

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – COMMENTS

### Annex 15. Item 6.4. - Model Article X.X.7. for disease- specific chapters

#### CHAPTER X.X.

#### INFECTION WITH [PATHOGEN X]

[...]

#### Article X.X.7.

##### Compartment free from infection with [Pathogen X]

As described in Article 1.4.4., a Member Country may make a self-declaration of freedom from infection with [Pathogen X] for a *compartment* within its *territory* if it can demonstrate that the requirements for Chapter 4.3. have been met, and:

1. *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapter 1.4., has been in place in the *compartment* for at least the last one year without detection of [Pathogen X], and *basic biosecurity conditions* have been continuously met and have been in place for at least one year prior to commencement of *targeted surveillance*;

OR

2. it previously made a self-declaration of freedom for a *compartment* from infection with [pathogen X] and subsequently lost its free status due to the detection of [Pathogen X] in the *compartment* but the following conditions have been met:
  - a. all *aquatic animals* within the *compartment* have been killed and disposed of by means that minimise the likelihood of further transmission of [Pathogen X], the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (as described in Chapter 4.4.) have been completed, and the *compartment* has been fallowed as described in Chapter 4.7.; and

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| United States | <p><b>Category:</b> change</p> <p><b>Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion):</b><br/>Please see the proposed change in blue –</p> <p>“all <i>aquatic animals</i> within the <i>compartment</i> have been <del>killed</del>depopulated, if warranted, and disposed of...”</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> We disagree with the assertion that depopulation is required in all events of the loss of a compartment’s freedom status. There may be breaches to biosecurity which, once adequately investigated, do not result in pathogen introduction. We therefore propose amendments that better align with the standards described in Article 4.3.6. (“If risk management cannot be implemented in accordance with this chapter, the Competent Authority should revoke the disease-free status of the compartment.”).</p> |
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- b. previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions*, including the *compartment biosecurity plan*, have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place from the time of restocking with *aquatic animals* from an approved pathogen free source in accordance with the requirements of Articles X.X.9. and X.X.10. as appropriate; and
- c. in the case of an independent *compartment* as described in Article 4.3.4., one survey for infection with [Pathogen X] has been completed at least six months after restocking (as described in Article 1.4.14.) without detection of the *pathogenic agent*. In the case of a dependent *compartment* (also described in Article 4.3.4), the requirements of point 1 have been met without detection of the *pathogenic agent*.

OR

- 3. it is a dependent *compartment* which previously made a self-declaration of freedom from infection with pathogen [X] and subsequently lost its disease-free status due to the detection of pathogen [X] in the surrounding water body or surrounding disease-free zone or country, but the following conditions have been met:
  - a. the *compartment* has been depopulated of all *aquatic animals*, the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (as described in Chapter 4.4.) have been completed, and the *compartment* has been fallowed as described in Chapter 4.7.; and

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| United States | <p><b>Category:</b> change</p> <p><b>Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion):</b><br/>Please see the proposed change in blue –</p> <p><u>“a. the <i>compartment</i> has been depopulated of all <del>susceptible species</del><i>aquatic animals</i>, if warranted, the appropriate <i>disinfection</i> procedures (as described in Chapter 4.4.) have been completed, and the <i>compartment</i> has been fallowed as described in Chapter 4.7.; and”</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> We disagree with the assertion that depopulation is required in all events of the loss of a compartment’s freedom status. There may be breaches to biosecurity which, once adequately investigated, do not result in pathogen introduction. We therefore propose amendments that better align with the standards described in Article 4.3.6. (“If risk management cannot be implemented in accordance with this chapter, the Competent Authority should revoke the disease-free status of the compartment.”).</p> <p>Additionally, if depopulation is warranted, we recommend specifying that only species susceptible to the pathogen of concern should be depopulated. Other species within the compartment that are not susceptible and have been assessed as not posing a transmission risk should not be required to be removed.</p> |
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- a. previously existing *basic biosecurity conditions*, including the *compartment biosecurity plan*, have been reviewed and modified as necessary and have continuously been in place from the time of restocking with *aquatic animals* from an approved pathogen free source in accordance with the requirements of Articles X.X.9. and X.X.10. as appropriate; and

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| United States | <p><b>Category:</b> deletion</p> <p><b>Proposed amended texts (or precise suggested deletion):</b><br/>Please see the proposed deletion in blue –</p> |
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|  | <p><u>“previously existing <i>basic biosecurity conditions</i>, including the <i>compartment biosecurity plan</i>, have been reviewed and modified as necessary <del>and have continuously been in place from the time of restocking with aquatic animals from an approved pathogen free source</del>in accordance with the requirements of Articles X.X.9. and X.X.10. as appropriate; and”</u></p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> We propose removing this sentence because we do not believe it is necessary or adds value, as the compartment has already lost its health status.</p> |
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- b. the *targeted surveillance* and *basic biosecurity conditions* described in point 1 have been applied without detection of the *pathogenic agent*.
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