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* of the result of the investigation because further action may be required if the *source of 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. *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.