

AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 2010 REPORT

CHAPTER 5.3.

CRITERIA TO ASSESS THE SAFETY OF  
AQUATIC ANIMAL COMMODITIES

In the context of this chapter the word safety is applied only to animal health considerations for OIE listed diseases.

Article 5.3.1.

**Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products for any purpose commodities irrespective regardless of country from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from disease X status**

In all *disease* chapters, point 1a) of Article X.X.3. lists ~~commodities~~ aquatic animals and aquatic animal products that can be traded for any purpose irrespective regardless of country from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from disease X status. The criteria for inclusion of ~~commodities~~ aquatic animals and aquatic animal products in point 1a) of Article X.X.3. are based on the absence of the *disease agent* in the traded ~~commodity~~ aquatic animals and aquatic animal products or inactivation of the *disease agent* by treatment or processing.

The assessment of the safety of the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animals and aquatic animal products using the criteria relating to treatment or processing can only be undertaken where treatments or processing are well defined. It may not be necessary to provide details of the entire treatment or process undertaken. However, the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the *disease agent* of concern should be detailed.

It is assumed that treatment or processing (i) uses standardised protocols, which include the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the *disease agent* of concern; (ii) is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices; and (iii) that any other steps in the treatment, processing and subsequent handling of the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal product do not jeopardise the safety of the traded ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal product.

For an ~~in commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be considered safe for *international trade* under the provisions of point 1a) of Article X.X.3., it should comply with the following criteria:

1. Absence of *disease agent* in the traded ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product:
  - a) There is strong evidence that the *disease agent* is not present in the tissues from which the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is derived.

AND

  - b) The water (including ice) used to process or transport the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is not contaminated with the *disease agent* and the processing prevents cross contamination of the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be traded.

OR

2. Even if the *disease agent* is present in, or contaminates the tissues from which the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product is derived, the treatment or processing to produce the ~~commodity~~ aquatic animal or aquatic animal product to be traded inactivates the *disease agent*:

a) physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);

AND/OR

b) chemical (e.g. iodine, pH, salt, smoke);

AND/OR

c) biological (e.g. fermentation).

#### Article 5.3.2.

### **Criteria to assess the safety of aquatic animals or of aquatic animal products destined for retail trade for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free of a ~~irrespective of country~~ disease status**

In all *disease* chapters, point 1**b)** of Article X.X.123. (*fish disease chapters*) and Article X.X.11. (*mollusc and crustacean disease chapters*) lists aquatic animals or aquatic animal products for retail trade destined for human consumption. The criteria for inclusion of aquatic animals or aquatic animal products in point 1**b)** of Article X.X.123. (*fish disease chapters*) and Article X.X.11. (*mollusc and crustacean disease chapters*) include consideration of the form and presentation of the product, the expected volume of waste tissues generated by the consumer and the likely quantity presence of viable *disease agent* in the waste.

For the purpose of this criterion retail means the selling or provision of live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products directly to the consumer with the intended purpose of human consumption. The retail pathway may also include wholesale distribution of the products provided they are not further processed by the wholesale distributor or the retailer, i.e. are not subjected to actions such as gutting, cleaning, filleting, freezing, thawing, cooking, unpacking, packing or repackaging.

It is assumed that:

- (i) the live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products ~~is~~ are used for human consumption only;
- ii) waste may not always be handled in an appropriate manner that mitigates the introduction of the disease agent. The level of risk is related to the waste disposal practices in each Member's country or territory;
- (iii) treatment or processing prior to importation ~~(i)~~ uses standardised protocols, which include the steps considered critical in the inactivation of the disease agent of concern; and (ii) is conducted according to Good Manufacturing Practices; and ~~(iii)~~
- (iv) ~~that~~ any other steps in the treatment, processing and subsequent handling of the live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products prior to importation do not jeopardise the safety of the traded live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products.

For live aquatic animals or aquatic animal products to be considered ~~safe~~ for *international trade* under the provisions of point 1**b)** of Article X.X.123. (*fish disease chapters*); Article X.X.11. (*mollusc and crustacean disease chapters*), it should comply with the following criteria:

1. the aquatic animals or aquatic animal product is prepared and packaged for retail trade for human consumption; AND

2. it includes only a small amount of waste tissues generated by the consumer;

OR

3. ~~viable disease agent is unlikely to be present in the waste tissues, because:~~

a) ~~the disease agent is not normally found in the waste tissues~~ generated by the consumer;

OR

b) ~~the disease agent may be present in the waste tissues but the processing prior to importation involves processes known to inactivate and/or reduce the load of disease agent.~~

i) ~~physical (e.g. temperature, drying, smoking);~~

OR

ii) ~~chemical (e.g. pH, salt, smoke);~~

OR

iii) ~~biological (e.g. fermentation).~~