

SEPTEMBER 2009

USA COMMENTS

CHAPTER 5.1.

**GENERAL OBLIGATIONS  
RELATED TO CERTIFICATION**

Article 5.1.1.

...

Certificates should be issued and signed by a single competent official authorized by the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* to perform inspections, and endorsed through signature and/or official stamp of the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority*. The certification requirements should not include conditions for diseases that are not transmitted by the *commodity* concerned. There should only be one signing certifying official for one certificate.

RATIONALE: The suggested revisions still address the need for certificates to be signed by a single official, yet now accommodate current processes that have been used effectively for many decades in many countries, particularly those that have a national veterinary accreditation or similar program that accredits veterinarians to perform health and disease inspections and issue certificates of veterinary inspection (eg, US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and many European countries).