USA COMMENTS IN RED FONT

Annex 4. Item 6.1. – Usage of glossary definitions: ‘Aquatic Animal Health Services’, ‘Competent Authority’ and ‘Veterinary Authority’

| **Article** | **Usage** |
| --- | --- |
| User’s guide:  B.5. | The standards in the chapters of Section 3 are designed for the establishment, maintenance and evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services, including communication. These standards are intended to assist the Aquatic Animal Health Services and the Competent Authorities of Member Countries to meet their objectives of improving aquatic animal health and ~~the~~ welfare ~~of farmed fish~~, as well as to establish and maintain confidence in their international aquatic animal health certificates.  **RATIONALE:** The WOAH Aquatic Health Code provides standards for use by Members to set up measures for the prevention, early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents in aquatic animals (amphibians, crustaceans, fish and molluscs). |
| User’s guide:  C.8. | International aquatic animal health certificates  An international aquatic animal health certificate is an official document that the Competent Authority of the exporting country issues in accordance with Chapter 5.1. and Chapter 5.2. It lists aquatic animal health requirements for the exported commodity. The quality of the exporting country's Aquatic Animal Health Services is essential in providing assurances to trading partners regarding the safety of exported aquatic animal products. This includes the relevant ~~Aquatic Animal Health Services'~~Competent Authority’s ethical approach to the provision of international health certificates and the Veterinary Authority’s history in meeting their notification obligations. |
| Glossary | ***NOTIFICATION***  means the procedure by which:   1. the *~~Competent Authority~~Veterinary Authority* informs the *Headquarters*, 2. the *Headquarters* inform *~~Competent Authority~~* the *Veterinary Authority* of Member Countries   of the occurrence of a *disease* in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1.1. |
| Article 1.1.1. | For the purposes of the [*Aquatic Code*](#_bookmark19)and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Organic Statutes of the Office International des Epizooties, Member Countries shall recognise the right of the [*Headquarters*](#_bookmark76) to communicate directly with the [*~~Competent Authority~~Veterinary Authority*](#_bookmark39) of its [*territory*](#_bookmark128) or [*territories*](#_bookmark128).  All [*notifications*](#_bookmark90) and all information sent by WOAH to the [*~~Competent Authority~~* *Veterinary Authority*](#_bookmark39) shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all [*notifications*](#_bookmark90) and all information sent to WOAH by the [*~~Competent Authority~~*](#_bookmark39) *Veterinary Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned. |
| Article 1.1.3.  paragraph 1 | The *~~Competent Authority~~Veterinary Authority* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters*: |
| Article 1.1.4.  paragraph 1 | [*~~Competent Authority~~Veterinary Authority*](#_bookmark39) shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the [*Headquarters*](#_bookmark76): |
| Article 1.1.5.  point 1 | The [*~~Competent Authority~~ Veterinary Authority*](#_bookmark39)of a country in which an [*infected zone*](#_bookmark81)or [*compartment*](#_bookmark37)is located shall inform the [*Headquarters*](#_bookmark76) when this country, [*zone*](#_bookmark141) or [*compartment*](#_bookmark37) becomes free from the [*disease*](#_bookmark45). |
| Article 1.1.5.  point 3 | The [[*~~Competent Authority~~ Veterinary Authority*](#_bookmark39)](#_bookmark39)of a Member Country which establishes one or several [*free zones*](#_bookmark68) or [*free compartments*](#_bookmark64)shall inform the [*Headquarters*](#_bookmark76), giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the [*zones*](#_bookmark68) or [*compartments*](#_bookmark64) on a map of the territory of the Member Country. |
| Article 3.1.2.  point 7  paragraph 3 | [*Competent Authorities~~Aquatic Animal Health Services~~*](#_bookmark10) should define and document the responsibilities and structure of the organisation (in particular the chain of command) in charge of issuing [*international aquatic animal health certificates*](#_bookmark84). |
| Article 3.1.2.  point 10 | Information, complaints and appeals  The relevant [*Competent Authority~~Aquatic Animal Health Services~~*](#_bookmark10) should undertake to reply to requests from [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Services~~ the Competent Authority*](#_bookmark10) of other Member Countries ~~or any other authority~~, in particular ensuring that any requests for information, complaints or appeals that are presented are dealt with in a timely manner.  A record should be maintained of all complaints and appeals and of the relevant action taken by the *Competent Authority* [*~~Aquatic Animal~~*](#_bookmark10)[*~~Health Services~~*](#_bookmark10). |
| Article 3.1.5.  paragraph 4 | The expert(s) facilitate(s) the evaluation of the [*Aquatic Animal Health Services*](#_bookmark10) of the Member Country using the WOAH *Performance of ~~Veterinary Services and/or~~ Aquatic Animal Health Services* (WOAH *PVS Tool*- Aquatic).  The expert(s) produce(s) a report in consultation with the ~~Veterinary Services~~*Aquatic Animal Health Services* of the Member Country. |
| Article 3.2.1.  paragraph 2 | The recognition of communication as a discipline of the *Aquatic Animal Health Services* and its incorporation within it is critical for their operations. The integration of aquatic animal health and communication expertises is essential for effective communication. ~~Communication between the~~ *~~Aquatic Animal Health Services,~~* ~~and Veterinary Services (particularly where~~ *~~Aquatic Animal Health Services~~* ~~are separate, and independent of Veterinary Services) is especially important.~~ |
| Article 4.2.3.  point 1 | The extent of a [*zone*](#_bookmark141) should be established by the [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Service~~Competent Authority*](#_bookmark10) on the basis of the definition of [*zone*](#_bookmark141) and made public through official channels. |
| Article 4.2.3.  point 3 | The factors defining a [*compartment*](#_bookmark37) should be established by the [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Service~~Competent Authority*](#_bookmark10) on the basis of relevant criteria such as management and husbandry practices related to [*biosecurity*](#_bookmark28), and made public through official channels. |
| Article 4.2.3.  point 6 | For a [*compartment*](#_bookmark37), the [*biosecurity plan*](#_bookmark29) should describe the partnership ~~between~~among the relevant enterprise/industry, ~~and~~ the [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Service~~*](#_bookmark10) *Competent Authority* and the *Aquatic Animal Health Services*, and their respective responsibilities, including the procedures for oversight of the operation of the [*compartment*](#_bookmark37) by the [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Service~~*](#_bookmark10) *Competent Authority*. |
| Article 5.3.4.  point 2(a) | infrastructure including the legislative base (e.g. [*aquatic animal*](#_bookmark17) health law) and administrative systems (e.g. organisation of ~~Veterinary Service~~s ~~or~~ [*~~Aquatic Animal Health Services~~*](#_bookmark10)*Competent Authority*); |
| Article 5.3.7.  point 1(d)(i) | an evaluation of the [*exporting country*](#_bookmark58)'s ~~Veterinary Services or~~ [*Aquatic Animal Health Services*](#_bookmark10); |
| Article 5.3.7.  point 2(e)(i) | an evaluation of the [*exporting country*](#_bookmark58)'s ~~Veterinary Services or~~ [*Aquatic Animal Health Services*](#_bookmark10); |