

## CHAPTER 5.1.

### GENERAL OBLIGATIONS RELATED TO CERTIFICATION

[...]

#### Article 5.1.4.

##### Responsibilities in case of an incident related to importation

- 1) *International trade* involves a continuing ethical responsibility. Therefore, if within a reasonable period subsequent to an export taking place, the *Competent Authority* becomes aware of the appearance or reappearance of a *disease* that has been specifically included in the *international aquatic animal health certificate* or other *disease* of potential epidemiological importance to the *importing country* there is an obligation for the *Competent Authority* to notify the *importing country*, so that the imported *commodities* may be inspected or tested and appropriate action be taken to limit the spread of the *disease* should it have been inadvertently introduced.
- 2) If a *disease* appears in *aquatic animals* ~~in an importing country~~ and is associated with importation of *commodities*, the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* should be informed. This will enable the *exporting country* to investigate as this may be the first available information on the occurrence of the *disease* in a previously free *aquatic animal* population. The *Competent Authority* of the ~~exporting country~~ should inform the importing country ~~should be informed~~ of the result of the investigation because further action may be required if the source of the *infection* did not originate in the *exporting country*.
- 3) In case of suspicion, on reasonable grounds, that an *international aquatic animal health certificate* may be fraudulent, the *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* and *exporting country* should conduct an investigation. Consideration should also be given to notifying any third country that may have been implicated. All associated consignments should be kept under official control, pending the outcome of the investigation. *Competent Authorities* of all countries involved should fully cooperate with the investigation. If the *international aquatic animal health certificate* is found to be fraudulent, every effort should be made to identify those responsible so that appropriate action can be taken in accordance with the relevant legislation.