of *aquatic animal carcasses* and waste thereof.

Ensiling

means the process of grinding the *aquatic animal carcasses* and reducing the pH in the mass by adding an organic acid. The pH should ~~must~~ be kept below 4.0 for the duration of the process.

Fish products

means ~~fresh fish~~, processed whole fish or edible products of fish that have been subjected to treatment such as cooking, drying, salting, brining, smoking or freezing.

Fish slaughtering premises

means premises used for the ~~slaughter~~ of fish for human consumption or other purposes and approved by the *Competent Authority* for export purposes.

These premises must meet recognised approved standards for the structural and other veterinary hygiene requirements.

Food hygiene

comprises conditions and measures necessary for the production, ~~processing~~, storage and distribution of food of *aquatic animal* origin designed to ensure a safe, sound, wholesome product fit for human consumption or animal feeding.

Free aquaculture establishment

means an *aquaculture establishment* that fulfils the requirements for freedom from *diseases listed by the OIE* according to the relevant chapter in the *Aquatic Code* and approved as such by a *Competent Authority*.

Fresh crustaceans

means crustaceans that have not been subjected to any treatment or that have been subjected to a treatment that has not irreversibly modified their organoleptic or physicochemical characters; for the purpose of the *Aquatic Code*, fresh crustaceans include chilled crustaceans.

Fresh fish

means fish that have not been subjected to any treatment or that have been subjected to a treatment that has not irreversibly modified their organoleptic and physicochemical characters; for the purpose of the *Aquatic Code*, fresh fish include chilled and frozen fish.

Fresh molluses

means oysters/mussels that have not been subjected to any treatment or that have been subjected to a treatment that has not irreversibly modified their organoleptic and physicochemical characters; for the purpose of the *Aquatic Code*, fresh molluses include chilled molluses.

Hatcheries

means ~~aquaculture establishments~~ raising *aquatic animals* from fertilised eggs.

High risk waste

means *aquatic animals* or *aquatic animal carcasses*, waste or offal that constitute, or are suspected of constituting, a serious health risk to animals or humans. Waste that is not *high risk waste* is considered of low risk.

Imported outbreak

means a *disease outbreak* introduced into a territory from another country.

Infected aquaculture establishment

means an ~~aquaculture establishment~~ in which a ~~disease~~ referred to in the ~~Aquatic Code~~ has been diagnosed.

Laboratory

means a ~~laboratory~~ of high technical competence under direct supervision of a ~~veterinarian~~ or other person with competent biological training. Through quality controls and monitoring performance, the ~~Competent Authority~~ approves such a ~~laboratory~~ in regard to testing requirements for export.

Lot

means a group of ~~aquatic animals~~ of the same species in one ~~aquaculture establishment~~ originating from the same spawning population that has always shared the same water supply.

Marketing

means placing ~~aquatic animals~~ and ~~aquatic animal products~~ on the market.

Mollusc nurseries

means ~~aquaculture establishments~~ raising young molluscs from metamorphosed larvae to a maximum 11 months.

Outbreak of disease

means the sudden ~~an~~ occurrence of ~~disease~~ in an ~~aquatic animal population~~.

Outbreak communication

means the process of communicating in the event of an ~~outbreak~~. Outbreak communication includes ~~notification~~.

Ova

see ~~eggs~~ and ~~gametes~~.

Partial stamping-out policy

means the carrying out under the authority of the ~~Competent Authority~~, on confirmation of a ~~disease~~, of prophylactic animal health measures consisting of killing selected ~~lots~~ of the ~~aquatic animals~~ within an ~~aquaculture establishment~~. See also ~~stamping-out policy~~.

Place of shipment

means the place where the ~~aquatic animals~~, ~~aquatic animal products~~, ~~biological products~~ and ~~pathological material~~ are loaded into the ~~vehicle~~/other transporting units or handed to the agency that will transport them.

Population

means a group of ~~units~~ sharing a common defined characteristic.

Processing

means the subjecting of ~~aquatic animals~~ to actions such as gutting, cleaning, filleting, freezing, thawing or packing.

Products of animal origin destined for use in aquatic animal feeding

means meat meal, fish meal, liver meal, bone meal, blood meal, feather meal, scraps of pork fat and milk products when intended for use in ~~aquatic animal feeding~~.

Products of aquatic animal origin destined for human consumption

means *fish, mollusc and crustacean products* intended for human consumption.

Qualitative risk assessment

means an assessment where the conclusions on the likelihood of the outcome or the magnitude of the consequences are expressed in qualitative terms such as high, medium, low or negligible.

Quantitative risk assessment

means an assessment where the outputs of the risk assessment are expressed numerically, as probabilities or distributions of probabilities.

Risk

means the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of the consequences of an adverse event to public *aquatic animal* or *terrestrial* animal health in the *importing country* during a specified time period.

Risk analysis

means the final product of the comparing process after assigning weighted importance of the identified risks and the risk assessment factors through risk communications to identify the most effective action choices.

Risk assessment

means the evaluation of the likelihood ~~and~~ or and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment, or spread of a *hazard* within the *territory* of an *importing country*.

Risk communication

is the interactive exchange of information ~~on risk~~ and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk, risk-related factors and risk perceptions among *risk assessors*, *risk managers*, *risk communicators*, *the general public* and other interested parties.

Sanitary measure

means measures such as those described in each chapter of the *Aquatic Code* that are used for *risk* reduction and are appropriate for particular *diseases*.

Sanitary slaughtering

means *slaughtering* of *aquatic animals* according to particular procedures providing safety against the spread of specific infectious agents.

Screening method

means the laboratory method in the *Aquatic Manual* approved for *surveillance* for a given *disease* referred to in the *Aquatic Code*.

Sealed vehicle

means a *vehicle* that is properly sealed so that neither water nor *aquatic animals* can escape during *transportation*.

Sensitivity analysis

means the process of examining the impact of the variation in individual model inputs on the conclusions of a *quantitative risk assessment*.

Sexual products

means *eggs* and *gametes* of sexually mature *aquatic animals*.

Shellfish

means *fresh molluscs* or *fresh crustaceans* or the edible products of these species that have been subjected to treatment by cooking, drying, salting, brining or smoking.

Shipment

means a group of *aquatic animals* or *products* thereof destined for *transportation*. See also *place of shipment*.

Sperm

means the male *gametes* of *aquatic animals*.

Subclinical

means without clinical manifestations, for example a stage of *infection* at which signs are not apparent or detectable by clinical examination.

Surveillance zone

means a *zone* in which a systematic series of investigations of a given *population of aquatic animals* takes place.

Transparency

means comprehensive documentation of all data, information, assumptions, methods, results, discussion and conclusions used in the *risk analysis*. Conclusions should be supported by an objective and logical discussion and the document should be fully referenced.

Transport

means movement of *aquatic animals* or products thereof to a destination by means of aircraft, motor *vehicle* or boat.

Uncertainty

means the lack of precise knowledge of the input values, which is due to measurement error or to lack of knowledge of the steps required, and the pathways from *hazard* or *risk*, when building the scenario being assessed.

Variability

means a real-world complexity in which the value of an input is not the same for each case because of natural diversity in a given population.

Vertical transmission

means the transmission of a pathogen from a parent *aquatic animal* to its progeny via its *sexual products*.

Zoning

means identifying *zones* for the purpose of *disease control* or *international trade*.

Rationale: All definitions within the *Code* should be included in Chapter 1.1.1. The definitions in Chapter X.X.X., Handling and Disposal of Carcasses and Wastes of Aquatic Animals, have been incorporated into this Chapter.

Disposal - We do not believe there is sufficient evidence that burial inactivates all the pathogens for OIE notifiable diseases and propose deletion of the word “burial.”

Risk analysis - is used in the definitions and context of other terms, but we felt a distinction may be necessary.

Risk assessment - Because the OIE (and dictionaries and risk assessment experts) defines risk as “...likelihood of the occurrence **and** the likely magnitude of the consequences ...,” risk assessment should not be redefined as the alternative of likelihood **or** consequences. Risk assessment must include both evaluations to avoid institution of severe risk management measures that are based on only one criterion, impact or probability of occurrence.