

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission

September 2012 Report

USA Comments - recommended changes shown in blue font

CHAPTER 1.1.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

General comment: The term “strain” is not defined in either the Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal *Codes* or the corresponding *Manuals*. In light of advances in molecular technologies, the United States recommends that a definition be developed.

Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 1.1.5, 1.1.9 and 1.1.10 of the *OIE Organic Statutes*, every Member of the OIE shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the Veterinary Competent Authority of its *territory* or *territories*.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the Veterinary Competent Authority shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the Veterinary Competent Authority shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Rationale: Appropriate terminology. Correction made throughout the Chapter

Article 1.1.2.

1. ~~Countries~~ Members shall make available to other ~~countries~~ Members, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important ~~aquatic animal diseases of aquatic animals~~ and their ~~aetiological~~ pathogenic agents and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these *diseases*.
2. To achieve this, ~~countries~~ Members shall comply with the ~~reporting~~ notification requirements specified in Article 1.1.3.
3. To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE *disease* reporting format.
4. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *pathogenic agents* and *diseases* is constantly ~~evolving~~ developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a *disease*, ~~countries~~ Members shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of ~~paragraph point~~ point 1 above. This means that the presence of an infectious agent, even in the absence of clinical ~~disease signs~~, should be reported.
5. In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3., ~~countries~~ Members shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*, including possible *quarantine* measures and restrictions on the movement of *aquatic animals*, *aquatic animal products*, *biological products* and other miscellaneous objects ~~that~~ which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be ~~described~~ specified.

Article 1.1.3.

The Veterinary Competent Authority shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to Headquarters:

1. in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease* specific chapters, immediate *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or e-mail within 24 hours of any of the following events:
 - a) ~~for diseases listed by the OIE, the first occurrence or re-occurrence of a disease in a country or zone or compartment of the country, if the country or zone or compartment of the country was previously considered to be free of that particular disease; or~~
 - b) ~~for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred in a new host species; or~~
 - e) ~~for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred with a new pathogen strain or in a new disease manifestation; or~~
 - d) ~~for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has a newly recognised zoonotic potential; or~~
 - e) ~~for diseases not listed by the OIE, if there is a case of an emerging disease or pathogenic agent should there be findings that are of epidemiological significance to other countries.~~
 - a) first occurrence of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment.
 - b) re-occurrence of a listed disease in a country, a zone or a compartment following a report that declared an outbreak ended;
 - c) first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogen of a listed disease new to a country, a zone or a compartment;
 - d) a sudden and unexpected increase in the distribution, incidence, morbidity or mortality of a listed disease prevalent within a country, a zone or a compartment;
 - e) evidence of change in the epidemiology of a listed disease (including host range, pathogenicity, strain) in particular if there is a zoonotic impact;
 - f) an emerging disease or the pathogenic agent with significant morbidity or mortality, or zoonotic potential.

In deciding whether findings justify immediate *notification* (within 24 hours), ~~countries~~ Members must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the *Aquatic Code* (especially Article 5.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for *international trade*.

2. Weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under ~~paragraph point~~ point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an event incident that which justified immediate *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the ~~country~~ Member to the OIE; in ~~each~~ any case, a final report on the event incident should be submitted.
3. Six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of ~~diseases listed~~ diseases by the OIE, and information of epidemiological significance to other ~~countries~~ Members ~~with respect to diseases that are not listed.~~
4. ~~An Annual questionnaire reports~~ questionnaire reports concerning any other information of significance to other ~~countries~~ Members.

Article 1.1.4.

1. The Veterinary Competent Authority of a country in which an *infected zone or compartment* was located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this *zone or compartment* is free from the *disease*.
2. An *infected zone or compartment* ~~of a~~ for a particular *disease* shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the ~~known infective period for the disease in question~~ specified in the Aquatic Code

has elapsed after the last reported case, outbreak and when full prophylactic and appropriate sanitary animal health measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the disease. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Section 8 to 11 of the Aquatic Code.

3. A Member may be considered to regain freedom ~~again declare itself free (i.e. self-declaration of freedom from disease)~~ from a specific disease when it complies with all the conditions given in the corresponding relevant chapters of Section 8 to 11 of the Aquatic Code have been fulfilled.
4. ~~The Veterinary Authority of a Country in which one or more free zones or compartments have been established may wish to inform the Headquarters, giving necessary particulars, of the zones or compartments and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS [Global Positioning System] co-ordinates). The Headquarters may publish this information. The Veterinary Authority of a Country Member in which sets up one or more several free zones or compartments have been established may wish to shall inform the Headquarters, giving necessary particulars details, of the zones or compartments and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS [Global Positioning System] co-ordinates). The Headquarters may publish this information. including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the zones or compartments on a map of the territory of the Member.~~

~~Article 1.1.5.~~

1. ~~The Headquarters shall send by fax or e-mail to the Veterinary Authority concerned, all notifications received as provided in Articles 1.1.2.-1.1.4.~~
2. ~~The Headquarters shall notify Members through Disease Information of any event of exceptional epidemiological significance reported by a Member.~~

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