

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

USA Comments

CHAPTER 1.2.1.

GENERAL OBLIGATIONS

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Article 1.2.1.2.

Responsibilities of the importing country

1. The import requirements included in the *international veterinary certificate* should assure that *commodities* introduced into the *importing country* comply with the national level of protection ~~that it has~~ chosen for animal and human health. *Importing countries* should ~~restrict~~ limit their requirements to those justified for such level of protection. If these are stricter than the OIE standards, they should be based on an import risk analysis.

Comment/rationale: Replace the word “restrict” with the word “limit” as it is the more appropriate term in the context of this sentence.

2. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include requirements for the exclusion of pathogens or animal *diseases* which are present ~~within the territory of~~ in the *importing country* and are not subject to any *official control programme*. ~~The requirements applying to pathogens or diseases subject to official control programmes in a country or zone should not provide a higher level of protection on imports than that provided for the same pathogens or diseases by the measures applied within that country or zone. The measures imposed on imports to manage the risks posed by a specific pathogen or disease should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by measures applied as part of the official control programme operating within the importing country.~~
3. The *international veterinary certificate* should not include ~~requirements for disease agents~~ measures against pathogens or *diseases* which are not OIE listed, unless the *importing country* has ~~identified the disease agent as presenting a significant risk for that country, after conducting a scientifically based import risk analysis according to the guidelines in Section 1.3 demonstrated through import risk analysis, carried out in accordance with Section 1.3., that the pathogen or disease poses a~~ significant risk to the importing country.

General Comment: suggest defining the word “significant” in Point 3. What might be a significant risk to one country may not be to another.